

Peter Halliday

First submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Act allows Councils across whole of wa to pollute indiscriminately and without recourse of the sanctions of the Act.

We require amendment of the Act to bring councils in line with the rest of our community to be accountable for their actions under proper environmental legislation.

Please amend.

Please inform me of the outcome of this request.

Peter Halliday
WA

Second submission

EPA act amemdments

The current EPA Act is reactive and attempts to protect the environment in an adhoc,by default manner.

The WA community now requires both reactive and proactive protection of our environment. Protection by design.

The WA community requires government action on climate change in a multitude of solutions. One arm of climate change action is biodiversity outcomes by design across WA.

The creation and implementation of The WA Biodiversity Master Plan, Bioregional Biodiversity Master Plans, as well as sub regional, local council and catchment master plans are required as one important tool for climate change solutions.

The current system of designated areas of environmental significance are out moded. This does not reflect the true state of the environment in WA. It does not reflect the extensive deforestation of WA since the white invasion. It does not reflect the flora and fauna pest species invasion.It does not reflect the non management of catchments throughout the state of WA.It does not reflect the whole of ecosystem management but islands of critical flora and fauna in a biodiversity desert.

It is piece meal.

The current EPA Act ignores the scarcity of CAR ecological systems at catchment, council, Bioregional or state level.

A new Act needs to fill these gaps of design and proactive ecological mamagement.

Therefore, the new Act needs action outcomes that are measurable with reporting responsibility that reflects and acknowledges the current state of the environment for WA, both on private and public lands.

Further, the Act needs to incorporate

A master plan for biodiversity for WA, Bioregional, council and catchment by catchment levels.

The new Act needs to acknowledge the extensive deforestation of WA and create meaningful outcomes for reforestation, catchment by catchment on private and public lands.

The Act needs to acknowledge the extensive flora and fauna pest species and create meaningful action outcomes ,catchment by catchment.

The Master Plans in the Act need to incorporate the CAR ecological principles of comprehensive adequate and representative ecological systems, catchment by catchment. Offsets for clearing in Waneroo need to be offset by quality and similar in Waneroo ,not the back of Bourke.

The Act by design needs acknowledgment and action outcomes that biodiversity health is not threatened species by threatened species but whole and accumulated biological systems.

The Master Plan in the new Act needs to require mandatory professional assessment of the clearing applications NEED for the clearing and a meaningful assessment of alternatives to that clearing. Currently, there is a rubber stamp green light for all clearing applications with a bureaucratic wriggle of ecological conditions that ignore CAR ecological principles.

Further, all exemptions currently under the Act need to be revoked. The York shire has extensively cleared native riparian vegetation along the fragile Wheatbelt Avon river at the detriment of terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. DWER staff are not able to act under the existing legislation. We are all equally responsible and all our actions both government and private need to be accountable at a legislative level.

The term 'significant' needs to be quantified and made measurable in relation to referring an application for clearing to the EPA for an Environmental impact assessment.

Currently, it is qualitative, subjective and with a bureaucratic eye on the prevailing political wind. I know of numerous examples of applications involving hundreds of hectares of WA precious biodiversity to be cleared and DWER not referring it.....DWER stating it is not significant..The new Act needs objective measurables.

The new Act needs to have built in cost recovery for all its responsibility that reflects the true cost of development of all projects. This is including legal action, EIA, and clearing permits both direct as well as staffing and infrastructure costs.

Peter Halliday