

## Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKG9-8

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2019-12-26 11:55:53**

### 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?

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?

Private citizen

If other, please specify.:

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

Not applicable (private citizen)

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.:

I support the notion of striking a balance between environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes, however I question the 'balance' that will be achieved. I believe that the 'balance' we have previously seen has been weighted towards the economic and social end of the scale rather than the environmental and social end.

##### Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

##### Please explain in the text box below.:

In many areas we have cleared far too much native vegetation and must make deliberate and determined efforts to conserve and restore what remains. If that means all further clearing is denied, then so be it. Waiting until a vegetation-type is listed as a threatened ecologic community before taking action is leaving it too late.

##### Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

Protection is certainly needed for unique and at-risk native vegetation. A business-as-usual approach will not save that which is already threatened. Management plans are a good start but they must be implemented to have any effect.

**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.:**

Vegetation on all undeveloped land across the state (metro, regional & rural) should be mapped for condition every 5 years at the owner's expense. Owners are made responsible for maintaining and improving the condition of the vegetation. Allowing the condition of the land to deteriorate is met with fines and the requirement to have the land mapped every 2 years.

The state needs to be willing to purchase naturally vegetated land from owners unwilling to improve the condition of their land.

These two actions should eliminate clearing by neglect and place a value on native vegetation.

**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, 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.:**

Better decisions are made when detailed and consistent information is available. Freely available data will allow all interested parties access to the same information and reduce the perception of unjust clearing decisions.

**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:

3

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.:**

**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:

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:

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

**17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?**

Please explain in the text box below.:

**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)

Please explain in the text box below.:

Putting a price on any commodity gives it a value. Protecting native vegetation will not be universally adopted by the community until that vegetation has value. If there is a price to be paid for clearing native vegetation, business will likely choose the cheapest option - maintaining the vegetation.

**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.:

All clearing, for all purposes, should be stopped immediately. Purchase land from owners not willing or able to protect the natural attributes of the land.

Put more resources into identifying illegal clearing.

Put more resources into protecting native vegetation. With the pressures put upon the land from all sources (climate change, weeds, feral animals and human interference), it can no longer look after itself.