

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKBX-2

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

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Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Kim Dravnieks

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.:

The use of the term 'balance' must reflect that over 93% of native vegetation has been lost since European settlement. Therefore the policy should work towards addressing the imbalance, and the negative impact that has had on the ecosystems that support human life.

In particular the loss of 97% of woodlands means that in areas most heavily impacted like the wheatbelt and the south west region no further clearing should be permitted. This includes all clearing of native trees and a cancellation of any logging agreement where native vegetation is included.

Management of native vegetation must be improved and well funded, and a review of fire management in particular to ensure any areas that are burnt are well managed against loss of species and increased risk of weed invasion.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I agree that it is imperative that ecological function is improved, but i have a concern over the use of the word 'strategically' in this context, and I would like to see a definition of what this means. Would areas not falling into an overall strategy, even though they could have significant local value, be lost because of this

objective?

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

While fully supporting this objective, I remain concerned that the knowledge base is not adequate to understanding enough about what species and ecological communities are at risk. Funding should be directed to enable a more widespread and thorough examination of our flora by scientists and other experts.

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.:

- Provide greater protection of native vegetation and opportunity to acquire and manage important areas that currently are not protected.
- Bring together a unified policy that encompasses all other agencies including state and local government, and one that has primacy over those other agencies' policies.
- Provide educational role to other agencies of the value of native vegetation for human health and existence as well as to our economy, particularly in light of the climate emergency that is upon us. See the latest IPCC reports or even the Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change from 2006.
- Finally provide full protection for Bush Forever sites. The policy must include the 'Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative' (CAR) system with its commitment of the Bush Forever reserve system as protected areas.
- The principle of avoidance should guide native vegetation clearing proposals. Any proposal at variance to one or more Clearing Principles must not be permitted.
- Complete review of the use of offsets and ensure any use is proven to be of the value it was intended for.
- Exemptions for clearing permits must be completely reviewed and abolished in many instances.

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, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Educational purposes

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, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Educational purposes

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

- ensure information is 'ground-truthed' and accessible.
- build the knowledge base of the extent and condition of native vegetation
- help the prevention of illegal clearing, and prosecution when this does occur.
- increase knowledge base for good rehabilitation practises and outcomes.
- provide accessible access for other agencies to assist them with sound management of lands.

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:

3

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.:

The Environmental Protection Act must have primacy over all other legislation, including the Mining Act.

Exemptions for Environmentally Sensitive Areas including for infrastructure agencies such as the Water Corporation should not apply, and the south west biodiversity hotspot regions and the Wheatbelt should be declared as ESAs.

The principle of avoidance should guide native vegetation clearing proposals. Any proposal at variance to one or more Clearing Principles should not be permitted.

An 'Environmental Court' is required to ensure that protection can be pursued.

Exemptions for clearing permits must be completely reviewed and abolished in many instances.

Economic value of native vegetation should be quantified and must include value to human health and existence.

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:

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:

2

Rank bioregional elements - 6. Effective monitoring and evaluation framework:

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Transparent outcomes and objectives provides clear indicators to all sectors of what is to be expected.

Current native vegetation policies and practises have caused 'death by a thousand cuts'. An approach that is highly cognisant of cumulative impacts must be undertaken.

The use of local knowledge and importantly Aboriginal knowledge of local areas and cultural management of land should be prioritised.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

- A bioregional approach will allow for attention to be provided in the highest at risk areas.

- The approach could allow for processes to limit urban sprawl into sensitive areas

- Native vegetation and ecosystem habitats at risk from hydrological damage, such as fracking, changes to waterways, damming, etc., can be better protected.

- Support could be given for regional areas to develop economic diversification through nature based tourism, carbon farming, etc. Protection of roadside vegetation is a must for tourism to be protected.

- agriculture and pastoral farming could be supported to increase biodiversity with the right incentives.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

The impacts on smaller areas of importance within larger bioregions could be missed if too wide a view is taken in the bioregion.

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, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

Putting a true value on our unique native vegetation, particularly as we have one of the worlds best biodiversity hotspots, and including the value of the ecosystems provided for our human health (like oxygen, mental and physical health) would send a strong signal to other agencies, industry and society of its true worth and value for retention.

It would also assist in ensuring the budget funds needed to manage and improve these ecosystems is provided. As the state of a climate emergency is upon us the saying 'No jobs on a dead planet' must be plainly obvious.

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.:

The policy must clearly acknowledge that native vegetation is only one component of an ecological system that has symbiotic relationship with not only fauna but also soil health, hydrology and climate, etc,. One part of the system cannot survive without the other, such as plants without the pollinating insects. If there is a threat to one part of the system, the whole system is threatened. Some large scale threats include climate change, hydraulic fracturing, dieback, salinity, as well as clearing of native vegetation.

No further clearing in areas that have seen extensive over-clearing such as the south west region and the wheatbelt. This includes logging of native forests whether there is a state agreement or not and areas of native roadside vegetation.

Ecological corridors for wildlife and habitat should be sort out, placed in planning schemes and given strong protection, similar to road corridors under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

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. :