Response ID ANON-J7UX-Y8XV-D

Submitted to Native vegetation policy for WA: Draft for consultation
Submitted on 2021-10-25 21:18:30

Your details

1 What is your name?

Name:
Shea Hatch

2 What is your email address?

Email:
SHEA@UDLA.COM.AU

I would like to receive updates:
No

3 Can we publish your response?

Yes, you may publish my response

4 Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.:
AILA WA

5 Which of the following represents your, or your organisation's, primary interest in native vegetation?

Other

If you have chosen 'other', please specify:
The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet. AILA is the peak national body for landscape architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship. AILA is the growing national advocacy body representing over 3,600 active and engaged landscape architects, promoting the importance of the profession today and for the future. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects shape the world around us. Landscape Architects conceive, reimagine and transform the outside world from streetscapes to parks and playgrounds, transport solutions to tourism strategies, new suburbs and even cities. Landscape architects shape project outcomes in a variety of ways. We bring a critical eye to the potential opportunities and constraints of a place, site, or landscape. The vegetation, soils, watercourses often navigated by infrastructure projects are but some of the technical issues we bring expertise to. We create conditions for nature to function and thrive, ensuring that infrastructure puts back as much as it takes from Australia's ancient landscape. We bring together other disciplines, in an integrated way to generate better outcomes. We are active on infrastructure development teams of all types, often leading, connecting, facilitating and navigating to help achieve shared outcomes. Landscape Architects lead design for the environment and people of all ages and cultures. Committed to designing better places, Australian landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through integrated nature-based solutions delivering better environmental, social, and economic outcomes for all Australians.

Context

6 Has the Policy's context adequately covered native vegetation values, opportunities and challenges? (Select all that apply)

There are elements to be addressed (use text box below)

Please provide details on missing elements in the text box below:

The start of the second paragraph 'Activities that sustain people's livelihoods and the economy – like agricultural production and urban development - ' should also include mining and resource extraction as this also significantly competes with the protection and enhancement of native vegetation.
Table 1 on page 7 section with State Government Responsibilities should include nature based recreation and trail development. Biosecurity, (particularly managing threats to native vegetation such as myrtle rust and dieback) should also be referred to.

Guiding Principles

7 How suitable are the guiding principles in providing a contemporary foundation for managing native vegetation? (Select all that apply)

The guiding principles are broadly suitable

Please provides details on missing elements in the text box below.:

Strategies and outcomes

8 How well do you support the strategies and outcomes?

Outcome suitability - Strategies: The four strategies working together to enable policy evaluation and improvement:
Support

Outcome suitability - Outcome 1: Native vegetation is conserved and restored at landscape scale:
Support

Outcome suitability - Outcome 2: Certainty, transparency and data sharing improve:
Strongly support

Outcome suitability - Outcome 3: Improved policy, practice and evaluation:
Strongly support

Outcome suitability - Outcome 4: Native vegetation outcomes are achieved, together with other State priorities:
Strongly support

Please provide details on improving outcomes below.:

Outcome 1 should be rephrased to also encompass sustaining the ecological communities that result from effective conservation of native vegetation.

Outcome 4 - it is assumed the State priorities not only include State development priorities but also other State priorities such as mitigating climate change... perhaps this could be reflected by adding ...'for all community values' at the end of Outcome 4.

Goals and Approaches

9 How suitable are the goals and approaches in guiding implementation of the policy?

Goals and approaches suitability - Strategy 1 goals and approaches:
Suitable

Goals and approaches suitability - Strategy 2 goals and approaches:
Suitable

Goals and approaches suitability - Strategy 3 goals and approaches:
Suitable

Goals and approaches suitability - Strategy 4 goals and approaches:
Suitable

Strategy 1 goals and approaches:

Strategy 1 Approach i; The strategies are clearly based on using existing mechanisms and this approach is supported as it will enable more immediate action, however the need for new mechanisms may be identified through the planning process and the development of these new mechanisms should be allowed for and reflected in the identified Approaches.
Strategy 1 Approach vii; include visual quality as a co-benefit as it is a contributor to economic values (such as tourism) as well as health benefits (from having a sense of well being/sense of place etc.) Also it is measurable and can be destroyed, altered and restored. Policies are already in place for managing visual quality but they need integrating into processes, applying and monitoring.
Also include tourism as a co-benefit as natural vegetation and healthy landscapes are attractive and encourage visitors.
Approach viii; include 'diseases' (e.g. dieback and myrtle rust) after pests

Strategy 2 goals and approaches:

Approach v; Data sharing of relevant information should be across private and public data systems e.g. all dieback information should be recorded in a central data base that is progressively added to as more assessments and testing is undertaken on a project by project basis. This way up to date information is always available to inform decision making.

Strategy 3 goals and approaches:

Approach ii; see point above regarding need to share knowledge of dieback. Also ensure management of visually quality is included in the assessments made of native vegetation, inventories and management techniques are available but need updating.

Strategy 4 goals and approaches:

Roadmap

10 Which roadmap actions are most important?

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Regionally-tailored objectives and priorities (Actions 1.1 - 1.3):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Monitor and evaluate policy implementation (Action 1.4):
Medium priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Review of existing mechanisms for protecting native vegetation (Action 1.5):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - A focus on the Wheatbelt (Action 1.6 and 3.4):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Transparency of decision-making (Actions 2.1 - 2.3):
Medium priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Systems to support decision-making and data sharing (Action 2.4):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Improve efficiency and clarity of the clearing permit process (Action 2.5):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Native vegetation mapping and monitoring (Actions 3.1 to 3.3):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Incentives and pricing for good stewardship (Action 4.1):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Environmental offsets (Actions 4.1a) & 4.2):
High priority

Matrix - Roadmap actions - Other (use textbox):

Please provide your answer in the text box below.:

There needs to be opportunity for all stakeholders to be kept informed of the progress of implementing the 'Road Map' so a communication plan/portal should also be developed at the commencement of planning.
Ref Road Map 1.1; Ensure an agency is responsible for the integration and implementation of visual landscape management
Ref Road Map 1.6; Railway reserves/corridors also have a role to play and should be included in this section. This includes the role of reserves along operational lines and the potential to revegetate closed lines which can provide linking corridors through the landscape. These corridors can provide significant additional community benefits such as trails (walk, cycle, run, horse ride etc.) which are also lacking in the wheat belt.
Ref Road Map 4.5; To achieve tourism outcomes it is critical the visual quality of revegetation is considered. This will include identifying travel routes and viewing points and managing viewsheds. Unless this is done views can be inadvertently lost or degraded and opportunities will not be realised. A data set/overlay is needed of visually significant areas such as ridge lines, focal points, view sheds etc. and areas that are visual detractions that can be mitigated by sensitive plantings.
Appropriate infrastructure will also be needed such as stopping points along roads and at viewing points otherwise tourists will be put at risk. Infrastructure is also needed to protect the vegetation from visitors (trampling, uncontrolled vehicle use etc.) and to facilitate a quality visitor experience e.g picnic tables, interpretation, toilets etc. The need for this supporting infrastructure should be acknowledged from the outset and resources provided/identified...possibly included in off-sets.
Refer Road Map 4.6; See point above regarding the need to manage visitor use and this is especially important along roads where the lack of identified and developed stopping points can often lead to safety issues with visitors stopping on roads in dangerous locations.