

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKMW-C

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-09 12:21:14**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Phil Stanley

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?

Environmental consultant

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.:

I agree, but it obviously depends upon where that balance is struck by whichever political party has their thumb on the scales.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

An admirable aspiration, however I strongly suspect that many people would not understand what is meant by the term "landscape scale"

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

I 'm wondering: if it's unique and at risk, why would its protection strategy vary regionally.

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.:

First and foremost; Carbon sequestration and with the correct incentives and guidelines, the opportunity to incorporate multi-functional species in to restoration programs, eg Bushfood plants in the Rangelands.

Better information

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

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)

Cost saving, Timeliness of assessments, 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:

2

Rank better reg elements - Ensuring development is sustainable:

1

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:

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.:

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:

2

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:

3

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.:

Don't read too much in to my preferences, all of these elements are important and need to be juggled simultaneously.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

In the face of a global warming disaster, regardless of what ever else we do, I believe that we should undertake large scale re-vegetation programs in the Rangelands. Utilising dry land revegetation techniques trialed and proven on mine waste dumps in the Goldfields to be successful and both cost and water efficient; seed collection, propagation, planting and maintenance can be conducted in regional inland areas, by, for example Aboriginal Ranger groups.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

Living in the Great Western woodlands and doing vegetation surveys statewide but predominantly in the South West Interzone has provided insight in to the complexity and diversity of vegetation types in our state and I fully support the bioregional approach to adequately address the specific regional circumstances. The Goldfields have and are being treated in numerous ways as a "Sacrifice Zone". Clear felling for mining, initially, then uncontrolled grazing by sheep, now cattle, combined with feral grazers, have wreaked havoc on the vegetation of the Goldfields. Both governing political parties still bury their heads in the sand when it comes to the unsustainable and inexcusable harvesting of wild Sandalwood. Previous government policies can be tossed out by the incoming party as happened with the North Eastern Goldfields Rangeways Strategy Group twenty years ago when they were looking at diversification opportunities for pastoralists. We're still bloody well looking at it. Diversity of enterprise on pastoral leases will enable de-stocking to sustainable levels. Hopefully based on Holistic Land Management principles. The lack of forward momentum of good projects is exacerbated by the continuous transferring of government department personnel who, used to sit on a committee, but now don't. Without a long term commitment, because home is somewhere else, a large proportion of the transient populations of mining dominated regions lack the incentive to get involved in land care issues. The numbers and makeup of the participants at the Kalgoorlie workshop demonstrated the apathy inherent in the community regarding land care.

Ultimately, it's the small number of voters involved who don't squeak loudly enough to get the oil. Locally, many have become used to having the [REDACTED] facilities in the state even though we produce an inordinate amount of its wealth and I am concerned that the drier, lowly populated, inland areas will not get the attention they need and deserve.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

See previous answers

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.:

Develop a Biodiversity Index to rate and compare the values and vulnerabilities of different landscapes.

Place a moratorium on wild Sandalwood harvesting.

Eradicate feral goats and ban the farming of them.

Eradicate feral cats and foxes.

Make clearing application proponents responsible for tree removal by offsets calculated at replacing an equivalent number of years growth to that removed. i.e. one 100 year old tree requires 100 one year old trees to offset its loss.

Monitor roadside tree decline along roads watered with hyper saline water for dust suppression.

Investigate causes of tree decline (eg Salmon Gums south of Gidgi Roaster) and hold accountable the responsible parties with severe penalties.

Farm camels and kangaroos instead of cloven hooved herbivores in low rainfall areas.

Tell [REDACTED] that when they construct a truck bay and grade the surface roots of trees, the trees die.

Devise a better way to manage roadside vegetation than the current chopping machine thing that leaves half a shrub to die and detracts from the inherent tourism value of the landscape.

Force local councils to be responsible for rubbish collection around roadside parking bays.

Train, as a matter of urgency, Aboriginal Rangers and others in the almost lost art of firestick farming to carry out more prescribed burns more frequently.

Improve community awareness with roadside signage describing the local vegetation on highways.

Enforce local councils to use appropriate indigenous species in street plantings.

Reverse regulations endowing "Naturalised" status on introduced weed species.

Find out why large infestations of Prickly Pear still flourish around Mt Ida, who is responsible and who suffers the penalty.

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::

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