

Response ID ANON-4EM2-EKXQ-H

Submitted to **Native vegetation issues paper**

Submitted on **2020-02-04 14:58:42**

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Susan Starr

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.:

With the ongoing climate issues we are facing, I feel there needs to be more emphasis on preserving what's left (or indeed enhancing it). There will be more drought, heat and soil loss, even without the further impact of land clearing. Economic outcomes have to be addressed AFTER the environmental requirements of land use have been addresses. We are running out of time to turn around the degraded areas.

Objective 2 matrix - Objective 2:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

There is so much already degraded land within WA which needs replanting to broaden the extent of biodiversity. It is not just bushland, but living systems we all rely on as humans.

Objective 3 matrix - Objective 3:

Strongly supported

Please explain in the text box below.:

The regional settings are very important, but not only for native vegetation. It must also include native fauna, of which we have a dwindling number of species, due to our impact.

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 feel it will be beneficial for all, to make the issue of preserving and enhancing our native bushland easier. With the sharing and overlap of information, everyone involved should have easier access to the information they require.

Each area of importance will have specific management requirements, but also we need to keep in mind that over millions of years our landscape has been developing (even before the arrival of Australia's first inhabitants). Some of it needs more 'hands off', apart from the control of feral animals and invasive weeds.

Better information

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

Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

I am generally interested in the long term viability of our biodiversity, and see it as an important issue we should all have knowledge about. Every one of us are reliant on the health of our environment, and we are now in a position to be able to make plans of preservation and rehabilitation for the future.

12 Which of the following elements of better information provision would be most relevant to your sector? (Choose as many options as you require)

Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:

We should all be able to know what condition our own area of interest is. We should all be aware where invasive weeds are located.

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

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

For the landowners who require information, it will make their work more time effective.

Where changes are taking place, it will be easier to plan for planting degraded areas.

It may allow better detection of feral animal impacts and consequently targeting their area of habitation.

I will hopefully allow the detection of invasive weeds to be targeted in order to get rid of them.

It will allow areas of high conservation value to become a home for vulnerable fauna which is sadly running out of habitat.

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:

2

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.:

If the process of regulation is easier (but takes into account all the values of native vegetation), maybe there would be less unlawful clearing by some landowners.

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:

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

2

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

The bioregional approach should enhance the opportunity to recognise areas of native vegetation which need preservation (or rehabilitation), within their own area.

Each area will have its own climatic and water requirements to stay well represented, within the whole state.

17 What other opportunities are presented by a bioregional approach?

Please explain in the text box below.:

Some areas will become dryer and more vulnerable to loss of native vegetation, while other areas may be able to retain what's left of their remaining bush.

Consequently, we need to ensure the vulnerable areas are protected from further impacts of invasive weeds and feral animals, all of which must be dealt with.

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

Please explain in the text box below.:

No issues that I can currently see.

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, Nature-based or cultural tourism

Please explain in the text box below.:

Not only in my region, but having travelled extensively within our state, I know of the different bioregions, landscapes and impacts we have had over the past 120 years.

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.:

I think we all need to value everything about our unique native vegetation AND the whole of WA's BIODIVERSITY. Without prior planning for a better outcome, we will eventually discover that what damage we've done historically cannot be reversed. Now is the time to take up that challenge.

Maybe there are some sort of television adverts which can educate everyone to these unique values we all share. The Landscape magazine shows us as subscribers the many values of WA natural wonders, but I'm sure it is not widely read, by the majority of the population.

Upload a document

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

Upload document 1 here.:

NOTES FROM NATIVE VEGETATION ISSUES PAPER WORKSHOP.docx was uploaded

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

Overall observations.

Upload document 2 here::

No file was uploaded

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

NOTES FROM NATIVE VEGETATION ISSUES PAPER WORKSHOP

ESPERANCE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I attended the workshop in Esperance on Friday 31st January.

I appreciated having the opportunity to be a part of the consultation process, and I hope that our issues are addressed within the draft document.

There are a few points I wish to make however.

1. When I see an area of native vegetation or 'bush', I see a thriving community of extraordinary species, some of which we don't even know about yet, all living together in harmony, and sadly nowadays having suffered from our human impact. On the other hand, some people see an area of bush as something to just 'get rid of', as it may stand in the way of more land and further production.
I can understand that view to some extent, but given the climate crisis we are facing, and the impacts that has already had on our wonderful state, I feel apprehensive that not enough will be done to ensure a healthy landscape and biodiversity heading into that uncertain future. There seems to me to be no other way, than to compensate landholders for their loss of production, and having to preserve some of their land for conservation.
I also feel, there are some areas of WA which should not be getting farmed at all. Maybe in the future, there will be a way to address this issue, although I know it won't be popular!
2. I didn't see any mention in this document about the use of Drones for accessibility to record difficult terrain in our diverse landscape. Surely they would be an important instrument for gathering information. Landholders may even be allocated them to keep a track of changing conditions within their own properties.
3. The urban areas of Perth are a real worry to me. On every visit, there seems to be yet more bush lost for the expansion of our suburbs and road network. First the area gets fenced, then, ever so stealthfully, the bush bulldozed, dug up for drainage and power (and in that process sterilized) then hundreds of homes are built on the sand which remains. This seems incredible to me, and my theory that the break up of relationships is causing so many people to be living alone seems to be bearing truth. I am saddened for all the wildlife which inhabited these areas.
4. Our unique and incredible Great Western Woodlands has recently been devastated by fires. Because there are no people living in that area, it seems to me it was just left to burn. I would love to think that we valued such areas enough to put effort into dousing such fires with water, just as we do when humans or homes are at risk.
5. The issues of weeds and feral animals did not seem to be mentioned to any extend within the Issues document. I hope that their impact on our biodiversity will be recognized in the draft as serious issues.
6. One last point; When the draft document is ready for public consultation, can I ask that a Text Only version is available to email. It was extremely difficult to view the issues document, so I had to print it, which took a lot of ink and paper. None of us who are likely to make submissions, need to have pretty photos of our state throughout such an important document. We all know of it's beauty. It would also save the department precious resources I would expect.

Thank you, Sue Starr 4th February 2020