

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKGC-J

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

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Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

GARY A KENDRICK

2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response in full

3 What is your email address? (optional)

Email:

[REDACTED]

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Postcode:

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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?

Academia

If other, please specify.:

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. :

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.:

We are in a global hotspot for both terrestrial and marine biodiversity and therefor have a responsibility to the world to maintain the environments these species inhabit. This needs to be primary in any discussion of striking a balance.

I also noted there was no statement about our marine biodiversity and the endemic and unique seaweeds and seagrasses that form the basis of a lot of our extractive fisheries?

I assume this policy will include these important ecosystems?

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Conserving existing native vegetation must come first . Where vegetation has been lost then restoration must be built into the cost of any industry that required clearing and fragmentation of the landscape. One of the biggest dangers of small scale fragmentation of vegetation by service roads is that these become corridors to the movement of predators and pest species like introduced cats, dogs and rats.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

These vignettes of unique at risk vegetation are a bank of genetic and chemical diversity that lead to innovations in agriculture, fisheries and pharmaceuticals. They also hold the key for climate change adaptation.

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 policy would bring together the multiple state, national and international Acts and Conventions into a single integrated framework that would reduce duplication and would address conflict among acts more rapidly.

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, To inform applications to clear or impact vegetation, For baseline information for monitoring

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

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.:

Transparency and less conflicts associated with perceptions not based on actual facts.

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:

Rank better reg elements - Equitable treatment of all proponents:

Rank better reg elements - Confidence in the regulatory system for all stakeholders:

3

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.:

There is a clear legal outcome for transgressions of the regulations. Presently in the marine environment, the issue in addressing coastal impacts is that it is piecemeal and results in loss of vegetated habitat, death of our seagrass and kelp reefs through a thousand cuts. I specifically point to unexpected outcomes not being factored into risk assessments.

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:

3

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:

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

2

Please explain in the text box below.:

The effect of cumulative impacts is not presently addressed well through the diverse acts and authorities and a streamlining of policy may lead to better protection of landscapes to ecosystems. Public-Private partnerships and focussing on local knowledge will lead to more relevant decisions and actions being proposed. Development of funding for active Conservation NGOs and Foundations lead to better landscape and ecosystem scale outcomes for conservation as already demonstrated in WA with Bush Heritage and Australian Wildlife Conservancy and their partnerships with indigenous communities and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

It addresses the requirement for representative conservation of all species and communities in a geographical context.

In marine plant communities it will also separate the concerns of conservation and industry into those relevant to the bioregion and will result in less cost and more streamlining of the EIA process. For example, the drivers of tropical seagrass and macroalgal communities in the Pilbara are very different to those of the temperate seagrasses and kelp dominated reefs near Perth. Determining the risk of a development therefore should be driven by these regional differences not a one size fits all benthic habitat guidance statement.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

My main concern is that as stated before there has been no statements about the marine plant communities in this discussion paper and when forming a bioregional approach the marine bioregions also need to be considered.

I am also concerned that many important biodiverse bioregions are in regions with small populations and big mining and oil and gas industries.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Diversifying our economic base across WA is important for building in future climate adaptation and regional growth. Creating jobs and new small industries regionally should be a priority of and state government. With increased aboriginal land determinations indigenous Australians are grappling with how they manage and maintain their country across a large area of WA. Similarly Nature based tourism is growing in the state but also need to be managed carefully for sustainability.

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.:

Increase investment in effective landscape scale plant restoration in both terrestrial and marine plant communities. Spend up front to develop a regional restoration economy.

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. :