

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKSV-H

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-08 20:58:08**

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:

Opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

The term striking a balance is too flexible, its already heavily overbalanced favouring human needs. Environment is an equal partner to people. Instead use the concept of seeking a win-win for both native vegetation and human needs.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

high conservation value flora AND fauna

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Set up Bush Forever (or similar schem) to reserve regional and locally significant native vegetation in Albany, Bunbury and Busselton ahead of further urban development

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.:

Any Native Vegetation Policy will only be implemented or adhered to if people want to do so because they value the vegetation. Engender a culture of valuing green infrastructure as much, or more than, built infrastructure.

Programs to promote and connect people with native vegetation and its value to be developed and implemented.

If we effectively fund conservation agencies to comprehensively document flora and fauna biodiversity in WA then we know the state of play for these assets.

Government should be speaking about "managing" vegetation. Native vegetation provides the best public ecosystem services - free to the taxpayer. Its beauty, uniqueness, and diversity, its ability to absorb carbon dioxide and generate oxygen, ameliorate climate, stimulate rainfall, prevent erosion are all extremely important - let it get on with what it does best and don't try to manage it, promote it protect it.

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)

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.:

WA's native vegetation could be promoted to local, national and international visitors, and the managers of these assets encouraged and financially supported to protect and enhance them, through schemes such as the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme.

Flora Roads to be established in areas of key or high quality remnant native vegetation so that local shires see the benefit of roadside vegetation for tourists.

1. Roadside vegetation forms a corridor that is part of a network linking blocks of native vegetation on public and private land.

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:

3

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:

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.:

Effectively fund conservation agencies to comprehensively document flora and fauna biodiversity in WA.

Roadside vegetation is an asset to the State of Western Australia - the Wildflower State - and should be managed and maintained for present and future generations to study and appreciate.

WA's native vegetation should be promoted to local, national and international visitors, and the managers of these assets be encouraged and financially supported to protect and enhance them, through schemes such as the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme.

Prosecution for unlawful and un-necessary clearing , and a wide array of instruments such as revegetation of both affected and nearby cleared land.

The government will have documented evidence all clearing, whether approved, exempt or unlawful, and will require all approved or exempt clearing to be reported by those who undertook the clearing

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:

1

Rank bioregional elements - 3. Strategic and innovative approach to conflicting interests:

2

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:

3

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Provide funds to revegetate/restore 1% of WA's degraded and cleared areas with local biodiversity every year.

Areas on private land retained or revegetated for biodiversity purposes using public funds are to be preserved in perpetuity.

The government will document all clearing, whether approved, exempt or unlawful, and will require all approved or exempt clearing to be reported by those who undertook the clearing. If a breach is found,

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Provide financial or other incentives to encourage private entities to conserve/ revegetate/restore biodiversity.

Flora Roads to be established in areas of key or high quality remnant native vegetation with local government buy-in.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Vulnerability to lobbying by special interest groups, eg mountain bikes, trail construction.

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, Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

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.:

More (inviolate) National Parks/Nature Reserves gazetted and transferred to the Conservation Estate to attain a CAR reserve system containing a minimum of 30% of the State of WA.

Effectively fund conservation agencies to comprehensively document flora and fauna biodiversity in WA.

Provide funds to revegetate/restore 1% of WA's degraded and cleared areas with local biodiversity every year.

Provide financial or other incentives to encourage private entities to conserve/ revegetate/restore biodiversity.

Where cleared land is determined to be agriculturally or otherwise unviable, the state government commits to provide financial support for its revegetation back to natural bushland. Provide financial support to the owner or others to manage the revegetation area for a certain period. (Compensation and an alternative to drought relief for those farms which are unlikely to be viable in the future.)

Ban any clearing of native vegetation, particularly of areas containing Threatened or Priority Species or Ecological Communities, accompanied by revegetation/restoration of disturbed/cleared areas.

Areas designated for defensive and pro-active offset action (eg retention, acquisition and revegetation) preserved in perpetuity.

Areas on private land retained or revegetated for biodiversity purposes using public funds to be preserved in perpetuity.

Upload a document

21 If you would like to upload a document to support your submission, please upload it here.

Upload document 1 here::

_comment_EPA_changes28-1-20.pdf was uploaded

Please describe which question(s) document 1 relates to. :

question 1 - its too late to be talking about protection we ned to be undertaking restoration

Need to acknowledge, support and finalise implementation of Perth's Bush Forever (BFE) by transferring all designated sites to the Conservation Estate within the next 2 years, and effectively managing them thereafter.

Many BFE sites still need to be fenced and cleaned of rubbish before transfer to the Conservation Estate. Funds then need to be provided to maintain them in excellent condition. Doing this sort of work is good for people and bonds them with native vegetation.

Upload document 2 here::

No file was uploaded

Please describe which question(s) document 2 relates to. :

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND CLEARING REGULATIONS

1. In the year 2020, the state of the Environment in any part of the world, is so changed due to the lack of protection from current acts and policies, that there is little sense in further tinkering at the edges of that same Act.

Surely it should be recognised in 2020, there should be NO more clearing done, so there is none to be regulated. There IS much revegetation and restoration to be done and the way in which that is done could be the subject of guidance on best practice and therefore “regulation”.
2. Rather a new Environmental RESTORATION Act should be written with regulations on how that is coordinated across Australia and in particular across the divides of state-based capital city, regional and rural area mindsets.

The regulations should outline an initial standard of recovery to a specified new datum to be achieved, and then benchmarks of sustainability for that new datum.
3. This flips the regulation from being of punitive measures which have clearly failed in the past, to being incentive-focused and changing the nature of the game for “business” and “development”.
4. The discussion paper prefaces (item 1.2) that the process of changing the Act should align with a driver of “strengthening leadership across government - applying stewardship and continuous improvement to get the best performance out of agency heads and central agencies”.

Another pedagogical driver nominated is “reshaping and strengthening the public-sector workforce - embedding better workforce practices to support a more agile and innovative sector”.
5. A primary tenet of leadership is surely the identification of the appropriate goal for a safe, potentially prosperous future for the people who have entrusted Government. That goal is Environmental RESTORATION.

Better workforce practices are those that are incentive-driven and transparently directed toward the recognised and shared goal, one which is good for All.

Agility and innovation is required to change mindsets to be collaborative toward the shared goal which benefits the state and Australia.
6. I would be happy to contribute more if there were an opportunity.

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██████████
██████████ 28th January 2020