

## Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKB9-3

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**  
Submitted on **2020-02-10 13:07:27**

### Your details

#### 1 What is your name?

Name:

Dr Alan Pilgrim

#### 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.:

private individual

#### 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.:**

This is a meaningless objective if the outcomes achieved mirror what has happened historically. Governments have long claimed to be seeking a balance between environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes. The outcome is the landscape we have today with vast areas of native vegetation either removed or degraded and the landscape subject to a broad range of degrading processes.

Objective 1 will need to be strongly weighted in favour of environmental values (i.e. the protection of remaining areas of native vegetation and the rehabilitation of degraded areas). Such an approach will yield positive economic, social and cultural outcomes as well as positive environmental outcomes.

**Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:**

Strongly supported

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

While I support this objective I do wonder what is really meant by "strategically conserved". This phrase can mean different things to different people and requires

much more clarification.

Protection and restoration of the biodiversity and ecological functions of Western Australia's biodiversity needs to be a top priority. I would expect a strategic approach would include (as just one example) an approach whereby fragmented areas of native vegetation were linked by revegetation corridors (such as for example the work undertaken by Gondwana Link in southwestern Australia).

**Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:**

Strongly supported

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

The wheatbelt region and Swan Coastal Plain have been largely cleared resulting in a range of degrading processes.

All remaining native vegetation should be protected from clearing.

In the pastoral regions of Western Australia vast areas of native vegetation have been degraded through overgrazing.

For example in the Murchison pastoral region the level of degradation of the native vegetation reflects a history (over a period of more than 100 years) of over-grazing, periodic drought conditions, and a failure by successive state governments to regulate the pastoral industry in a manner that would yield a sustainable pastoral industry and a sustainable native vegetation cover.

**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 list of opportunities are many. Here are a few examples;

- cessation of vegetation clearing in Southwestern Australia.
- funding for long-term revegetation to provide linkage corridors for fragmented areas of native vegetation (for example, the work undertaken through Gondwana Link).
- reclassification of goats as feral animals and the cessation of goat farming in the pastoral regions.
- eradication program to reduce and eventually eliminate goats from pastoral regions, allowing rehabilitation of degraded areas of native vegetation.
- a greater focus (and funding investment) on reducing the spread and impact of jarrah dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).
- a new approach to prescribed burning, currently undertaken on an industrial scale. An urgent need to examine indigenous burning methods and to utilize indigenous knowledge to develop a better approach to fire management that has less severe impacts on flora and fauna.
- the use of carbon farming to assist in the protection and rehabilitation of areas of native vegetation.
- the recognition and promotion of the environmental, economic, social and cultural values of Western Australia's natural vegetation. Recognition that the biodiversity and ecological functions represented in WA's native vegetation are irreplaceable assets.

**Better information**

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

Other

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

We work to conserve and restore native vegetation on our own property.

**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:**

- accurate and up to date base line information is critical to good decision making to avoid the mistakes of the past whereby broadacre clearing and widespread degradation of pastoral lands has occurred in the absence of good baseline data.

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

**Please provide your answer in the text box below.:**

Information sharing between government agencies would be a good start.

**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.:

What is needed is a level of funding that enables meaningful regulation that has conservation of native vegetation as the highest priorities, and a government commitment to achieve such an outcome.

## 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:

1

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.:

Cumulative impacts need to be considered, otherwise native vegetation will continue to disappear through "death by a thousand cuts".

Monitoring compliance is essential.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

A bioregional approach allows for identification of the key risks across a region.

Within any bioregion account will need to be taken of species that have a very restricted range.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

The need to be mindful that within any bioregion there will be species that have a very restricted range. These could be easily overlooked.

## 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, Pastoral diversification, Nature-based or cultural tourism, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Aboriginal land management in terms of utilizing the knowledge and skills used in fire management.

Pastoral diversification in allowing pastoralists to legally undertaken tourism accommodation on their properties. Read David Pollock's recent book, The Wooleen

Way.

Private land management - greater funding incentives to encourage land managers to fence waterways and undertake revegetation  
Greater level of support for landholders to protect areas of native vegetation and to restore degraded areas.

**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.:**

A native vegetation policy that embraced a vision for the cessation of further clearing of native vegetation; embraced well funded opportunities for revegetation of areas of native vegetation: and, most importantly was fully implemented and properly funded by government.

**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. :**