

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EK4V-J

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**
Submitted on **2020-02-10 18:08:04**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Leon Harris

2 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response in full

3 What is your email address? (optional)

Email:

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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. :

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.:

In the current state of disconnected reserves that are close to not being biologically viable, it is important that the economic considerations are treated as less important than the others. In other words, decisions must be made with preservation and restoration primarily in mind. In its current form, the weighting of these decisions is incorrect, and will not produce the desired result of preserving our landscapes. This will have the effect of having an adverse environmental and economic impact on future generations.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

This must be a priority, particularly in areas such as the wheatbelt where so little of the original remains.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

As time progresses, WA will continue to lose species and biodiversity. This is because the impact of past mistakes will continue to manifest themselves. We will need to strategically protect the remnants to minimise this.

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.:

I think that it presents an opportunity to acknowledge the primary responsibility of custodianship and stewardship that the government has towards these biological assets.

Better information

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

To plan for restoration, Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Florabase has an aesthetic and tourist aspect to it which is underrated. It helps support and develop what George Seddon described as a sense of place.

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.:

There needs to be an across agency and sector approach to understanding and managing resources. So for example, the actions of both local government and private land clearing should be available in one place so their effects on a system or species can be seen.

This may have allowed for monitoring and possibly prevention of the "land grab" tuart clearing that a number of councils and private organisations apparently undertook prior to the change in status of those ecosystems last year.

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:

3

Rank better reg elements - Improved assessment timeframes:

Rank better reg elements - Transparent, evidence-based decisions:

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.:

Hopefully avoidance of some of the wild west cowboy outfit approach that we have had in the past, leading to preservation of our natural assets.

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:

Rank bioregional elements - 5. Planned approach to dealing with cumulative impacts:

1

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

3

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

2

Please explain in the text box below.:

The largest failure of the current approach has been to not consider each activity as part of a whole picture

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Emphasis can be placed on preserving the most vulnerable regions, eg wheatbelt.

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, Nature-based or cultural tourism

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.:

Meaningful penalties for those that willfully clear illegally ie land confiscation and extensive jail sentences.

Work on preserving and if possible extending roadside vegetation.

Absolutely no further clearing of Banksia woodland on the coastal plain.

Focus on increasing the connectivity of existing reserves - eg try to provide road corridors and to isolate co-dependent fauna such as bandicoots and bobtails which are significant seed and microrhizal spreaders from traffic.

Upload a document

21 If you would like to upload a document to support your submission, please upload it here.

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Please describe which question(s) document 1 relates to. :

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