

## Response ID ANON-4EM2-EK4U-H

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

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### Your details

#### 1 What is your name?

**Name:**

Bronwen Keighery

#### 2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response in full

#### 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?

Other

**If other, please specify.:**

I have roles as an environmental consultant, academia, environmental educator, volunteer in community groups. It is odd that there is a category of 'Peak industry body' and not one for 'Peak environmental body'.

#### 7 Which of the following best describes the sector you represent?

Other

**If other, please specify.:**

Natural heritage of Western Australia

#### 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.:**

There can be NO balance in much of Western Australia. In the Southwest it is time to put the environment first and there should be a presumption against clearing, 'developments' being confined to lands cleared of native vegetation.

A strategic approach is only suitable where the landscape is at least 90% natural vegetated. Note that even in these areas specific areas/landforms/vegetation types may be more heavily cleared and retaining all that remains is required.

Management here should refer to both the retention of native vegetation and then the allocation by government and industry sufficient funds to manage the native vegetation resource.

**Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:**

Supported

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

See above in relation to 'strategic'.

**Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:**

Supported

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

At a world and national scale most native vegetation in WA is unique, very few bioregions go across state boundaries. The at risk vegetation should be protected but there should also be a focus on not allowing any 'common' unique types enter this category.

**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.:**

The government has an opportunity to (via the Policy and EP Act changes):

- Using best knowledge determine targets for how much of each bioregion and its constituent ecological communities should be retained for perpetuity.
- Dedicate resources to better manage the existing conservation estate.
- Use existing legislation (acquisition or resumption), and if necessary create new legislation, to acquire lands. Allocate funds to purchase lands that are identified as required for retention as native vegetation and to ensure or at least give some opportunity for vegetation communities and their associated fauna to survive into perpetuity.
- Create new legislation so that all lands purchased for conservation be automatically vested as A-class reserves and this be back dated to lands purchased for conservation.
- Government agencies and the government be prepared to be transparent and make tough decisions in order to have a better future for both the natural ecosystems in the State and it's people.
- The natural environment needs to be shown to be valued by the government and it's agencies.

**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, Other

**If you have chosen 'other', please specify:**

Routinely use all available data to assess the current state of knowledge about particular ecological communities, plant species and plant populations. In majority of cases there is a need for better regional data and specific area data.

**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:**

The natural world of Western Australia is relatively poorly known (very very diverse and documentation has been over a very short period). There is NO quick fix for this. Government must consistently support the documentation of the state's biodiversity down to specific ecological communities. Every assessment MUST have a 'data deficient' provision

**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:

3

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:

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 wider appreciation of the values of native vegetation and an ability to highlight where information is deficient.

## **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:

1

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:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 5. Planned approach to dealing with cumulative impacts:

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

3

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

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

The selected 3 should also address cumulative impacts, the co-incidence of high-value vegetation with high-value development (e.g. mineral resources or infrastructure corridors) or environmental offsets.

**17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?**

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

Helping to answer the hard questions, for example -

- how much native vegetation should we protect?
- what should we protect first and then?
- what will it cost to protect it and the lands already in the conservation estate?
- what will it cost to purchase lands recognised as important?
- which bioregions should be tackled first?

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

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

The WA bioregions are large and diverse. We have an incomplete knowledge of the bioregions. As a matter of urgency the biological survey of WA should be established with a program of systematic base investigations, repeated every two decades.

## **Other initiatives**

**19 What initiatives do you think would work best to improve native vegetation outcomes in your region?**

Other

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

An annual focus celebration of native vegetation and the areas in which it is protected. This be supported by a yearly program of interacting with and managing these areas. This native vegetation is what makes WA unique. The aim is for no applications to clear as native vegetation is so valued.

**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.:**

See above.

### **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. :**