

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKYK-C

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-02-10 11:13:31**

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?

Environmental consultant

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.:

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

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.:

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)

Cost saving, 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.:

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:

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.:

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:

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:

2

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

3

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

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.:

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.:

Upload a document

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

Upload document 1 here::

Recommendations and considerations for proposed Native Vegetation Policy.pdf was uploaded

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

To all of them. The boxes were a bit off putting and so after seeking advice, I decided to write some dot pointed comments. Thanks

Upload document 2 here::

No file was uploaded

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

Recommendations and considerations for proposed Native Vegetation Policy

From [REDACTED]

- *12 years experience of living in and observing the Midwest environment as Landcare Officer with [REDACTED] working with hundreds of private landholders and local government.*
- 1. WA desperately needs to put more value on their natural assets. Rebalance the triple bottom line – Environment, Economy, Social – so that Environment is valued and considered equally (if not more) in all decisions made.
- 2. Laws regarding native vegetation and allowances for clearing and management need to be communicated out to the public and land managers better – more widely and in a format that is understood by everyone.
- 3. The 5ha a year clearing rule should be changed back to 1ha or abolished.
- 4. Clearing of the WA Wheatbelt Eucalypt woodlands need to be stopped completely as the remaining vegetation is frighteningly low and that which remains is highly fragmented and degraded.
- 5. It needs to be understood that ‘clearing by stealth’ is one the greatest threats to WA natural biodiversity. Individual trees disappear and ‘bits’ of native vegetation are disappearing all the time from landholder mismanagement and deliberate removal. This is not captured or monitored by the State, nor acted upon.
- 6. Paddock trees are an important part of natural landscape and need greater protection before they are all gone. They are readily removed with no question from the State at present.
- 7. Roadside and rail reserve vegetation needs to be looked on as an important natural asset, and protected for WA biodiversity and Ecotourism. They should be monitored better and harder repercussions dealt out to adjacent and local government land managers who damage/remove/kill the vegetation through fire, chemical sprays and bulldozing.
- 8. Better baseline and updated/up-to-date monitoring of WA’s natural assets. Any desktop analysis should be ground truthed to ensure that information is correct and can be trusted.
- 9. There should be better ‘policing’ of the landscape on the ground. Either employ more on-ground staff to carry out this role or, better still, utilise the local landcare groups who have local staff who are respected in local networks and generally have more trust with local landholders than department staff.
- 10. Local governments need better advice and regulation for managing state reserves and roadside reserves. Encourage the need for suitably trained environmental officers to be employed with Shires.
- 11. Stewardship of remnant vegetation by private landholders/farmers should be better encouraged. Substantial financial incentives need to be made available to private landholders for protecting and actively managing remnant vegetation long term. Reinstate the Land For Wildlife program to the standard before it was disassembled to its poor current state. It was respected and useful, providing landholders with useful practical advice.
- 12. Targets for revegetating cleared land with native habitat need to be introduced/increased and adequate funding to be made available. Currently funding is way too low.
- 13. It has to be stressed that revegetated land will never be a substitute for protecting and conserving remnant vegetation. Protecting remnants should be of utmost priority for the State.

14. Threatened species should be better protected. Currently a mishmash of on-ground conservation practices depending on the species and the location they exist in.
15. Build better connections between local people and the natural environment around them through education and access to more managed parks.
16. Ecotourism relies on WA's natural assets being intact. Ecotourism is big business and will only increase. The connection between conserving natural assets and ecotourism needs to be better realised. Better management of the natural assets in the regions will help the ecotourism economy long term.

Thanks

██████████

6th February 2020