

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKYM-E

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-01-23 15:00:09**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Michael Pekin

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:

Neutral

Please explain in the text box below.:

Basically agree, but the time for striking a balance is past, too much vegetation has already been lost, saving what remains and putting the environment first needs to take priority over other considerations.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Basically agree, but strategically conserved implies loss of some sort, which is unacceptable. Furthermore strategy can only be determined looking at the issues in front of us, it does not necessarily provide the best outcome in an uncertain future, a strategically conserved habitat, containing threatened species can be wiped out with one fire, leading to extinctions, as we have seen in NSW and SA.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

Basically agree, but having minimal strategic conservation areas will leave them vulnerable to wipe out in a future fire disaster or climate change.

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.:

Could provide a consistent, science based, apolitical, strong, well resourced centralised administration. I do not support a regionalised approach that is subject to local interests and is out of sight out of mind.

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, 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.:

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:

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.:

Better regulations are one thing, we already have them, compliance, enforcement and prosecution is lacking. Government needs the fortitude to back science base decision making and reject proposals that would harm native vegetation, and it should not be left to a the Minister of the day to have power of veto.

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:

2

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

3

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

1

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

I don't see any real benefits from a bio regional approach

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

I don't support a bio regional approach, it will spread resources too thin, local vested interests will dominate, particularly in the Pilbara where there is not much local community but an awful lot of big mining companies, and there simply isn't local communities who care in a lot of the regions.

Other initiatives

19 What initiatives do you think would work best to improve native vegetation outcomes in your region?

Other

Please explain in the text box below.:

Pricing mechanism won't work when big companies and some individuals have more money than they know what to do with, I can't imagine pricing will stop [REDACTED] from damming the Fitzroy River. Aboriginal management of pastoral leases has repeatedly failed. The other options are all still exploitative. It seems the thrust of this consultation is to manage vegetation loss for the purpose of economic development, that paradigm must change.

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.:

Clearing and vegetation loss must be stopped. A lot of pastoral leases should be rescinded and given over to NRM's for conservation, too much of the Pi bara has already been lost. The value of native vegetation is intrinsic and should not be measured in human terms.