

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EK8X-R

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-02-10 13:16:10**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response anonymously

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.:

[REDACTED]

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?

Environmental / NRM

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:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Restoring not just conserving is vitally important. Unless some lower quality remnants are chosen and then restored as offsets for clearing there is always going to be a net loss of vegetation. Choosing strategically located lesser quality remnants and restoring them will improve connectivity and ecological function at a landscape scale. Local NRM groups, if adequately funded, are well placed to carry out restoration work.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

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.:

Causes of degradation can also be addressed

Consistency across different sectors of government

Opportunity to provide incentives to private landholders to retain, protect and improve remnant vegetation on their property

Opportunity to consider the interaction between planning regulations, bushfire regulations and protection of remnant native vegetation in bushland areas

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 inform applications to clear or impact vegetation, For baseline information for monitoring

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

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

Timeliness of assessments, 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.:

Improved ability to assess the correct native flora species to be used in revegetation, rehabilitation and restoration projects for a local area.

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:

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

2

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.:

Better tracking of cumulative clearing

Opportunity to provide better and easier to understand information to all sectors including the individual private landholder

Simplify and better explain the exemptions

Request more detailed information about reason for clearing and what exactly is to be cleared in initial application eg to reduce fuel load near house does the proponent want to thin a dense stand of tall shrubs or completely clear everything within 100m of house

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:

1

Rank bioregional elements - 2. Leveraging local knowledge:

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:

2

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

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

3

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Better use of local knowledge in determining what needs protecting and where effort is best placed to protect and improve the local environment
Opportunity to assess clearing extent and put limits on extent for each region

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Boundaries of bioregions are not easily recognised by the public, are not well mapped in formats easily accessible by the public. Need to address this if this is used.

Bioregion boundaries are not a hard line, need to consider effect of any action on the nearby parts of the neighbouring region.

Some species or vegetation types may extend into another bioregion and some at risk species may occur in isolated populations in more than one bioregion.

Bioregion boundaries don't align with local govt or catchment boundaries so how will this be dealt with for funding

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), Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Environmental offsets should allow for the purchase of degraded land with sufficient funds being also provided to restore that land. While buying existing good quality native vegetation may provide additional protection for that land, in some cases, the good quality vegetation chosen as an offset may not be likely to cleared in future anyway. The result is a net loss of native vegetation.

Guaranteed support needs to be provided to landcare and catchment groups to enable them to continue encouraging protection of existing native vegetation and revegetation of degraded land. Incentives, such as reductions in rates and taxes or subsidised fencing and weed control, could be considered where native vegetation is retained by private landholders.

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.:

Upload a document

21 If you would like to upload a document to support your submission, please upload it here.

Upload document 1 here.:

No file was uploaded

Please describe which question(s) document 1 relates to. :

Upload document 2 here.:

No file was uploaded

Please describe which question(s) document 2 relates to. :