

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Native Vegetation Strategy](#)
Subject: RE: submissions on DWER Native Vegetation issues paper
Date: Monday, 10 February 2020 11:58:51 PM

FRIENDS OF QUENDA HOLLOW NATURE RESERVE (Mundaring)

RE: Public comment on DWER Native Vegetation issues paper.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

We strongly support all points submitted by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia and by The Urban Bushland Council of Western Australia. Please take note of the additional concerns we bring to your attention below:

BIOREGIONS:

Western Australia's internationally renown south west botanical province's hotspot for biodiversity is severely over-cleared and is of global significance. This region requirtes *conservation priority because it is under threat*.

This region and the wheatbelt must be declared '*Environmentally Sensitive Areas*' under the EP Act. This will mean that exemptions from requiring a permit to clear do not apply in these regions. There must be no more clearing in these regions.

Further, because both regions are over-cleared, it triggers the relevant clearing principle which states that native vegetation should not be cleared. Enforcement of this is needed. If proposed clearing is at variance with one or more clearing principles, then the wording should be amended to: native vegetation **must** not be cleared if

REGULATION:

A halt to all land clearing is a biological and adaptive imperative as the climate crisis deepens.

Given that all remaining native vegetation comprises our planetary life support systems, it stands to reason that our native vegetation in WA must be conserved and protected as a matter of urgency. Human and environmental health and safety are at stake, now and in the future.

It stands to reason also that major restoration of native plants on cleared or degraded areas serves as a key adaptation and mitigation strategy to restore microclimates help curb the harmful effects of climate change in our region and beyond .

In the public interest, responsible governance will therefore ensure that relevant, strict regulatory controls and enforcement measures, backed up by effective EPA legislation, are put in place to achieve these goals.

Most clearing of native vegetation in WA has occurred relentlessly and excessively in agricultural regions of the wheat belt and in WA's southwest botanical province 's 'hotspot' for biodiversity. The outcome is major loss of priceless biodiversity, serious large scale land degradation, loss of micro

climates, less rainfall, loss of natural carbon sinks and a hotter, drier conditions. Food security and human health are jeopardised.

So it is in the agricultural sector that massive restoration / revegetation projects are urgently needed. Strong appropriate regulation can do much to help in that regard.

The independent international medical journal 'The Lancet' (Planetary Health) strongly urges immediate revegetation in our agricultural regions. This fits with the WA government's regenerative agriculture policy. 'Scientists call for renewal of Paris pledges to transform agriculture', Vol 4, Issue 1, PE9-E10 , 01 January 2020, by Helen Harwatt William *et al*

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196\(19\)30245-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196(19)30245-1/fulltext)

Extract:

"The scientific consensus states CO₂ emissions must be limited to 420 billion tonnes and approximately 720 billion tonnes of CO₂ must be removed from the atmosphere to limit global warming to 1.5°C with 66% probability. Restoring natural vegetation, such as forest, is currently the best option at scale for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and must begin immediately to be effective within the required timescale of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The livestock sector, having largely displaced natural carbon sinks, continues to occupy much of the land that must be restored. Without such land restoration, CO₂ removal from the atmosphere relies on methods currently unproven at scale, increasing the risk of temperatures rising high enough to tip various Earth systems into unstable states. This instability could result in the loss of coral reefs and major ice sheets, and increases the uncertainty of maintaining life-supporting ecosystems."

But despite the multiple crises plaguing Australian agriculture the Australian Government is still engaging in a broad program of deregulation that would ultimately sacrifice Australia's food and fibre security, its environmental security along with human health and safety, in its attempt to reach dollar driven targets. We condemn this approach.

Deregulation transfers risks and costs to the broader community. Arguably the greatest risks and costs are associated with damaging impacts of bushland-clearing, general environmental mismanagement, and increasing climate disruption. Major concerns arise for [food security and environmental security](#).

Reference: 'Food Security in Australia in an era of neoliberalism, productivism and climate change'. by Geoffrey Lawrence *et al*, Q'ld University of Technology, 2013 Journal of rural studies, 29, pp 30-39
<https://eprints.qut.edu.au/68201/2/68201.pdf>

It is very encouraging to learn that in Rangelands, WA Agriculture Minister Alannah MacTiernan has changed lease agreements to allow less cattle and encourages carbon farming – letting local species grow again. Thus less CH₄

from cattle. This is a big positive, and we hope a WA State Policy for native vegetation will encourage more of this.

Sincerely,
Margaret Wilson
Coordinator
Friends of Quenda Hollow Nature Reserve (JBCG)

