

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKXP-G

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-05 09:51:56**

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. :

[REDACTED]

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.:

The current clearing permit process involves the provision of inconsistent advice and decision making, unclear regulatory requirements, unclear exemptions and long timeframes for gaining approvals.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

It is difficult to set state-wide rules to effectively protect native vegetation given the diversity of bioregions within Western Australia. Setting regionally appropriate

rules and thresholds is supported as this will enable more effective and efficient regulation.

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.:

I would like to see more stringent requirements placed on clearing of native vegetation undertaken through approved subdivisions that are exempt under the Planning and Development Act 2005. Clearing permit applications are subject to a strict assessment against the ten clearing principles in accordance with the 'A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation', whereas subdivision applications are simply referred to DWER for comment and are not subject to the same level of scrutiny, with the decision made by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

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 scope offset opportunities, To inform applications to clear or impact vegetation, 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, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Currently the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA) only captures environmental information through the clearing permit process and Part IV Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act) process, however there are a significant number of environmental assessments undertaken outside of these processes, I.e for Structure Plans, subdivisions, conservation reserve management by Local Governments.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

Develop a platform for the public to share knowledge such as technical environmental studies (flora, fauna, dieback, water quality monitoring)

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:

2

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:

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.:

Statutory timeframes should be introduced for the entire clearing permit process, including the appeals process, in order to provide certainty for proponents when planning project timelines.

I would like to see improved compliance and enforcement of unauthorised clearing. If there are no consequences for undertaking unauthorised clearing then there is limited incentive for people to do the right thing by following the timely and costly process of applying for a clearing permit.

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:

3

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.:

Setting regionally appropriate rules and thresholds is supported as this will enable more effective and efficient regulation.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

The strategic use of offsets in bioregions is supported. DWER is encouraged to set up funds for different bioregions such as the Swan Coastal Plain, I ke has been done for the Pilbara.

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

Please explain in the text box below.: