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## Native Vegetation in WA Comments

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### Box 6-Proposed Policy Objectives

Will the economic value of preserving native vegetation be considered in terms of its value in sequestering carbon, as a habitat for native animals, for eco-tourism, social benefits...?

How can a balance be struck when clearing of vegetation for economic gain always has negative impacts on the environmental and cultural values?

Will there be direct consultation with local Indigenous people when determining the cultural values of native vegetation?

What is meant by strategically conserving?

How will the high priority areas be determined?

Native vegetation does not just need to be conserved at a landscape scale but on all levels.

Will there be increased funding for restoring, improving and maintaining native vegetation particularly of waterways?

Also need to look at vegetation that is of high habitat value.

Need to also include riparian vegetation, vegetation in catchment areas, areas of importance for threatened species and wildlife corridors as high priority vegetation needing strategic protection, not just unique and at-risk vegetation.

### Box 8

- Mapping of native vegetation types needs to be conducted and considered when assessing the risk of fire and implementing fire management practices. Need to consider that not all vegetation poses the same risk of in terms of fire. For example, tingle forest poses a very low fire risk then why are we considering prescribed burning in this area.
- Priority should be given to maintaining good condition bushland.
- Need to consult with local governments and community conservation organisations who have the local knowledge about native vegetation.
- Local organisations map and monitor invasive weed species.
- More financial support is needed for local organisation to collate native vegetation data as it often not available from government organisations.

## Box 10

- At present the general public do not have a say when matters are referred to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). This needs to change as communities are often affected by developments requiring clearing.
- Local government decisions seem to be easily over-ruled by SAT, is this because developers often have more funds to spend on lawyers?
- Improved consultation with local communities affected by developments that require clearing of native vegetation.
- DWER need to improve on-ground assessment processes to ensure developers are providing accurate and adequate information.
- Increased penalties and simpler legal processes for reporting and prosecuting persons who are clearing illegally.
- Greater protection for wetland areas, rivers and riparian vegetation.
- Is the EPA effective; it seems that developments requiring clearing of high value native vegetation are too readily approved.
- With regards to a development on the [REDACTED] false or misleading evidence was provided to EPA (the presence of wetlands was failed to be declared) without any repercussions for the developer. How can this be allowed to happen despite the EPA being informed of this matter in great detail.
- Review of clearing of road side vegetation
- Improved protection of areas significant for threatened species in particular black cockatoo foraging habitat (not just roosting and nesting areas).
- Areas to be cleared need on ground flora and fauna surveys not just desk-top searches, as well as monitoring for suitable nesting trees for black cockatoos.
- Need to improve protection of selectively logged old growth forest. A forest that consists of largely old growth trees can still be logged if in the past just a few trees have been removed selectively, why?

## In General

All organisations including DCBA need to be subject to all relevant legislation with regards to clearing. Large amounts of money recently have been spent on excessively expensive infrastructure in local National Parks in the SW (The Gap and Granite sky walkway in the Porongurups). Greater visitor numbers increases the need to invest heavily in maintaining and improving the conservation values of our national parks.

Need to review prescribed burning practices and consider the impacts this type of clearing is having on flora and fauna.

We support managing the land in consultation with local Aboriginal people.

Improve incentives (financial benefits such as rate relief) for private land-owners preserving and maintaining native vegetation, in particular riparian vegetation and wildlife corridors.

Improve consultation with local Aboriginal custodians with regards to cultural values of a place not just dependency on desk top heritage site search.