

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKST-F

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-01-18 15:29:22**

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:

Strongly opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

Far too much in one statement. I support line 1 only. Beyond that, whose view of balance? My experience with EPA consultation is that the balance is ALWAYS defined in ways that favour development and short term advantage. Only lip service is paid to the Environmental Principles of the EPA, particularly no. 1-3 (precaution, intergenerational equity, conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity). Until these principles are demonstrably upheld I will have no faith in balance, no trust in due process.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Essential if properly implemented in the interests of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Strategic can be a two edged sword. In this context it needs to be strategic for conservation, not strategic for economic development. It must not be used to allow unfettered / deregulated destruction of 'non-strategic' environments.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Strategic protection on a scale big enough to be effective is essential (no good just protecting isolated populations - look at the whole picture).

Higher priority in terms of resourcing, yes - both for conservation and for auditing of conditions imposed on licences given by the Government.

Yes, so long as regions are not set in competition with each other.

Yes, but do not leave some regional areas to carry the cost of a statewide need. Must be centrally, not regionally resourced

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.:

In theory: clarity of expectation and framework for decision-making. But policies do nothing without real 'buy in'. So in practice I fear this will become an hotbed of bureaucratic delays and obfuscation and inconsistent duplication.

Eg: Will an SNVP stop the destruction of roadside vegetation in the name of improved road safety, when speed is the number one killer, not trees and bushes on the verge? We are loosing essential wildlife corridors, significant biodiversity, and erosion protection so that we can have wide hard shoulders on country roads and so that the speed limit can be increased!!!

Eg Native riparian vegetation is being cleared in the name of fire mitigation and access - which works for this season but increases the fire risk for the next decade because the weeds are an even greater fire risk, and erosion destroys the access tracks.

Better information

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

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)

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.:

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:

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

2

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

1

Please explain in the text box below.:

We have fantastic conservation organisations in Australia (eg Bush Heritage). They can do things the government can't but need financial and policy support.

Leveraging local knowledge would have been my top priority if the list of outcomes had had the opposite priority. But look at what you've done with your order - 1) economic, 2) social, 3) cultural and 4) environmental outcomes. This is indicative of the REAL problem: economic outcomes first, environmental outcomes last.

Until that is reversed, there can be little progress.

Monitoring and evaluation are crucial - but of little value if reports are just 'filed'.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

The opportunity to think at a whole of ecosystem level.

The opportunity to implement the Environmental Protection Act Principles

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Competition between regions.

Other initiatives

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

Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

Puts a monetary value on the natural environment and encourages conservation and education of the general public.

Gives an economic logic to environmental protection and restoration.

\$\$\$ talk

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.:

Shift the discourse - notice how economic values always come first, environment last - even in this document (see Q 16, Element 2). Then change that around.

Think long term! We need intergenerational equity, not term of government thinking.

Ask the hard questions - what is the real impact, the cumulative impact of this action or decision. Old growth forests were logged one tree at a time.

Respect and implement the principles of the Environment Protection Act.