

## Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKHZ-A

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2019-11-25 10:54:59**

### 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 agree that we need to do more to improve the balance. My parents were farmers so I understand a great deal having grown up on the land. Humans need to eat one way or another but I feel like modern day farming practices take a lot from the land but don't give much back. I would like to see more of a balance where more trees are planted along non-cropped areas such as fence lines and gullies. I also think there needs to be more done to support our WA farmers who frequently are made to feel like villains in these modern times by a lack of support from DPIRD, the media, online activists, city dwellers, etc. They might not be currently doing enough but generally speaking they do more for the land than anyone else. They have more in depth knowledge and if given the support, they'd be happy to do more for the land.

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

Supported

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

Looking after and restoring our native habitats where able will not only support endangered flora species but also endangered fauna species. I want to do more and see more done to preserve our environment for future generations. Right now I have noticed that in the past 20 years, the rock holes on my family farm never become full with winter rain because it just doesn't rain enough anymore. Consequently there aren't tadpoles in them and frogs have disappeared from the area.

As a child I enjoyed those rock holes immensely and it's sad to have seen this occur during my lifetime. I don't know if planting more trees in WA will have much of any impact upon climate change but I have to believe that doing at least a small something will help.

**Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:**

Supported

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

It is inevitable that over thousands of years (speaking outside of human induced climate change) that the planet's climate will change anyway and we can't protect everything. Species will always die out. However, when we're speeding up this process I feel guilty that we are doing so which is why I consequently agree that we need to do more to protect our species and preserve them for as long as we are able to retain them.

**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.:**

I am sure there would be many opportunities. Namely I would like to think that the creation of such a policy will unify all interested parties in having the same vision for what they would like to achieve across WA. I think the policy should:

- Enable interested parties who'd like to do more via funding, tools, education, etc.
- Educate relevant parties about what they can do such as farmers, city dwellers, etc.
- Unify the chain of command from the State to their departments (being DPIRD, DBCA, DWER and Water Corp) through to local government and grassroots organisations

**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

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)**

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.:**

When you can prevent someone with a viable way for them to do something, they are far more likely to consider it. I mean by this that maybe you want to run a program but no one is willing to participate. If you go out into the rural communities and actually talk to them you'll find that if you can outline the plan and show them the benefits, then they're far more likely to be supportive of it and want to participate.

I also think it is important that the information presented should be positive and encouraging. Scaremongering is so prevalent in the media and many parts of western society today. It is ridiculous and people are stressed and treading on eggshells a lot. Taking the time to communicate the information properly and what we're going to do as a State to tackle this issue rather than trying to scare people into acting would be a step in the right direction.

**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:

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:

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:

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), Aboriginal land management, Pastoral diversification, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Predominantly the Lake Grace region is a broad acre cropping region. There is minimal evidence of aboriginals living in the area as it is too dry and possessed no known reliable water supply. I only know of one gnamma hole in the far east of the Shire area. That being said, some of their land management practices could prove to be of benefit I think. I think in the old days that we used to follow some similar practices in any case such as mitigation burning far more often to reduce fuel loads. The areas around Denmark, Walpole, etc. are a catastrophe waiting to happen because of the lack of regular mitigation burning in that area as an example.

In the past 20 years (at least) the GRDC and others have strongly encouraged the farming practice of "get big or get out" which generally means going 100% broad acre cropping. This probably predominantly came about because of the wool market collapse and a few other factors but I think it's important that farming practices go back to being diversified again. The land needs the break to recover more often.

I also think managing what happens in flood events would also be a good idea. Is it better to slow the water down or move it along quickly? Can we capture more of this water when this happens? How does salinity factor in? Water is our most precious resource and we're really not doing enough in this area I think. There are hundreds of government dams sitting out in the bush that used to capture water and were once maintained. Now they're sitting there 90% full of mud and with no roofs. Lake Grace was declared drought declared earlier this year and scheme water was cut off for a week I believe which caused an outcry. People desperately needed that water to give to their stock. Yet less than a couple of kilometers from the standpipe for our area was one of these dams sitting in the bush that could have tided everyone over for the week whilst they had to wait for the tanks in the system to refill. We need to get smarter about the management of our resources. Seems to me like we were much better at a lot of these things during my parents and grandparents' eras.

**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.:

Number 1 on the list has got to be the management of feral animals. I recently went to Uluru and drove there from WA. I was amazed at the amount of feral camels, horses, etc. Our feral pests are out of control and I have heard plenty about how much our landscape has changed because of them. Apparently before the rabbits were brought somewhat under control they decimated the greenery of certain parts of Australia and the native vegetation has never recovered. We have got to get on top of this issue as well to ensure that not only is our native vegetation protected but so too are our native animals from hunting and competition.