



[REDACTED]

Ms Michelle Andrews
Director General
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Email: nvs@dwer.wa.gov.au & [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Andrews

NATIVE VEGETATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – DRAFT POLICY COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the *Consultation draft - Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia*. Regarding the consultation questions the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has the following comments:

1. *Has the Policy's context adequately covered native vegetation values, opportunities and challenges?*

We believe the context outlined on page 6 adequately outlines native vegetation values and the opportunities and challenges in managing native vegetation.

2. *How suitable are the guiding principles in providing a contemporary foundation for managing native vegetation?*

We believe the guiding principles are a sound statement of why and how native vegetation should be managed.

3. *How well do you support the strategies and outcomes?*

The strategies and outcomes are strongly supported by DFES.

4. *How suitable are the goals and approaches in guiding implementation of the policy?*

We believe the goals and approaches will provide clear direction for implementation of the policy and can be used as a guide by DFES when undertaking our business, particularly in the bushfire mitigation space.

5. Which roadmap actions are most important?

Opportunity 2.4 concerning the enhancement of digital systems and easily accessible native vegetation data when combined with opportunities 3.1 and 3.2 would be beneficial to DFES increasing the understanding of the bushfire risk from native vegetation.

Opportunities 4.3 and 4.4 are important to DFES and would benefit the business DFES is currently undertaking through our Bushfire Risk Management Branch and the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, particularly in relation to Aboriginal engagement.

Please identify any other matters for your agency raised by the roadmap actions.

In-light of the Government's recent announcement concerning the cessation of native forest harvesting, Opportunity 1.8 would appear to be of increased importance in ensuring the fire risk is managed in areas where forest harvesting is no longer undertaken.

A recently established WA fire ecology working group which DFES is participating in has identified that further research is required into the detrimental effects intense bushfires have on native vegetation, and conversely the impact changes in native vegetation management have on the likelihood and severity of bushfires. These may be matters for further consideration within the draft Native Vegetation Policy.

I look forward to being able to engage with your Department regarding the governance arrangements and refining the scope and expectations around the roadmap actions. Any queries regarding the above matters should be directed to [REDACTED], Principal Policy Officer within our Rural Fire Division, via [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AFSM
COMMISSIONER

21 October 2021