

Triodi to eat

forced to resign



the Labor factional system he came to publicly represent, saying it "led to stable government".

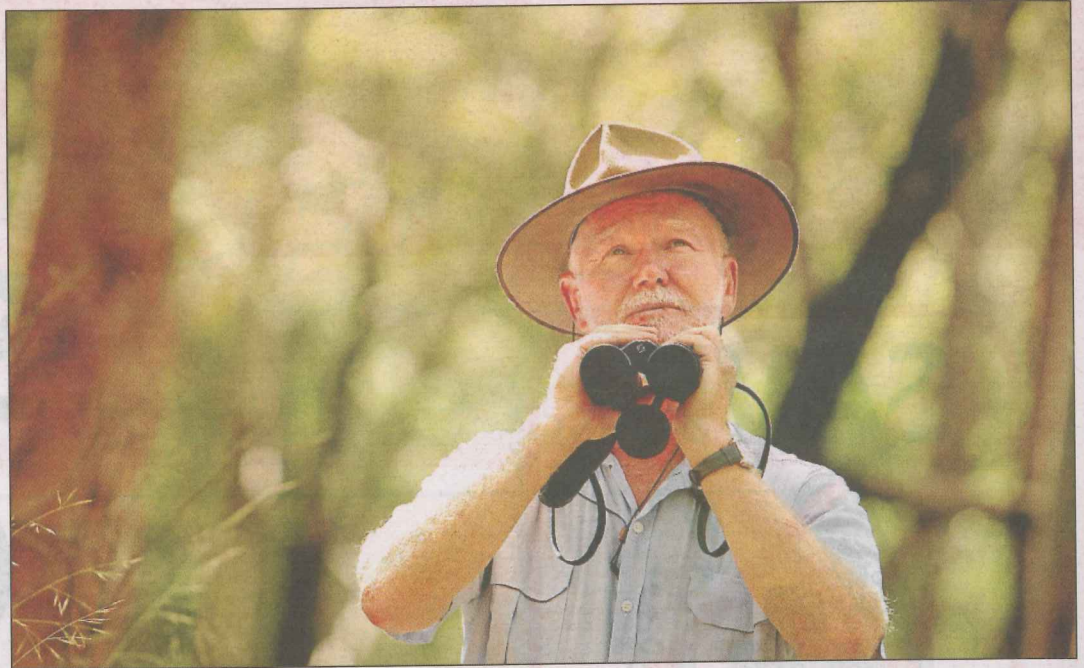
The resignation brings to an end an often controversial career, punctuated by numerous and unfounded corruption allegations and other political scandals.

The 43-year-old said his decision was in response to Premier Kristina Keneally's call for party renewal, and denies being forced out by state party bosses.

Ms Keneally said Mr Tripodi, an economist who once worked for the Reserve Bank of Australia, had "set the benchmark for innovative policy formation and working with stakeholders".

But the opposition dismissed claims Mr Tripodi's exit signalled renewal within Labor, or an end to his influence within the ALP.

AAP



CONCERNED: Hunter Bird Watchers Club member Alan Stuart. - Picture by Jonathan Carroll

Land clearing endangers exotic bird



AT RISK: A pretty Regent Honeyeater. - Picture by Dean Ingwersen

By **MATTHEW KELLY**
Environment Reporter

THE elusive Regent Honeyeater has been declared to be on the verge of extinction due to unrelenting clearing of its breeding habitat that includes the Hunter.

The NSW scientific committee upgraded the status of the bird to critically endangered, its most seriously endangered classification, last week after monitoring the decline of its population around the state.

The committee estimates the NSW population may now be fewer than 250.

The Lower Hunter is an important foraging area and was recently identified as a critical breeding area,

with birds spotted in Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, the Watagans and Wollemi National Park.

The Hunter Bird Watchers Club recorded a large colony of the birds breeding near Kurri Kurri in 2007.

"The most significant threat [in the Hunter] is associated with the clearing of large areas of known habitat in areas such as Hunter Economic Zone and large coalmines that are expanding onto suitable habitat along the northern edge of the Wollemi escarpment," club member Alan Stuart said.

A Department of Environment, Climate Change spokesman said an active program of biodiversity conservation planning was under way in the area.

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