

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EK87-Q

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

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Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Hannah Cliff

2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response in full

3 What is your email address? (optional)

Email:

[REDACTED]

4 What is your postcode? (optional)

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

5 Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.:

10 Deserts Project

6 Which of the following best describes the group or person you represent?

Community / Non-government organisation

If other, please specify.:

7 Which of the following best describes the sector you represent?

Indigenous

If other, please specify.:

8 Are there specific parts of your submission that you want to keep confidential?

If yes, please outline which specific parts of your submission must be kept confidential and explain why. :

A State native vegetation policy

9 Referring to the proposed policy objective statements below, how well do you support each one in guiding our development of a policy?

Objective 1 matrix - Objective 1:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Native vegetation is a valuable resource which has yet to be fully utilized in WA. Carbon farming opportunities and cultural harvesting are two potential economic activities that require government support to be realized. The intrinsic value of vegetation and what intact vegetation communities support has taken a backseat to economic development in Western Australia. Addressing this imbalance may provide alternative income streams, particularly in remote communities.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Protection and conservation will be a much more cost effective strategy than restoration. There is the potential for a growth industry around restoring landscapes, particularly in the vast pastoral regions and around remote mine sites.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

This is strongly supported by the 10 deserts project. The project would also like to see a more thorough investigation of vegetation in the deserts and rangelands to better understand 'at risk' species and communities.

10 What opportunities are presented by the development of a State Native Vegetation Policy focused on how government manages vegetation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

Carbon abatement and sequestration
Biodiversity offsets and ecosystems services funding
Growth of knowledge particularly in the under surveyed desert regions

Better information

11 How do you use native vegetation data within your sector? (Choose as many options as you require)

To plan for conservation, To plan for restoration, To scope offset opportunities, For baseline information for monitoring, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

To look at change through time and/or in response to management interventions.

12 Which of the following elements of better information provision would be most relevant to your sector? (Choose as many options as you require)

Cost saving, Evidence-base for decisions

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

13 What other opportunities are presented by improved information and improved access to information?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

There is currently a scarcity of native vegetation information available for the Deserts. This is despite arid ecosystems comprising ~ 40% of the total area of WA. Major threats to desert vegetation include widespread degradation through increasingly large, intense and frequent wildfires, the spread of invasive weeds (e.g. Buffel Grass) and climate change. Additional collection of information for this area or access to information already collected for this area would be highly beneficial in enabling changes in vegetation extent and condition to be observed through time. This data would support adaptive land management in the desert. Furthermore, an improved understanding of vegetation status and how it should be managed into the future requires better understanding of the extent and nature of threatening processes beyond clearing. Improved collection, collation and access to information on threats to native vegetation such as fire history, weed distribution and climate trends is of key importance. This data is currently limited for extremely large tracts of arid WA.

More complete and validated vegetation mapping would also support economic development through carbon projects...

Better regulation

14 Which of the following elements of better regulation would be most important to your sector? (Please rank your top three)

Rank better reg elements - Improved protection for native vegetation:

1

Rank better reg elements - Ensuring development is sustainable:

3

Rank better reg elements - Streamlined regulation for cost saving:

Rank better reg elements - Clearer requirements for business certainty:

Rank better reg elements - Improved assessment timeframes:

Rank better reg elements - Transparent, evidence-based decisions:

2

Rank better reg elements - Improved compliance and enforcement of unauthorised clearing:

Rank better reg elements - Equitable treatment of all proponents:

Rank better reg elements - Confidence in the regulatory system for all stakeholders:

Rank better reg elements - Other:

If you selected Other, please provide further information.:

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

A bioregional approach

16 Which of the following elements are the most important to you/your sector? (Please rank your top three)

Rank bioregional elements - 1. Transparent outcomes and objectives:

Rank bioregional elements - 2. Leveraging local knowledge:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 3. Strategic and innovative approach to conflicting interests:

Rank bioregional elements - 4. Clear targets and thresholds:

Rank bioregional elements - 5. Planned approach to dealing with cumulative impacts:

Rank bioregional elements - 6. Effective monitoring and evaluation framework:

3

Rank bioregional elements - 7. Supporting public-private partnerships for conservation:

1

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Threatening processes have differing relative impacts within different bioregions, and even the same threat (e.g. wildfire) will need to be managed differently depending on where it is occurring across WA. If these more regional nuances are considered when prioritizing and refining management practices, better outcomes for native vegetation can be achieved.

18 What concerns are presented by a bioregional approach, for your sector?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Other initiatives

19 What initiatives do you think would work best to improve native vegetation outcomes in your region?

Pricing, incentives and markets (e.g. biodiversity banking, offsets, carbon farming etc), Aboriginal land management, Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

Providing a price incentive and future market for quality land management outcomes will not only improve vegetation condition in local areas but can also provide employment for Aboriginal people.

20 What else could be done to improve the management of native vegetation to arrest the decline of native vegetation extent and condition?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.: