

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKWE-4

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

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Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Robert Boshhammer

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?

Agriculture / Pastoral

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:

Opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

in Theory, I agree. In practice, the process is not transparent or consistent, and there appears to be no consideration given to economic, social or cultural outcomes. Even the environmental considerations seem to be based on the belief that the environment is fine as long as development is not allowed. No consideration seems to be given to weeds infestations, predators such as cats, or erosion in the "natural" environment. Neem in the Ord is a key example of a very damaging environmental problem where locals are prevented from taking control measures because of departmental policies.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

Again , agree in theory, but in practice this isn't occurring. For expletive, in applying for a clearing permit in the west Kimberley, we had to pay \$150k for a survey. The main interested animal was the billy. We offered instead to put this towards feral cat control. But this wasn't accepted. So we wasted this money paying a consultant from Perth to come up, survey the area, and write a suitable report acceptable to Perhaps based decision makers. It wasn't acceptable to get the local Traditional Owners to give a report and recommendations.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Opposed

Please explain in the text box below.:

Again, agree in theory, but in practice this isn't happening -see thoughts on weeds and cats as above and how these are likely the key determinants of habitat survival, and are largely ignored

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.:

Unless decision making is transferred to the local community, very little. This is likely just to put in another layer of red tape, which will further limit development opportunities to high net worth individuals and foreign companies who have the financial capacity and time to get the political influence to get permits given.

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 inform applications to clear or impact vegetation

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, Evidence-base for decisions

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

Unfortunately, DBCA require such expensive surveys to be undertaken by a potential developer that small local developers and Traditional Owners are largely excluded by the process. Also, by requiring university educated white fellas type surveys and reports, TOs are virtually told that their knowledge of the environment is not suitable for either surveys or reporting standards.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

By ensuring more information has to be provided prior to any development, regional development and traditional owner development will be largely prevented. There will always be a requirement for more information, more reports etc before any decision is made.

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:

Rank better reg elements - Ensuring development is sustainable:

Rank better reg elements - Streamlined regulation for cost saving:

2

Rank better reg elements - Clearer requirements for business certainty:

1

Rank better reg elements - Improved assessment timeframes:

3

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

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.:

My recent experience in trying to obtain a clearing permit is as follows. I applied to clear a further 21 Ha of a 1400 Ha block. the permit application was transferred 4 time between 3 people over 90 days. On day 85 I got an email asking me to consider cutting the application back to 20 Ha . I agreed. Five days later I received an email saying as I'd changed my application, the decision making process was reset for another 90 days - the Dept ticked of on a KPI of timely decision making. 90 days later I received a letter rejecting my application. I was busy so it took approximately 4 weeks for me to go through the rejection and then appeal the decision. I did so but was promptly told my appeal was outside the available time period, so wouldn't be considered. So I understand quite clearly that there is no

point in a small developer applying for any clearing or development approval.

15 What other opportunities are presented by better regulation?

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

I believe it is virtually impossible for a small business or Traditional Owner group to get through the regulatory process in order to have a meaningful role in development, so better regulation may allow this to happen. However, I expect this survey will equate better regulation with more regulation, so the opposite will occur.

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:

3

Rank bioregional elements - 2. Leveraging local knowledge:

1

Rank bioregional elements - 3. Strategic and innovative approach to conflicting interests:

Rank bioregional elements - 4. Clear targets and thresholds:

2

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:

Please explain in the text box below.:

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Where the decision making is also allocated to the local community, there will be an enhanced self-worth in local and particularly TO community. However, where the decision making and reporting methodology are Perth based, this is just another distraction.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

We already have local councils, but planning considerations are largely overridden by state planning authorities. Similarly, local TO decisions are largely overridden by large land councils often based 1000 km away. I really don't believe state based authorities have the respect for local communities, or the intent to divest any of their control

Other initiatives

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

Aboriginal land management, Private land management

Please explain in the text box below.:

State authority based decision making is too expensive and too far removed from the local area to have a reasonable understanding of the complexity of local environments. They largely cause a significant waste of money and time, and empower narrow focus groups based in Broome or Perth to prevent meaningful and environmentally beneficial development to occur.

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.:

Give the final authority on all environmental and land tenure issues to local TOs, with government departments and authorities given a strict 3 month period in which to give recommendations RE any proposal. Both DoL , DBCA and DoWER should become reporting bodies but have their controlling authority removed