

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKWR-H

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-10 01:15:23**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Donna Brown

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?

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. :

N/A

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 needs to be a stronger protection of our native vegetation. Once the land is cleared, the under story and virgin bush land is lost forever. If clearing is approved, then there needs to be an effective management policy in place for an offset - for every applicant who is granted a clearing permit.

Further, a set and continued allocation of funding in National, State and Local Government needs to be set up to ensure the protection of our native bushland from invasive weeds.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

I do not see a proactive approach to managing our native vegetation. There is an abundance of weeds affecting many of our national parks and reserves and no effective weed program is in place to control it. Private landholders are expected to maintain their land and in particular management of invasive weeds. Crown land and national parks and reserves should be the same - the government needs to allocate funding to maintain, restore and hopefully set aside further areas to be protected.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

No clearing of land should occur where there is rare and threatened flora. We have already lost species in the past and what is remaining should be protected. There needs to be a greater appreciation of the importance of leaving native vegetation untouched where rare flora exists. In my opinion, a high level of protection needs to be enforced.

I have a very keen interest in threatened and priority flora and would like to see a whole state approach to raising the awareness of our unique flora. For example, there was the launch "Home of the road trip".

http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/marketing/Brand-and-campaigns/Pages/Road_Trips.aspx

If every town was to have threatened or priority species from their area planted at the entrance or on display in the town garden, it would be a sensational tourist attraction. This idea has many benefits such as: raising awareness of our unique and rare flora to our own population as well as being a tourist attraction for interstate and overseas visitor. Gift cards or post cards highlighting the flora could be for sale in each town. Furthermore, the propagated plants could be a seed bank for nurseries to further propagate these plants. We need initiatives and a proactive approach to protecting our rare plants.

It would create jobs and provide extra business for nurseries.

Having our WA unique rare and threatened flora would increase people's awareness and encourage people to 'conserve what is precious' and to grow waterwise WA native plants in their gardens.

Example: planting Grevilleas in the Collie township:

1) Grevillea prominens Olde & Marriott - Priority 3

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/14417>

2) Grevillea rara Olde & Marriott - Threatened

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/14418>

3) Grevillea ripicola A.S.George Collie Grevillea - Priority 4

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/2082>

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.:

Old growth forest needs to STOP being cut down.

Any policy development for our native vegetation needs to ensure careful review of the impact of any clearing. I believe there needs to be a much stronger review on any clearing. I have seen many instances where a cheaper vegetated block is purchased and then the applicant wants to clear. The request should be refused as the applicant should have purchased a cleared block (often more expensive) if that was the intent.

Better information

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

To plan for conservation, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

I use Florabase on a regular basis, but would use it more if the photo bank was more robust. This is a public resource, widely used and the descriptions and photos could be enhanced.

One of the issues raised is that we are not currently tracking where clearing applications have been authorised. This being the case, how can effective management decisions be made on future applications? I would think it is a priority that a system is developed to look at what has been cleared, what is currently under application and what has been approved to be cleared. What do other countries have - New Zealand, Canada, USA for example? Or our other States and Territories? Let's not reinvent the wheel. Someone must have a similar compatible system that can be set up with relative ease.

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, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

I do not want to see cost saving or timeliness of assessments as a criteria for assessing clearing of native vegetation. This should not be the issue.

The decision making process for our unique WA native vegetation needs careful consideration and the decisions need to be made for future generations and for the health of the planet. Speedy decisions for jobs and mining companies should not be the priority here. The environment and effective and careful management of our native bushland has to be the overarching factor here.

13 What other opportunities are presented by improved information and improved access to information?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

More strategic evidence based decisions can be made with a system which can track clearing. The data should be available to the public.

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.:

Enforcement against illegal activity required as a strong deterrent for others.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

"and uncertain wait times for assessments can all hinder well-informed business decisions".

I am keen to be reassured that environmental assessments are exactly that - assessments. I am not keen to see anything pursued because of an uncertain wait time. An environmental assessment should take as long as is necessary.

Any subsequent clearing of WA's unique vegetation should automatically attract an offset / clearing request. The applicant need not have their own offset, but the government should purchase land and ensure that any applicant who has land approved for clearing pays for an offset at least double of what they are requesting.

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:

2

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:

1

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

3

Please explain in the text box below.:

Careful and considered evaluation of applications is essential.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Everyone would be on the same page.

There are systems in place to protect native vegetation, for example declared rare flora markers - however on several occasions I have seen where the bush has been flattened - on major highways and local government roads.

After working in roadside vegetation for seven years, I scratch my head as to how this could happen.

For example, there would be a works plan, works issued, pre starts, training on the job and the actual plant operator must see signage. If the operators are not aware of declared flora pegs, they shouldn't be on the job. However, having said that, there are many barriers well prior to the grader destroying the verge. The

person planning the job should know that the area being works is DRF.
Greater transparency for all on protecting our rare flora required please.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Even though improved processes and policies are going to be put in place, how will the improvements and controls be cascaded and monitored? How will the talk be walked? The revised policy with improvements needs to be cascaded. Once that is done, you are then faced with the challenge of trained staff leaving and new people coming in, not aware of updated policies. An ongoing training program of ensuring people are aware of our WA native vegetation and rare flora needs to be set up.

Other initiatives

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

Aboriginal land management, Other

Please explain in the text box below.:

The national parks and reserves need to be better managed with weed eradication and protection from over grazing from kangaroos. The kangaroo numbers are far too excessive and there has been devastation in the Tuart forest. There is only one Tuart forest in the world - this area is incredibly unique and needs protection. There is no regrowth of tuarts as the kangaroos have grazed it all out. Arum lilies need eradication. Fencing needs to be erected to protect the forest - the nearby farmers are doing just that, so there is even more pressure on the Tuart forest. If nothing is done, it will not regenerate. Increased funding allocation is required to combat invasive weeds and a considerable allocation in State and LGA budgets should be set up.

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.:

Allocate funding to protect it.

Increase staff who look after these areas - I often hear of retrenchment.

Make clearing applications more stringent.

Ensure offsets are set up.

Introduce offset planting for all approved applications, no matter how small the application.

Promote our WA native flora for its unique beauty and the benefits of water wise planting.

Ban big lawns - plant natives, increasing tree lines, bird and bee habitat etc.

Introduce a strategic forward thinking plan like Ireland over the next 20 years:

3 September 2019 - Ireland to Plant 440 Million Trees in 20 Years to Fight Climate Change

https://www.ecowatch.com/ireland-planting-trees-2640173016.html?utm_campaign=RebelMouse&socialux=facebook&share_id=4854202&utm_medium=social&utm_content=

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. :