

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKMU-A

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-08 21:38:13**

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. :

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 supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

As Perth and W.A. grows, roads are widened, more land is required for general industry and mining there is a constant loss of vegetation. Not all of this is assessed as some areas are too small, but there is an on-going development 'creep' that affects what green belts we have left. I have made many submissions to the Department of Planning and the committee all appear to be sympathetic to my views, but the development always goes ahead.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

There is no better way to preserve biodiversity than on a landscape scale as everything within that landscape has evolved in tandem and relies on that connectivity for survival in the long term and its ability to adapt to climate change.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

It is essential to protect unique and at-risk native vegetation tailored to the regional setting (and this includes fungi, liverworts and mosses), as to lose species which have dependents such as birds and animals could mean the loss of a whole suite of native species e.g. Banksias and the Pygmy possum threatened by Phytophthora.

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.:

Opportunities presented for the development of a State Native Vegetation Policy should include a meeting of minds from conservation, government and industry. Opportunities provided should include wherever possible, good linkages or corridors from one major natural area to another as areas in isolation reduce biodiversity; wherever possible this should include cities taking the initiative to create corridors of local native species between areas of city bushland. The City of Stirling has a very good management policy for its bushland that was brought about in the 90s with a committee of all of the above-mentioned interests sitting for months and some for years to bring about a defining outcome. The committee is now disbanded and I do not know when the management plan was last updated.

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

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, 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.:

If the public is better informed of decisions and why, it is better educated to protect the natural environment for the future.

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:

3

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.:

All parties have a clear view of what can and cannot be done to native vegetation. Laws that we have should be strengthened and enforced with more onus put on persons knowingly destroying bushland and less on the person who observes what is happening, e.g. the person observing destruction is supposed to take a photo, the time and ask the perpetrator if he/she is doing the damage under his/her own cognisance. The fines for firebugs should be onerous with a jail term.

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:

3

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:

1

Please explain in the text box below.:

Supporting public-private ownership involves the public being involved and having input and therefore an ownership of the area and learn from the owner (unless it was marked for development) the importance of natural habitat.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Other opportunities of a bioregional approach would greatly reduce fragmentation of areas of threatened species and provide local native vegetation corridors for the exchange of genes, bringing about greater diversity and adaptation of species assisting in the ongoing survival of flora and fauna and provide greater ease for species to take on the constant challenges of a changing climate. Forests can walk (G.K. Chesterton) and when they can, they move to areas for which they are better suited. To give them room to move would save many species.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Concerns presented by a bioregional approach for my sector are the planting of non-local indigenous species. There is the ability to unite many of the small areas of bushland where I live, but the bureaucracy of the City has failed in this opportunity, despite the best efforts of myself and others. Currently, any native tree species are being planted anywhere to keep pace with the City's required percentage canopy cover.

Other initiatives

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

Aboriginal land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Aboriginal land management would improve native vegetation outcomes with some slow winter burns in large bushland and large city bushland areas, thereby reducing the frequency of fires and the loss of species. There is also the potential for Aboriginal people to interact with the local public to show just how these reserves adapt to the seasons, what grows with what and why, who needs this plant or tree and why. At the moment my *Melaleuca lanceolata* is in full bloom as is the *E. calophylla* (now a bloodwood), the former I had planted in my new garden in 1979 and the latter I planted in the walkway adjacent to our house when we returned to Australia in 1988. Both are alive with bees at a time when pollen is hard to come by and the Marri has a great diversification of insects, more so than most trees, which would be well known to most Aboriginal people who hold great value for what the Marri provides. They could provide this knowledge to the public either through bushland walks, talks at local schools or my local magazine, *Stirling Scene*. Having local Aboriginal land managers employed by Councils could bring about the mindset that is required to get the outcomes we need.

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.:

Enact laws that allow for a sustainable amount of bush land in each new suburb whereby each development must retain a certain number of local trees from that bush land throughout the suburb. Most developments today are clear-felled leaving nothing but heating roofs and brick walls.

Very mature trees in public open spaces and walkways should have preservation orders placed upon them and that these orders be made known to the

neighbourhood with an explanation of what that tree does for the area, viz. cools the atmosphere by several degrees, absorbs carbon and provides habitat. Plant new verges with local native species.

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. :