

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKWY-R

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-09 10:46:54**

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:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Great aspiration. In practice, this needs a capacity to link to Objective 2 (Landscape Scale) both in policy and in information. The consistency and transparency require much better information and monitoring systems that at present.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Great. Obvious need for better monitoring data and information (not just maps) - Conservation, restoration, maintenance and improvement are temporal objectives; they require appropriate metrics and monitoring data to update.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I believe there are already appropriate priorities for conservation of such vegetation, though information may be lacking. In some cases I feel that the focus on 'rare and endangered' for assessment reduces the importance of landscape scale conservation and connectedness in which such vegetation occurs.

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.:

My particular interest is in:

1. The opportunity (necessity) to create better information systems to inform policy, investment and the public on vegetation. These systems can exploit modern computation and data (notably remote sensing), provided appropriate technical expertise is coordinated and focused on policy objectives.

2. The historic institutional fragmentation of roles in vegetation information has led to bad outcomes, bad data systems and a lack of expertise and capacity to use modern information. This fragmentation works against building technical expertise in modern data and systems to meet state requirement. Various departments keep doing old things that don't meet current requirements (see A-G Rangeland Report, or the use of poor vector data). The Policy provides an opportunity to change this, particularly to invest in a dedicated expertise group to provide common information monitoring systems relevant to policy. DBCA's remote sensing GIS group provides a model.

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, To inform applications to clear or impact vegetation, For baseline information for monitoring, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Note. I was co-author of the [REDACTED] report. I am a retired remote CSIRO sensing scientist who was involved in creating working remote sensing monitoring systems for Australia and internationally.

This kind of information is relevant to ALL of these questions, and effective monitoring can ONLY be provided through remote sensing data systems.

The current photo-interpreted native vegetation vector data set is NOT suitable to meet any of the policy ambitions. It is recognised as poor, not suited to monitoring.

12 Which of the following elements of better information provision would be most relevant to your sector? (Choose as many options as you require)

Evidence-base for decisions, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Again, I am not active in a sector, but clearly a spatially explicit, up-to-date monitoring capacity is essential for many specific questions, for surveillance, and for policy reporting.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

Monitoring at a spatially explicit scale is essential and possible using remote sensing.

WA has a very high level of remote sensing capacity and experience (Land Monitor, CSIRO & DBCA has arguably the best conservation remote sensing capacity in the country) and computational capacity.

Modern data systems can provide data in formats suitable for agencies and public information - they require some expertise in data processing and computational systems to enable interrogation and delivery of the raster-vector data bases.

Problem. This data and capacity is under-used for native vegetation management by the state agencies. Even Land Monitor products are used by only a few agencies.

WHY?? - the institutional fragmentation and 'expertise lack' referred to earlier.

Many agencies have no capacity to use Raster data, so they use the inadequate vector dataset as a default.

This must change !!!

- modern GIS systems use raster and vector happily, expertise is needed

- the current and 'next-gen' data and information systems will inevitably be raster - vector data can't handle the tasks.

The Solution and OPPORTUNITY.

The State should invest in a single expert group to provide policy-relevant vegetation information including remote sensing monitoring. It should build on Land Monitor and related expertise by funding additional personnel with this mission. The group should be headed by a policy driven person. It should assist users. It should be charged to produce standard products at state and regional scale. It should include a role to provide data and products in suitable formats to agencies on request, and for web delivery. This dissemination role could include vectorizing data in small project areas as appropriate. It should include a role to build a web interface so that users can interrogate the large data bases to suit their requests (e.g. to look a veg change for a particular area over a particular time, or to

calculate statistics from multi-date coverages within a vegetation type, to produce a rangeland property report).

It would be most efficient to build this group on the expertise platform of Land Monitor Consortium which includes the DBCA group. I would suggest that approx 4-5 FTE with ongoing funding may be sufficient.

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:

3

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:

2

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.:

Linked to transparent and relevant information systems, both for development and public information - better confidence, efficiency and trust in the system

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.:

I think bioregional approach provides some obvious opportunities for clarity about targets and decisions

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

There may be unequal expertise and knowledge in different regions.

I believe a common statewide information system should underpin the vegetation management. Within that, bioregional priorities may use additional data to produce relevant products

Other initiatives

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

n/a

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.:

In the cleared and urban areas, maintenance and enhancement of connectedness and area of vegetation. Incentives for on-farm and in-shire restoration. Generally, a clarity of conservation and restoration plans with a means to communicate stability or change (monitoring system !!)
Recognition, learning and dissemination from 'success stories' using objective data

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. :

Please see BOX 13, it has what I would have put in a document.

For further background, please see the [REDACTED] report [REDACTED])

Upload document 2 here::

No file was uploaded

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