

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKYH-9

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-01-24 10:45:25**

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?

Agriculture / Pastoral

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:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Sounds good, but this is rather a motherhood statement. The 'balance' mentioned should be stacked firmly in favour of the environment, because if you wreck the environment, then all the other aspects get wrecked too.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

We should not only invest more in conserving what little we have left, but invest significant resources in revegetating large areas of land (especially in the wheatbelt).

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Yes, I agree with this. My question is how do we protect it. At the moment there is effectively no protection at all, merely something written on a document in Perth.

Here in the wheatbelt, shires, farmers, and others clear whatever they want whenever they want with complete impunity. There are absolutely no penalties for clearing.

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.:

There needs to be stronger protection of vegetation (including individual trees), as well as a massive increase in investment in protecting vegetation.

We also need to look at incidental clearing. This is where storms damage trees, which the shires then remove completely (because they are damaged). This progressively exacerbates the situation in the wheatbelt where there are so few trees already, because there are fewer trees to lower the wind speed, more trees get smashed by the wind. The number of large, irreplaceable trees (such as Salmon Gums) getting smashed by the wind has significantly increased over the past 5-10 years. This leaves the remaining trees even more vulnerable.

Also, farmers are removing all remaining lone trees from their paddocks due to GPS automation of their tractors. They do not see a 'lone' tree as having any value, and hence they remove it.

Shires are also a big problem, particularly by clearing ALL vegetation from roadsides, using the excuse of 'safety' or 'machinery is getting bigger and needs to fit along the road'.

Better information

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

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)

Cost saving, 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.:

I think that there are massive opportunities to gather better information that can help maintain vegetation in WA.

The main one is to gather frequent satellite data (daily, or several times per day), and then automate using computers to compare changes between images. This would identify areas where clearing has occurred, and this can then be cross-checked against a list of approved clearing to identify any illegal clearing. This would enable the government to better target its resources when illegal clearing occurs.

There should also be a one-stop online portal for clearing applications, which would then send the application to the correct department for assessment and simultaneously inform the other relevant departments and create a centralised list of applications and their status.

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:

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:

3

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.:

Use of better information (especially satellite imagery) to monitor and enforce compliance. Currently, there is no enforcement and shires, farmers and other clear whatever and whenever they want to.

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:

2

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

1

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

3

Please explain in the text box below.:

Roadside clearing by (mainly by shires) is unacceptable and unjustifiable 97% of the time.

For them, it is just an easy way out without considering any other options. There are plenty of engineering solutions (many cheaper than clearing) such as barriers, that can prevent drunkards etc from driving off the road and into trees.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

A good understanding of regional variations in vegetation.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

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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), Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

Significant financial and criminal penalties for illegal clearing. There needs to be a strong disincentive for clearing. Currently there is none.

We also need to provide clear goals for revegetating and conserving native vegetation (perhaps tax breaks?).

We should be very careful with carbon farming. For the most part, so far it has just been a way for the federal government and big companies to 'cook the books'.

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.:

Plant more trees in the wheatbelt to spread the wind speed load over a greater area.

Need strong penalties for illegal clearing and strong enforcement.

Need to revegetate large areas, and consider buying back farmland that is being abandoned as it becomes unviable for agriculture due to climate change. This can then be revegetated.

Need to make it a legal requirement for shires to report on the amount vegetation in the shire in thier annual reports, and what they have been responsible for.

There need to be clear targets to increase the area vegetated.

It is important to gather frequent satellite data (daily, or several times per day), and then automate using computers to compare changes between images. This would identify areas where clearing has occurred, and this can then be cross-checked against a list of approved clearing to identify any illegal clearing. This would enable the government to better target its resources when illegal clearing occurs.

There should also be a one-stop online portal for clearing applications, which would then send the application to the correct department for assessment and simultaneously inform the other relevant departments and create a centralised list of applications and thier status.

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. :