

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKWU-M

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-10 15:15:08**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

(Dr. Jennifer Dudley)

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.:

I'm on the Management Committee of the Wildflower Society of WA

6 Which of the following best describes the group or person you represent?

Other

If other, please specify.:

Both Private citizen and Community/ NGO

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.:

This is a "motherhood statement". My position is that unless the State Govt. works to conserve existing native vegetation and increase its environmental range as opposed to continually permitting clearing it in large swathes, how can we ever preserve and increase the economic social and cultural outcomes to all West Australians?

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

You have to keep and maintain existing old growth native vegetation so it can continue to revegetate naturally wherever possible and not allow it to fall into situations where constant replenishment with younger cultivated stock becomes the only option. This creates too many tipping points for total species loss.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I support this because of my arguments in Objective 2.

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.:**

Considerable improvements in the implementation of existing managements strategies are required. Although there are some good legal structures already operating to protect pristine, already conserved and restored vegetation, they require further strengthening in terms of time clauses, political expediency and Federal Govt mining lease regulations. The latter is an obvious conflict. Transparency about this exists in the public sphere but it is a fundamental loophole threatening State Legislation including regulatory measures and it must be urgently addressed.

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, To scope offset opportunities, For baseline information for monitoring, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Firstly, & not strictly speaking 'other', I prefer to rate these in order : 1) Conservation, 2) Restoration, 3) Baseline Information, 4) To scope offset opportunities, 5) I am probably more concerned to use data from the information to protest the unnecessary clearance and impaction of vegetation.

Other, and highly personal: I use the information to create art and take documentary photographs. How can I create films and art works which have been shown overseas and used to promote a stunningly beautiful Western Australia and not be concerned to preserve and conserve such landscapes?

In my association with the Wildflower Society of WA, all my highlighted choices in section 11 apply.

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

Cost saving, Timeliness of assessments, 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.:**

Timeliness of accessing information is very important when it's necessary to frame important environmental issues or respond to actions taken which impact on native vegetation for comment, particularly through the main stream media.

Besides which, the education and tourism sectors in particular greatly appreciate such information as do the various arms of local government and Landcare bodies.

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:**

2

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 was unable to rate my second and third choices as equally important. I hope that, taken together, the choices I've made in the interest of my sector will help create a healthier confidence in the regulatory system regarding the protection and flourishing of Native Vegetation for all stakeholders.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

A better regulatory framework should encourage better targeting of effort in campaigns to save crucial areas of rich Biodiversity, the economies attached to these and their social, educational and health benefits. We often feel we are left with outcomes which reflect our sector's frustration at engaging in many situations of ongoing battle or accepting a series of one step forward three steps back compromises. There is too much waste of excellent research effort, campaign time and resources which better regulation could reduce.

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:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 3. Strategic and innovative approach to conflicting interests:

3

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:

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Transparent outcomes and objectives where the relevant quality data tabled is considered within a broad group of affected and actively concerned citizens leveraging local knowledges provides an important starting point for protecting and increasing existing Biodiverse native vegetation and developing the strategic and innovative frameworks which are required to resolve conflictual situations.

Relevant data must be considered seriously from an informed as opposed to a partisan party political perspective. Handled innovatively, 5 & 7 could provide some breakthrough solutions, but development limitation indices would need to be established, agreed to, then heavily regulated in favour of retaining as much pre-existing vegetation as possible, full of old growth plants & certainly not stripping away large swathes years ahead of any imminent use of the land concerned just to guarantee the airport development or possible mine site. And is that popularly accepted belief that floriferous roadside verges are a safety hazard true? Having recently travelled down the Albany Highway and back, I found those sections of roadside verge sporting Wildflowers, flowering shrubs and Mallees much easier on the eyes and a boon to concentration. Especially when compared to the somnolent effect of long stretches of completely cleared land where the verges were also barren, or those where the striated sun/shade, black white and grey green of taller trees set back from weedy roadside edges created a strobing effect for many kilometres at a time. Truly dangerous in my opinion. Flashes of brilliant colour are definitely preferable.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

A Bioregional approach must acknowledge the unique Biodiversities of native vegetation already botanically classified as separately characteristic of each of WA's many regions. It must include the protection of the plethora of particular plants listed as comprising the endemic indigenous native vegetation of each of these separate areas as a form of priceless wilderness in the face of conservation or reparation strategies using other types of native vegetation scoped more broadly as Western Australian or Australian.

What may be required for soils and landscapes already heavily adapted by decades of existing use should not be the yardstick for reveg. requirements following bushfires or other types of intervention.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

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, Other

Please explain in the text box below.:

Domestically, as a person living on land which was originally ancient Banksia Woodland near Fremantle and so verging on the coastal strip, I have used my small suburban patch to grow Native Vegetation. Along with other plants like vegetables, in my garden, I have a few indigenous Natives endemic to this area such as *Agonis flexuosa*, *Banksia menziesiae*, *Melaleucas* such as *lateritia* and *Chenille Honey Myrtle*, shrubs and some smaller wildflowers plus a few larger Australian

native trees, mostly planted by previous owners. These are from elsewhere in WA & Australia, although some are endemic to many Australian coastal areas. I have "used" these plants for many purposes: shade, their attractive flowers and medicinal qualities, including perfume, fruit, seeds, pollinator provisioning (eg. Native and non-Native Bees), art production & photographic subjects and mostrecently as an educational resource and subjects for scholarship. I have also used them and their mulch as an experiment in carbon farming, quite successful in its own small way. I am glad of native vegetation and the worlds they have opened up for me, including being very aware of the difference between wilderness, bushland, growing natives as a crop and a garden which is what mine is.

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.:

There are wonderful swathes of Bushland which exist just to be the Biodiversity storehouses they are. No other purpose should be required although they fulfill some amazing functions not least their astounding beauty and the homes they provide for so many mammals, reptiles, insects and birds all of which are as unique to WA . The plants themselves have many uses, not least that of binding together soils which are ancient and otherwise seen as "depleted". However, the more we cut into these areas or even visit them without even the simplest preventative measures being in place, the more dangers they face from weed infestations, phytopthera fungal attack, and other forms of insect and rust plague-type ailments caused by our intervention . So our duty of care extends beyond conservation and their management and must include mitigation measures against diseases as well as clearing. This management should also encompass the well-being of the creatures living there as their soil-scratching and leaf litter turning activities keep the floor of the bush in good health. Damage their survival chances and the ecology becomes unbalanced.

This is not to say we should allow the understory to grow out of control without any attempts at bushfire mitigation via cool controlled burns conducted at the right time of year. For traditional owners, ecologists and biological scientists we have a precious natural laboratory to work in, which, like any lab or museum also requires care, cleaning and maintenance to function at its best. All that can be done to improve the maintenance and safety of these priceless bushlands and forests must be done.