

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKBC-D

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-02-10 16:13:37**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Judith Anne 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:

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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?

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. :

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.:

The management of native vegetation should be consistent, transparent and strategic. Given the loss of and degradation of native vegetation in Western Australia, the balance between environmental and economic outcomes must be heavily weighted in favour of the environment. The WA Wheatbelt and the Swan Coastal Plain have been over-cleared and the Murchison, Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley pastoral regions have been extensively over-grazed.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

The remaining native vegetation, including roadside vegetation, in Western Australia needs to be conserved and strategic areas, including roadside corridors, need to be restored to maintain and improve ecological function and biodiversity.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

High priority needs to be given to the protection of remaining vegetation in over-cleared areas, especially in the Southwest, and to over-grazed pastoral areas throughout the State. All remaining vegetation must be protected from further clearing and over-grazing, from poorly controlled fuel-reduction burning and from dieback. Urgently needed: a moratorium on clearing in agricultural regions; proper State Govt regulation and monitoring of pastoral leases; a rethinking of fuel-reduction burning practices with better funding; and continued efforts to control the spread of dieback, e.g. much improved hygiene practices are needed in National Parks and Reserves.

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.:

This is an amazing opportunity for the State Government to develop a policy which ensures that native vegetation throughout Western Australia is valued, protected and restored for the benefit of all.

Past over-clearing and over-grazing has led to a decline in productivity in agricultural and pastoral areas due to salinity, top-soil loss and gullying, as well as a loss of biodiversity.

This is a chance for the government to begin the long road to recovery.

Better information

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

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)

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.:

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.:

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:

3

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:

Please explain in the text box below.:

A planned approach to dealing with cumulative impacts is of paramount importance as native vegetation throughout Western Australia is continually being destroyed and degraded.

An effective monitoring and evaluation framework is necessary to halt the decline of WA native vegetation from numerous threats, including illegal clearing, over-grazing, fires (naturally occurring and fuel-reduction burns), dieback and feral animals.

Clear targets and thresholds are crucial, e.g. in the Wheatbelt where salinity and soil-loss have resulted from over-clearing, a clear statement that all remaining native vegetation is important for biodiversity and farm-health and that applications for clearing will be rejected.

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.:

Bioregions are unlikely to be homogeneous, but rather comprised of significantly diverse areas that need to be identified and factored-into any bioregional plan.

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.:

Control of invasive weeds.

Control of feral animals.

Restoration of roadside native vegetation 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.:

Incentives to preserve and restore native vegetation on private land.

Higher penalties for illegal clearing and an enforced requirement to revegetate illegally cleared land with local native species.

A new Native Vegetation Policy needs to be fully funded and fully implemented if it is to arrest the decline of native vegetation extent and condition.

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. :