

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKXF-6

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-07 10:54:15**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Jo Hart

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. :

Not confidential

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:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

The "balance" is critical, because currently economics appears to over-ride all else. Native vegetation and hence habitat is at increasing risk as a result of climate change and the subsequent increased difficulty in mitigation strategies for bushfire.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Improving on a landscape scale is necessary to conserve habitat and thus maintain biodiversity. Small pockets of conservation are ineffectual, as is offset which is often used to "greenwash" destructive developments. Conserving the vegetation is not something that can be done in isolation - flora needs fauna, just as fauna needs flora.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

This is vital given that existing processes seem to be over-ruled at will in order to allow developments which destroy areas of unique and at-risk vegetation, which has a subsequent impact on fauna and biodiversity as a whole

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 opportunity to "get it right" and actually replace the current ineffectual processes.

The opportunity to include sufficient checks and balances to ensure that vested interests cannot overturn the policy and resultant procedures for their own profit.

The opportunity to change the balance of environmental, social, cultural and economic influences for improved outcomes.

The opportunity to at least maintain biodiversity and diminish the slide towards extinction for many species.

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

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

To advocate both locally, and more widely for strategies that maintain biodiversity

To develop submissions to Local Government, and more widely regarding the appropriateness of proposed developments.

To inform my opinions, and assist me in making informed decisions as part on my role on the Shire of Toodyay Environmental Advisory Committee.

To provide information for ecotourism.

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

Timeliness of assessments, Evidence-base for decisions

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

To develop submissions to Local Government, and more widely regarding the appropriateness of proposed developments.

To inform my opinions, and assist me in making informed decisions as part on my role on the Shire of Toodyay Environmental Advisory Committee.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

More accurate and timely information for visitors and tourists

Improved information input for those engaged in fire mitigation and management

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.:

Ability to more closely and accurately monitor in a timely manner what is happening and to take pre-emptive action.

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:

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:

3

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.:

There needs to be over-arching and robust policy statewide. Below and linked to this should be policy that takes into account regionally specific issues. Regional concerns are currently often ridden roughshod over because everything is centrally controlled eg WAPC and SAT and metrocentric - for example if resources are needed for some huge development in Perth then local concerns regarding flora, fauna and other issues are over-ridden by state planners.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Potential for highly customised solutions and for an overarching integrated approach.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Risk that each area will be treated in isolation and that the impacts of a policy applied to one region could have negative impacts elsewhere eg on water supply, wildlife corridors etc

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.:

Pricing, incentives etc have the potential to be very useful. However offsets seem currently to be used to greenwash. Eg removing roadside trees and other vegetation to widen roads and providing a chunk of land elsewhere (often containing little of the significant vegetation lost) as an offset does nothing for the conservation of wildlife corridors or flora roads.

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.:

Adopt an holistic approach.

Change the weightings of the quadruple bottom line of environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes in increase the priority of environmental and incorporate sustainability as a significant factor.

Stop allowing "money"/ business imperatives to over-rule environmental imperatives.

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. :

No documents

Upload document 2 here::

No file was uploaded

Please describe which question(s) document 2 relates to. :

No documents