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**From:** Michael Stewart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 December 2019 4 04 PM  
**To:** WA-Government  
**Cc:** Adele Farina  
**Subject:** Fw STATEMENT OF INTENT ON NATIVE VEGETATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## FYI

At the November meeting of the Busselton Naturalists Club, members agreed that we should adopt a policy that opposed the further clearing of native vegetation.

Since that meeting, the president has attended a Native Vegetation Strategy workshop organised by the state government and, using feedback from that workshop, he has amended our draft policy as shown below.

We would be grateful for any comments you wish to make on how the policy can be better worded, important issues added or any other changes you'd like to suggest

## OVER-ARCHING STATEMENT OF INTENT ON NATIVE VEGETATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Busselton Naturalists Club believes that the WA state government should adopt the following over-arching statement of intent to guide and motivate government agencies and the public in their efforts to better protect and manage native vegetation:

1. 1 Clearing of native vegetation within the state has been extensive, especially within the South West Land Division where less than 10% of original native vegetation remains within the wheatbelt, less than 50% on the Swan Coastal Plain and less than 40% within the jarrah forest bioregion
2. 2 Clearing of native vegetation has directly or indirectly contributed to the extinction of several species of native mammals and flora, with many more species of wildlife now endangered or threatened within the state, primarily through habitat loss resulting from the clearing of native vegetation.
3. 3 All remaining natural vegetation within the South West Land Division has intrinsically high conservation value by virtue of the extensive clearing that has taken place since European settlement in 1826.
4. 4 Because all remaining native vegetation has high intrinsic value, the WA government should adopt as policy a presumption against further clearing of native vegetation and the Busselton Naturalists Club is opposed to the further clearing of native vegetation on public and private land.
5. 5 When a land development proposal requires the clearing of native vegetation, the proponent should fully investigate whether the proposal can be relocated to already cleared land such that no native vegetation would be affected.
6. 6 When a land development proposal requires the clearing of native vegetation and no viable alternative for the project's relocation onto cleared land exists, the proposal should only be approved if the state government determines that the project is of high social or economic importance **and** that no viable alternative to the development proposal or its location exists.

7. 7 All cleared private land to be used as an alternative to the clearing of native vegetation should be resumed only after full and fair compensation is negotiated between the owner and the government. Where requested by the private landowner, land values will be assessed by an independent valuer. Compensation should also be made for the loss of capital value arising from the impact of land resumption on the existing and future viability of the affected private property.
8. 8 To assist private owners of native vegetation, government should devise and implement a scheme to provide financial payments and the free provision of technical advice to assist such landowners to better protect and manage natural vegetation on their private land. This could include direct financial assistance from the state government or reduced rates at the local government level.