

Palenque Blair

Dear EPA,

I write to make a brief submission on the revision to the EP Act.

I believe that land clearing has gone too far. There needs to be much tighter control on clearing virgin land. All threatened ecological communities must be completely protected from clearing, with offsets only available for clearing of non-virgin bush land and non-TECs. Offsets should be required of ALL clearing of trees to maximise the drive towards revegetation of degraded/cleared land to both improve ecological outcomes and drive an improved carbon balance for our atmosphere.

I disagree that there should be any defence for clearing in environmentally sensitive areas, even to prevent imminent danger - as already there is often excessive clearing associated with public protection concerns.

It is unclear to me how urban development of virgin bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain can possibly be approved for clearing without impacting on environmentally sensitive areas or TECs. I would like to see the act appropriately deal with such clearing and if there is really no way to prevent the clearing, require offsets created of an equivalent environmental value to any area cleared.

Yours sincerely,
Palenque Blair