

## Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKY4-N

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-01-30 16:34:21**

### Your details

#### 1 What is your name?

**Name:**

Kay Lehman

#### 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. :**

### 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 protection of native vegetation, particularly in highly cleared landscapes such as the Wheatbelt and the Swan Coastal Plain is crucial if the State is to retain the functionality and resilience that native vegetation provides. Impacts from climate change also need to be factored into retaining and protecting adequate vegetation cover across landscapes. Improvements in regulation are required to adequately protect key ecological corridors at a regional landscape scale and threatened ecological community, threatened flora and threatened fauna species.

**Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:**

Strongly supported

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

Vegetation mapping and updating environmental databases is crucial to collating details on vegetation communities, vegetation condition, locations of threatened vegetation, flora and fauna, cultural sites etc. This would be a starting point to then plan to protect key corridors, support incentives for the retention of native vegetation on private property and support local government with roadside vegetation management plans.

### Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

#### Please explain in the text box below.:

If we are to protect 'at risk' native vegetation, the State needs to review the Native Vegetation Clearing Guidelines which currently often approves clearing permits if at variance with Clearing Principles including the presence of Threatened flora, Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened fauna. There should be a requirement to supply flora and vegetation, habitat assessment with all clearing applications. There need to be a higher priority given to the protection of threatened vegetation and flora or they will soon be extinct. The current system is designed to allow a 'Permit to Take' and is not protecting these threatened species and communities.

### 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.:

There are fabulous opportunities moving forward to work more collaboratively with industry groups, non-government organisations such as Greening Australia, local government and the community in retaining and protecting native vegetation. Government leadership and support is required to develop a Native Vegetation Strategy and Action Plan to roll-out programs that will reduce the amount of native vegetation currently being cleared, support best practice vegetation management, give incentives to retain and protect native vegetation, promotion and education of WA unique biodiversity assets in the 'Wildflower State.'

There is opportunities to be more strategic across regions with the Vegetation Offset Program to protect native vegetation including conservation covenants.

### 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)

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.:

Information on native vegetation needs to be up to date for DWER to adequately assess clearing applications. On ground checks and consultants reports are required.

Improved information on native vegetation can guide a strategic approach to the protection of vegetation at a bioregional scale.

Cumulative impacts can be better assessed.

### 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:

2

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:

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.:**

Give more importance to protecting native vegetation by promoting the values of native vegetation.  
Need more consideration of avoiding and minimising impacts to native vegetation and looking at alternatives such as land acquisition in cleared areas and retention of native vegetation with high conservation values and key ecological linkages.  
Promotion of best practice vegetation management, demonstration sites of successful projects.

**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:**

**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:**

2

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

All of the above initiatives are important and are part of the process to improve better protect our native vegetation.

**17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?**

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

Working with multiple groups including, for example, industry (carbon banking), NGOs such as Greening Australia on large scale revegetation projects, academics (research), private landholders (mechanisms to protect vegetation such as conservation covenants and local government biodiversity schemes), local government (promotion of roadside management plans) and community/environmental groups.

**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, Pastoral diversification, Nature-based or cultural tourism, Private land management

**Please explain in the text box below.:**

**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.:**

Education, promotion of WA unique and biodiverse native vegetation, update to environmental database information, support for vegetation mapping including threatened flora and vegetation, better resourcing of DBCA and DWER staff, particularly in the South West Region. Improved resources and guidelines.