

16 October 2021

Native Vegetation Strategy
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC WA 6919

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Native vegetation policy for WA: Draft for consultation

Thank you for this important and timely initiative. I welcome the purpose of the Native Vegetation Policy. I urge the State Government to identify strategies with more ambition and urgency to protect and manage existing native vegetation and furthermore deliver a net gain in native vegetation. South west WA is a biodiversity hotspot and is globally identified for conservation priority because it is under threat. Clearing and cumulative impacts of clearing are major threats.

Consequently, to achieve a net gain in the SW regions, there must be no more clearing. There must also be incentives for farmers to fence and restore remnant native vegetation on their properties. Wheatbelt nature reserves and national parks need to be enlarged and linked by corridors by strategic revegetation projects. This action will build resilience in isolated remnant vegetation to resist the worst impacts of climate change.

I believe urgent action is required now and that the timelines proposed in the policy document should be substantially reduced. I also note that the actions required for native vegetation and protection will require substantial additional funding support from the State Government and this should be provided through the budget process.

Thank you and best

