

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKB1-U

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-10 16:09:38**

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:

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4 What is your postcode? (optional)

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5 Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

No, these are my personal views

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

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

Academia

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. :

No

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 opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

I believe that it is best to word an objective so that it is not subject to interpretation and sets a framework for what is achievable. The management of native vegetation should be consistent with best practice, as outlined in State and Federal Guidelines, and International Agreements that Australia is a party to, as well as being transparent. That it is "strategic" is open to interpretation. That it "strikes a balance between environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes to Western Australian" is a very subjective phrase and is open to interpretation as to what that balance might be. Our remaining native vegetation should not be cleared unless there is no alternative, or unless it is so degraded that it cannot be rehabilitated. The precautionary approach should be adopted as core practice, mindful of intergenerational equity and Indigenous science. I submit that given that there is little native vegetation remaining, that the economic outcomes of some sectors have already been met, the conservation of all remaining native vegetation is equitable, unless it is degraded beyond rehabilitation. Fire should not be factored as being the basis for a class of degradation.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

I find the statement to be somewhat ambiguous. That Western Australia's native vegetation is conserved and/or restored to maintain ecological function and biodiversity at a landscape scale is strongly supported. However, only ecological systems in their natural state need to be maintained and not improved. Restored sites need to be rehabilitated (which may improve ecological function), and maintained

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Strongly supported in principle, with the word strategic removed. Support for this Objective assumes that an ecosystem approach is adopted, by the State, that takes into account the regional geological and hydrological setting and the geological and hydrological processes that underpin ecosystem function.

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.:

The Consultation Paper recognises the importance of native vegetation, but generally not for its "ecosystem services". Native vegetation is much more than the sum of its species list, providing habitats, and clean air, water and soil for humans to enjoy.

There is an opportunity for the State Government to "walk the talk" with the development of a single coherent framework and policies that address:

1. the current gaps in knowledge and the confusion of current wetland and Native Vegetation policies in Western Australia"
2. The lack of an agreed method, or systematic assessment of the States vegetation in order to establish science based prioritisation of rehabilitating and managing the States native vegetation, i.e., an ecosystem-based strategy of "value-based" assessment of the State's native vegetation needs to be developed.
3. Recognition that geodiversity underpins biodiversity. IBRA boundaries do not coincide with natural geological or watershed boundaries, and this needs to be taken account when developing regional management plans.
4. Recognition of Indigenous knowledge- A special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the key role of traditional landholders and how important it is for governments to recognize the land rights of those groups over the territory they inhabit and manage. The United Nations has a number of resolutions that relate to value of, and need to the incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in environmental management.
5. Recognition and inclusion of International Agreements on the importance of protecting native vegetation for its inherent values to exist; utilitarian values for bioprospecting and tourism; ecosystem service values, and diverse habitats for flora and fauna.

Better information

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

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)

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.:

Evidence on gaps in information

Evidence for the need for increased Government funding for research on fire management, the effects of climate change, and to monitor and manage native bushland

Evidence for considering inter generational equity.

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:

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:

3

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.:

Legislative Reform to facilitate better regulation.

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:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 2. Leveraging local knowledge:

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

3

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:

1

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

All 7 points are equally important and should not be ranked.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

This approach is welcomed. There is an opportunity for Local Governments within a bioregion to work together to pool resources and knowledge.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Not all native vegetation, and the geological and hydrological processes that underpin them, are confined within the boundary a bioregion, therefore there needs to be transboundary considerations.

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, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Globally Aboriginal land management has been found to be significantly more sustainable than Western land management practices.

Nature-based and cultural tourism is undervalued by the State, which is notably favours other competing forms of development.

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.:

Agreements with the Federal Government for increased funding of Ramsar wetlands and Commonwealth native vegetation for management. Funding should be site specific.

The Abolition of Offsets. Developments can be relocated, native vegetation can not.

Abolishing cash incentives as offsets. Currently, where there is no alternative site of equal "value" a wetland can be destroyed without an offset in lieu of cash.

If there is no wetland or native vegetation of equivalent value, then it is priceless and should not be cleared.

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::

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