

Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Commerce

[illegible]

19 October 2021

Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson BA MLA

I would like to make a submission about the native vegetation draft policy.

My submission will cover

- The urgency to protect and to rehabilitate native vegetation in all the bio-regions of WA.
- Increase funding substantially and set goals to secure a net gain of WA native vegetation
- Necessary changes to fire management

I have called Western Australia home for the last 35 years. During those years I have lived in Fremantle and Denmark.

Growing up in Switzerland in the countryside I have developed a love for the natural world, especially walking in the country on our well-marked numerous walk trails. Now Living in Western Australia I have added ocean swimming to my favourite activities.

I have travelled extensively in the State and have a real appreciation of its beauty. The State has so many intact ecosystems covering unique botanical bio-regions. But one cannot help noticing the degradation of many of our landscapes.

Recently we drove to the Shark Bay region and stayed at Hamelin Station run by Bush Heritage. It was heartening to see the results of their efforts in rehabilitation despite two very dry years. And it rains while we were there to everyone's delight.

The success of the work done by the Bush Heritage team in Australia shows the potential and possibility of restoring our important bio regions for future generations.

But I am afraid the draft policy does not highlight the urgency of that work. Clear goals need to be set for a whole of government reform towards net gain of WA native vegetation.

To reach those goals and expand land restoration, a substantial increase in funding must be allocated.

It is important to make available to everyone the data pertaining to illegal clearing and have consequences strong enough to deter those perpetuating the clearing.

The management of fires has been a contentious issue for a long time. The impact of our massive prescribed burning's target has been documented by botanists to be negative on biodiversity outcomes and need to be re-think. It would be helpful to engage First Nations people in the process of fire management as they have a long experience in the matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my submission.

Sincerely

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 October 2021 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] submission about the native vegetation draft policy
Attachments: Native vegetation submission.docx

Record Number: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Sanderson,

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to have a say about protecting and restoring the native vegetation of Western Australia.

Attached is my submission.

Sincerely

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]