



Ms Michelle Andrews
Director General
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Sent by email: nvs@dwer.wa.gov.au

Attention: [REDACTED] (Senior Manager Native Vegetation Strategy)

Dear Michelle

RE: DRAFT NATIVE VEGETATION POLICY – INVITATION TO COMMENT

Thank you for your letter dated 3 September 2021, inviting Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) comment on the Draft Native Vegetation Policy.

DMIRS has been closely engaged in the development of the Policy, since before the Native Vegetation Issues Paper was released for public consultation in November 2019. DMIRS generally supports the purpose and intent of the Policy, acknowledging a whole of government coordinated approach is needed to ensure native vegetation is appropriately managed for the benefit of future generations.

The Policy's purpose statement includes reference to achieving "a net gain in native vegetation extent". The principle of ecologically sustainable development is also well embedded in the Policy. Acknowledging future projected population growth, and the need for continued impacts to native vegetation to grow the economy (from a range of sectors, including the resources sector), achievement of these goals will be increasingly challenging. From a DMIRS perspective, native vegetation rehabilitation and revegetation will have an increasingly important role to play.

Other key principles of the Policy, such as protecting native vegetation in a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system will need to continue to be balanced against other key government objectives, such as responsible development of the state's mineral and petroleum resources for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Key pillars of the Policy, including improving collaboration and coordination, improving the information base for risk-based decision making and regionally tailored objectives for native vegetation, will lay the foundations for the Policy to deliver long-lasting benefits for all stakeholders.

The Policy presents several opportunities and challenges for the resources sector. Continued engagement with DMIRS and the industry sector itself provides an avenue for building strong partnerships and delivering positive outcomes for native vegetation. DMIRS will continue to work closely with your agency and across government more broadly to shape this important Policy and its associated roadmap of actions.

Please contact [REDACTED] Team Leader Native Vegetation, on (08) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss the comments in further detail.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Acting Deputy Director General
Resource and Environmental Regulation Group
19 October 2021