

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKXZ-T

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-02-07 14:35:34**

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:

Neutral

Please explain in the text box below.:

This statement would be almost impossible to achieve without assigning a value to native vegetation that reflects its true value in, for instance, maintaining humanities health. I agree the management of native vegetation needs to be consistent, transparent and strategic.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I think this is well stated but might need additional or sub-objectives to ensure that native vegetation on a local scale is conserved and prevented from being destroyed to suit local government objectives. The small parts of a larger function are just as important as the whole landscape function

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

This is well worded. However, there is not enough information on at-risk native vegetation so money would need to be made available to make this happen.

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 think this would provide more consistency and clarity on what is required to protect our native vegetation, from a local, state-wide and local government perspective.

It should include any national goals and training requirements, i.e. for contractors who currently carry no responsibility if they clear an area in error on behalf of government.

A State Native Vegetation Policy should also include the Bush Forever commitments.

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.:

More data is available to make evidence based decisions. However, this data is only as good as the surveys that underlie the information. Most surveys occur during spring whilst it is common knowledge that not all plants flower in spring, or even every year.

Improved access would allow community and other conservation groups to make good decisions on effects of proposals on native vegetation/flora.

Improved data and improved accessibility to this would also improve the decision making process to conserve native vegetation.

With increased monitoring, local and on a statewide scale, there would be a better understanding of the continued amount of (un)legal clearing, and a faster response to prosecute this.

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:

2

Rank better reg elements - Improved compliance and enforcement of unauthorised clearing:

3

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.:

Including our Bush Forever sites and their management. Currently the Bush Forever Plan and program is not completely implemented and this is 10 years overdue.

Better regulation could also make sure that current Bush Forever sites are maintained and that what is and what is not allowed in these areas are clearly stated.

Safeguarding funding for monitoring, management and protection of native vegetation areas in our state.

Providing incentives to all Local Government Authorities to produce and implement Local Biodiversity Strategies and Plans in a certain timeframe.

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:

2

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:

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

1

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

I believe that all of the targets are important. It is difficult to choose between them.

However, I am convinced that conservation has been long an underdog and should be elevated in status and effort to make sure we all understand our natural heritage and its importance to human welfare.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

In all bioregions, the protection of the natural environment and biodiversity must be the over-riding consideration and be the primary factor in decision-making under the EP Act.

The opportunity also exists to increase the number of environmental protection policies for different types of native habitats.

There is the opportunity to require from all infrastructure agencies to respect the need to avoid encroaching into native vegetation in the south west region and the Wheatbelt, and make it enforceable by DWER, EPA and the Government.

It is recommended that 'purpose permits' for land clearing all be withdrawn and this category be removed from the regulatory process.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

That local changes to /clearing of native vegetation are overlooked.

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, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

A variety of initiatives is needed to provide the best outcome. It is not that one initiative is better than another, just that it needs to be looked at a case by case basis.

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.:

I believe the document has a good mix of initiatives. Native vegetation values need to be clearly defined so people can work with that.

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. :