

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKMX-D

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-09 09:20:38**

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:

[REDACTED]

4 What is your postcode? (optional)

Postcode:

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:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I strongly support the NEED for this. I am neutral, however, in my belief of whether it is currently being achieved.

Some areas have excellent management of native vegetation. I walk in King's Park every morning and am consistently impressed with their planting and conservation efforts. It is a wonderful way to display the beauty of Australian flora (and fauna, who are attracted to the natives). It is just a shame that this management is not more widely spread. If native plant management is restricted only to national parks and protected spaces, then our native species will slowly die out and become irrelevant for people. Preserving native spaces is a wonderful thing; but the encouragement of the integration of native flora within our human-made landscapes. For example, the large median strip in between the QEII complex and King's Park. There is a small patch of banksias planted there that are absolutely beautiful and in full flower right now. They have survived - thrived - with no watering at all. Every other native planted in that median strip, other than the older established trees, has died out. If the whole median strip had been planted with more knowledge of which species can survive with no watering, we could have had a whole strip of bankias, providing food for many native birds and for the bees.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

See above response for other suggestions. Again, I strongly support the necessity of this, but am neutral as regarding whether it is currently being achieved.

Some areas are excellent, and some need improvement. More work needs to be done to integrate native vegetation into a part of our everyday landscapes. I believe that the most important part of conservation is education. Whilst we need a dedicated group of people to be responsible for planting and the physical and pragmatic aspects of vegetation, if the populace at large is more educated about native vegetation, it can only have a positive effect. It is much easier to care about something if you know a little about it. Other countries, such as the UK, incorporate flora/fauna education as a basic part of the system - field trips, and actually learning about the plants that surround you. I never had anything like this in my otherwise excellent Australian education. More education and appreciation of our spectacular native flora and fauna could only have a positive effect. If the people care more about vegetation, the government must do also. The government will prioritise what the voters prioritise. This would perhaps lead to more funding for vegetation. It would also foster a stronger bond between humans and the environment that we depend upon, and thus improve our quality

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I believe that this is incredibly important. Australia's flora and fauna are unique. They are an integral part of our national identity. It is inspiring, too, how our unique vegetation has adapted for such harsh environmental conditions such as ours. Please see previous responses for my thoughts on how protection/conservation could be increased: greater integration of native vegetation into human-made landscapes; and greater education about the miracle of our native vegetation.

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 development of a State Vegetation Policy is, I believe, a vital piece of legislation for our government. With our technology and sophistication, we have no excuse to make environmentally irresponsible decisions. Furthermore, we are intelligent and innovative enough to be able to make positive decisions for human development (e.g. employment opportunities), and for them to be simultaneously positive environmental decisions. A Native Vegetation Policy will provide more data and more information to allow the government and other organisations to make responsible and positive decisions. It also shows that the government is invested in maintaining our beautiful state for future generations. I want my children and their children to be able to enjoy our natural wonders as much as I have been able to. In developing a State Native Vegetation Policy, the government would be demonstrating its commitment to the future, and not just to winning the next election.

Better information

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

To plan for conservation, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

My industry is not directly related to native vegetation. I am a concerned citizen who greatly values the natural wonders of our State and our country. As an environmental activist, however, I would use native vegetation data to look for areas that need improvement. My focus is on education, and I would use data to target areas that most needed addressing.

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:

I believe that cost saving and evidence-base are related. We can no longer only consider short-term financial gains in our decisions. It is becoming clearer and clearer that financial short-term gain often means long-term losses. There is a reason why the major banks will not commit to investing in Adani. The welfare of our environment is not separate from our economic situation. If we have a better evidence base, it will be easier to make responsible decisions, which are thus more cost-effective in the long term.

13 What other opportunities are presented by improved information and improved access to information?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

See my response to question 10.

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:

2

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:

3

If you selected Other, please provide further information.:

Education. My three priorities are linked, however. 1 and 2 are most certainly linked. There is no reason why our development needs to be at the cost of our native vegetation. It is perfectly possible for us to integrate vegetation and human civilisation. 3 will help with the implementation of 1 and 2.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

A more responsible future. Where human development and environmental development are not separate, but are inextricably linked. This is what will make human civilisation sustainable.

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:

1

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

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

2

Please explain in the text box below.:

1: as stated in my previous responses, there is no reason why a species as intelligent and innovative as the human race cannot make their development sustainable. Environmentally stable also means economically stable, as is demonstrated by the increasingly reduced investment interest in coal mining. Short-term economic gain at the expense of the environment leads to significant long-term economic loss.

3: Aboriginal Australians managed to coexist extremely successfully with the harsh Australian environment for tens of thousands of years. It is arrogant of colonisers to assume that we can learn nothing from this knowledge. Aboriginal Australians have a richness of knowledge, and more importantly, a richness of appreciation, of what our landscape has to offer us, and what we must offer in return.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

See above.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

None. I believe that a bioregional approach is vital for the long-term sustainability of all sectors.

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), Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

The economy and the environment are not separate, much as right-wing politics would like to believe that they are. Whilst the economy may benefit in the immediate-term from irresponsible decisions regarding vegetation, it will result in long-term economic collapse. Economist Ross Garnaut has written extensively

on this topic, of which I am sure the WA government is aware.

Nature-based/cultural tourism I link to education. The more we appreciate how wonderful our natural environment is, the more we want to protect it, and want to have it a part of our everyday lives. This is a far more sustainable option for conservation than just limited preservation operations only enacted in national parks.

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.:

As mentioned previously: integration of the natural and humanmade landscapes, and greater education.

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. :