

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKSS-E

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-01-21 20:10:31**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Giles Watson

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. :

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.:

So much of our native vegetation has already been lost that I think its conservation should take precedence over economic issues, but yes, we need a much more transparent and strategic approach.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Yes. If you start with vegetation, everything else follows: insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals. We need to make biodiversity a top priority in government policy.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I'm still in a state of grief over the destruction of a beautiful wildflower site - supporting five different species of trigger plants, and multiple other endemics, including orchids - for housing here at Rushy Point in Little Grove, Albany. The site has been flailed and ploughed, and now all the native plants have been smothered by introduced weeds, and now, nobody wants to buy the blocks anyway. Many of us would have resisted the development, but we thought that the area was a part of an adjacent wildlife reserve. I just turned up one day to go botanising, and found that the whole thing had been destroyed. We need rigorous protection for these places, at the micro level. We also need much more transparency about development plans, so that communities are not suddenly surprised to discover that somebody "owns" a beloved wildlife site and is about to develop it.

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.:

It would give us the opportunity to respect the fact that floristic communities are the bedrock of our ecosystems: that we cannot expect other wildlife to flourish without native vegetation. It would enable us to defend our dwindling natural wonders against the tyranny of economics, and to avert at least one aspect of the downwards spiral towards mass extinction.

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:

3

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:

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.:

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:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 2. Leveraging local knowledge:

1

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:

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

3

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

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?

Aboriginal land management, Other

Please explain in the text box below.:

Under "other", I would add: more nature reserves which are protected from development, including very small reserves which preserve pockets of biodiversity. Some such reserves could be identified through community consultation, because local people often know where the little pockets of biodiversity are. Australia is good at turning large areas into national parks, but much less good at protecting the little floristically rich patch of ground at the end of the road. But it is often those smaller sites which provide wildlife corridors.

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.:

Very much stricter limitations on where people can build.