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Submission: The Northern Rivers Area is one of the most important centres of biodiversity In Australia. We, as residents, have a responsibility to maintain and improve the biodiversity values that we impact upon. The balance between agriculture and biodiversity is a delicate one but the two can co-occur given appropriate management. Currently that balance is not being of achieved and a cursory glance at the Wilson River as it flows through Lismore after a rainfall event is a pointer to that failure. Funding of a Biodiversity Management Strategy through a Rate variation would allow the potential to address a range of biodiversity issues in the area. The capacity to work with farmers and garner their support would be enhanced by increased funding. It is they who provide a great deal of unpaid for ecosystem services.