

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EK46-J

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-10 18:36:59**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Dr Alan Leslie Hill

2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response in full

3 What is your email address? (optional)

Email:

4 What is your postcode? (optional)

Postcode:

■■■■■

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. :

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.:

The key needs are that the policy provides better structure and function for the health of the landscape and its biota.

This structure and function includes the need for better treatment of all of the published 20 Australian natural hazards (in Cambridge University Press)(including landslide, sediment and erosion control, flooding, tropical cyclone, drought, heatwave, etc not just fire management!)

The practical recognition and maintenance of 50 m and 200m vegetated buffer zones around high quality wetlands, streams and rare and endangered species and communities is essential.

I refer you to the recommendations of my Murdoch University PhD thesis for particular recommendations on information, regulation, and the use of the 131 first nation traditional language areas as the preferred future bio regions, and better alignment with global/ international declarations and conventions in WA. I am also very supportive of using the European Union's structure of special value of natural area designations, for better native vegetation protection areas outcomes in WA. I have seen poor treatment of identified communities and species in WA. I am very concerned about expectations for protection, and possibly hence the poor management of habitat for migratory bird species such as bee eaters, the cuckoos, and reed warblers around Perth

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I have great concerns about the poor application and limited success of the offset programmes. I think doing conservation protection properly is more important than strategically applying offsets. The protection of habitat needs to be certain and expected. Use of the word strategic needs to be approached carefully in this context.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Western Australia is approximately one third of the nation and continent. The State needs to properly engage with and excel in leading global and national initiatives and reporting. Extinction of threatened communities and species is not an acceptable outcome of this wealthy first world nation.

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.:

Linkage with leading global and national regulation, science, and social support and ownership of this global biodiversity hotspot (- the Southwest), and also the Northwest, the Kimberley and the Central plateaus.

All conservation category wetlands should have 50m to 200m native vegetation buffers.

Streams and rivers should have 50m to 200m native vegetation buffers.

Cities and countryside should be crossed by habitat corridors protecting special landscape values including wetland, stream and rivers and heritage areas.

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:

Environmental planning. Natural hazard planning. Heritage planning. Wildlife corridor identification. Prospective habitat for wildlife . Wildlife monitoring. Water Planning. Water Resources Management. Water balance management, Water quality management, Water supply management, Environmental, Recreational and Cultural value and use protection planning.

12 Which of the following elements of better information provision would be most relevant to your sector? (Choose as many options as you require)

Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Better meta data description of existing high quality information necessary.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

Whole of basin wetlands better protected in consistent 50m buffers, allowing ponding and groundwater recharge, preventing flooding and allowing water quality management and maintenance, water supply augmentation, and allowing high groundwater levels also being protected by buffer.

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:

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:

3

If you selected Other, please provide further information.:

Consistent with international and global convention and agreement obligations, and national Australian commitments to these institutions. Be recognised Nationally and internationally because of excellence in regular reporting of leading responsible outcomes to these institutions. Use the internet to report the responsible management of custodian's roles and decisions. Become respected world leader in this space. Lead in the conservation category wetland protection space in Western Australia's Global Southwest Biodiversity Hotspot.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

Natural Hazard planning includes 20 factors. Fire management needs to be considered as is only one factor, not the factor. Looking after the land traditionally requires considering and managing of these 20 factors. Management using Traditional Ecological Knowledge is an Australian obligation to its signatory role to the Biodiversity Convention, and also as a signatory to the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous people. These obligations also provide opportunities for improved outcomes, and federal funding that should be accepted and utilized for the benefit of all.

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:

3

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:

Please explain in the text box below.:

I think there is often very poor presentation of very important and often very high quality information.

There also appears to be perceptions of undue caution about setting high standards for development, perhaps there has been a lack of support for these high standards. I would hope there will be support in the future.

There is a need for more information to address the So what? questions of why particular (say) conservation category wetland or natural stream 50m buffer vegetation' clearing will not be allowed.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Use of the 131 first nation boundaries across the State to facilitate improved management using TEK in the future (as required in the Biodiversity convention).

Develop formal knowledge sharing and better governance arrangements with first nation knowledge holders.

Provide improved ranger career opportunities across all first nations, facilitated and assisted by the land councils, across the state.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

As a citizen concerned with water, environmental and cultural' planning, I am aware of surface water bioregions (catchments) groundwater province bioregions (aquifers). I also have used IBRA extensively.

As a next step in land and water planning, I am impressed how traditional first nation boundaries (Tindale, Berndt, Horton) reflect usefully the local biodiversity and bridge the gap to traditional owner's and their skingroup and totemic' knowledges.

I support this next step.

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.:

Improved park planning and management. I am concerned that the potential for implementing the Regional Park concept in Greater Perth (including Moore and Murray Rivers) has been too slow, too complicated and has not been adequately sold to the public. The lack of protection to the 50m buffers of Greater Perth's streams, drains and Waterways requires better planning perhaps for a new waterway park. The lack of protection of the 50m buffers of Greater Perth's basin and flat conservation category wetlands requires better planning perhaps for a new wetland park. An improved park concept is required across Perth to better implement the recommendations for parkes made 40 years ago.

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.:

The bilateral agreement signed with the commonwealth needs to better reflect the protection of the State's wetlands. Protection of conservation category wetlands and nationally important wetlands are two of my priorities.

The native vegetation regulations including buffer requirements are essential for the State's wetland protection. Please ensure this protection work is strengthened and better understood.