

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKYY-T

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-01-23 14:41:42**

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?

Environmental / NRM

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.:

The word 'balance' is subjective. One person may think that clearing 90% of native vegetation for housing is balanced, other people may not. A native vegetation policy needs to put native vegetation first.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I would go beyond landscape scale. I'd say at all scales.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Yes, flora at risk of extinction should have high protection. But, also, 'death by a thousand cuts' suggests that even lower priority vegetation can become high priority with poor planning.

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.:

Tourism. Out vegetation is a huge drawcard for intra-state, inter-state and international visitors. Protect and restore our native vegetation, and make it accessible to tourists. Our wildflower season is internationally recognised!

Jobs. Indigenous rangers, restoration practitioners, ecological research scientists, environmental educators, can all benefit from job creation through increased funding for native vegetation conservation and restoration

Funding for regions. Regional areas will benefit from increased jobs and tourism.

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, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

To understand species distributions. To plan seed collection.

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

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.:

It will help volunteer organisations who are doing restoration.

It will help research into bushfires, effects of climate change, water management, threatened species, and many other disciplines.

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:

2

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:

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.:

I disagree with the statement 'Innovative exploration of how offsets could drive a net improvement to native vegetation extent or condition where vegetation must be impacted to enable essential development'

'essential' is subjective. Is any development really essential? Sometimes it will just be cheaper to impact on vegetation than to choose another option.

Also, it's been shown by research that offsets aren't working. And, by their very nature, they don't improve vegetation extent or condition, if you clear 10ha, then restore 10 ha, then there's still a net loss.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

International recognition for being a world leader in native vegetation regulation.

WA could host national / international meetings to showcase best-practice regulation.

Development of new technologies, new computer applications, new mapping.

Remote sensing to detect unlawful clearing could have the added benefit of assessing vegetation condition and assessing restoration outcomes.

More jobs in state government to make the application process faster and stop delays. Better training of those filling in applications to avoid them being sent back.

Produce an annual 'state of the vegetation' report to summarise native vegetation losses and restoration.

There could be some regulation around how vegetation is cleared, e.g. seeds must be collected in the correct season before clearing. Topsoil must be removed and replaced in the correct season, with a recipient site identified and prepared long in advance. Animals must be relocated by experts. I know all these things are done sometimes, but not always, and often not best-practice is followed. These plans should be put in the clearing permit. Rather than the clearer just getting started as soon as they get the approvals.

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.:

Conservation efforts need to be assessed on a regional basis. You can't compare the south west with the north west - the areas are different sizes, they have different vegetation communities and they have different threats.

Cumulative impacts also need to be assessed on a vegetation community basis. No point in saying that only 10% of WA's vegetation is cleared (for example), if in fact 99% of Banksia woodland is cleared and only 1% of the arid zone is cleared.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Increased protection for bioregions that have already been heavily impacted by clearing and degradation.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Will some bioregions be valued more than others? What about bioregions that aren't in the public eye?

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, Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

Money may be the best incentive for people who do not intrinsically value native vegetation.

Also, land owners do need to own a living.

Perhaps degraded and abandoned farm land and pastoral land could be purchased and restored, there are some charities that already do this (AWC, Bush Heritage).

I think we need a state-wide restoration plan, with bioregional specific plans, to restore degraded vegetation, and replace vegetation that has been removed (e.g. abandoned farm land). It needs to be supported by best-practice scientific evidence. This will create jobs, especially in the region. A think-tank could be set up to devise a restoration plan with goals and objectives.

We need a better strategy to control vegetation clearing in the South West. Once houses are built, there is no opportunity for restoration. Native vegetation is being cleared for housing, while already cleared land is being restored for offsets!! We need to explore the positive mental and physical health benefits of having native vegetation in our cities, as well as reduced heat islands, better water management etc so we can plan better suburbs. The state government could put together a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, planners and developers to work together on this issue.

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.:

Better funding for conservation and restoration.

More public-private partnerships. I.e. farmers and other landholders may not have the expertise or time to do restoration, so could partner with local government or regional state government staff.

Better education for conservation and restoration, i.e. TAFE and university scholarships, good job prospects, internships etc. There is currently a brain drain when ecologists/botanists can't get jobs - they leave the state or the industry, taking their knowledge and skills with them.

Better training for volunteers who do restoration.

Realistic goals for mining companies to achieve restoration of vegetation. The requirements to restore vegetation differ between sites. Some have too long to attain their goals, some are not given enough time.

Get people to value native vegetation. This cultural shift will be challenging, but may be cheaper in the long run.

Better urban planning to stop losses of vegetation in the Perth-Peel region.

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::

No file was uploaded

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