

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

The Wilderness Society set up the following website to facilitate email submissions on the Draft native vegetation policy for Western Australia.

<https://wilderness.good.do/submissionnativeveg/acturgently/>

Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

The WA Minister for Environment, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, has released a draft Native Vegetation Policy for public comment. This is a policy two years in the making and it is your last chance to contribute to the state-wide policy framework. While the intent of this draft policy and many of the stated initiatives are welcomed, together we can push for greater urgency and priority funding to ensure native vegetation is:

- protected
- plays an effective role in mitigating the impacts of climate change
- provides critical habitat for threatened species.

Actions from people like you have had a clear impact in shaping the content of the draft native vegetation policy, with the WA government specifically referencing the strong responses from supporters of the Wilderness Society on a previous draft of the policy.

The WA government is now consulting on this final draft of the Native Vegetation Policy, please send in a submission today to call for the timelines of critical initiatives to protect WA’s native vegetation are brought forward and investment is clearly allocated to protect the places we love.

Subject: Feedback on consultation draft: Native vegetation policy for Western Australia

To whom it may concern

I am seeking to provide feedback on the consultation draft for the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021.

Western Australia's forests, woodlands and outback native vegetation play a critical role in preserving biodiversity, providing a home for threatened species and storing huge quantities of carbon. A formal policy for the management of WA’s native vegetation is essential to ensure that native vegetation is protected, plays an effective role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and provides critical habitat for threatened species.

Where possible, these comments have been reflected against the consultation questions.

1. Has the policy’s context adequately covered native vegetation values, opportunities and challenges?

The draft policy outlines an intent, direction and set of initiatives that would be welcomed. However, the absence of clear targets for each bioregion, a lack of

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

urgency in relation to the proposed actions and the unknown financial commitments all need to be addressed in the final policy.

2. How suitable are the guiding principles in providing a contemporary foundation for managing native vegetation?

The guiding principles clearly state and correctly acknowledge that the condition and extent of WA’s native vegetation is declining. The values, practices, opportunities and challenges outlined in the draft policy have been well understood for a long time. A clear risk to these guiding principles is the delay in decisive action and investment. The potential for continued inertia in the protection, monitoring and restoration of native vegetation will have long-term and catastrophic outcomes.

3. How well do you support the strategies and outcomes?

The merit of any strategy will be determined by outcomes. The outcomes for the management of native vegetation need to ensure a state-wide net gain is achieved, reject any further clearing of Threatened Ecological Communities and substantially invest in a state-wide land restoration program.

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

The existing management system for native vegetation should have already incorporated most of these elements. The need for whole-of-government coordination and strategic planning to support native vegetation management should be a core responsibility of state government, rather than a series of projects that need to consume additional resources.

Transparent decision-making is critical to provide certainty that the extent and condition of native vegetation is not continually declining. The development of digital systems to support biodiversity data requires priority and substantial investment. The public availability of decisions, rationale and data is essential to build public trust in the system.

As far as is practicable, all data, mapping, monitoring and enforcement should be governed by a sole government agency. To ensure conservation outcomes, we need to know what biodiversity we have and what it requires to survive. While the Wheatbelt requires significant intervention to effectively restore and rehabilitate native vegetation, it should not be used as a baseline for which to achieve a net gain, given the historical rates of clearing throughout this bioregion. As outlined in the purpose of the draft policy, this needs to be a state-wide objective and a clear whole-of-government priority.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge should be a central tenet of bioregional approaches and this should be extended to incorporate fire management practices. Rapid response, ecological fire regimes and the engagement of First Nations people in the process should be a matter of urgency.

The community has a strong affinity with WA’s unique native vegetation. It is clear that balance is not being achieved and the condition and extent of WA’s native vegetation is declining. If this continues it will result in long-term and catastrophic outcomes.

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Far greater efforts need to be made to ensure illegal clearing is detected and enforced, before incentivising stewardship practices that should be the status quo. The future review of incentives, pricing and offsets regimes needs to be based on ecological outcomes and ensure these regimes do not continue to contribute to the decline of WA’s native vegetation.

5. Which roadmap actions are most important?

Prioritisation needs to be given to actions that can establish a goal of state-wide net gain, generate greater biodiversity monitoring (actions 2.4 and 3.3), modernised native vegetation data (actions 3.1 and 3.2) and transparent decision-making (actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).

It is important to understand the key drivers of deforestation and bushland clearing that are specific to the state’s various bioregions. By reflecting on the industries and processes that are continuing to drive the destruction of native vegetation, a foundation can be laid for the boundaries that are needed to see threatened species not only survive, but thrive.

Currently the WA government provides \$10 million to the Exploration Incentive Scheme, which co-funds exploration activity for the resources sector. If the WA government is committed to genuinely improving biodiversity outcomes, there is an opportunity to match the \$10 million invested annually into a long-term biodiversity monitoring program.

Due to a myriad of exemptions for clearing native vegetation, no public data exists that reveals how much, or where, native vegetation is cleared illegally. This needs to change. There is also broad consensus that WA retains a critical gap in terms of monitoring data for the extent and condition of statewide native vegetation. This is acknowledged by all stakeholders and has been highlighted by DWER’s Native Vegetation Issues Paper.

Finally, the WA government needs to ensure that agencies are sufficiently resourced to conduct robust statewide compliance and enforcement that addresses the declining rates of native vegetation. A key mechanism of this system should be to ensure all native vegetation clearing permit breaches are made public and cases of illegal destruction are investigated thoroughly, and penalties are appropriate to deter offenders.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important policy.

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Number of submissions received: 269 with 61 with additional or modified text.

The below table sets out the additional comments to the campaign email text received. The additional comments provided in the campaign submissions have been incorporated into the consultation summary analysis and have been copied directly from the submissions.

Name	Additional comments
Anna DeLany	<p>Like many West Australians, I have recently become increasingly appreciative of our state’s natural treasures. I feel our state has benefited in many ways from travel bans, which have made us feel safe, and have made us far more aware of how rich and beautiful our state is. Now is the time to protect our magnificent local flora and fauna as we have protected ourselves.</p>
Ava Irani	<p>I recently revisiting the coast in Broome. The coastal scrubland contrasted against the red dirt and blue seas is an expression of the paradise I believe we all deeply long for.</p> <p>In the incredible heat of this territory the shrubs, scrubs and low lying trees create such an essential coolness.</p> <p>It undeniable that nature and biodiversity is important. It’s important for our survival but it’s so important for the inherent goodness, peace, job and satisfaction we seek to enjoy and contribute to as humans.</p> <p>It’s mentally disturbing to hear that we are part of and cause of a case of mass extinction on the planet.</p> <p>Please, please do the most you can to save us, our planet and the notions of goodness that are supplied through natural vegetation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This initiative does not adequately cover the value of native vegetation. 2. There is both a delay and a low level of investment. 3. We need to ensure that the government really holds itself to account. You are responsible for upholding what the people truly need, value and want - the preservation and the rehabilitation of our natural forest, scrublands and woodlands. The effort needs to be intensive. 4. There needs to be more transparency in the information around processes around our native vegetation act. Information is hard to find and there’s little justification why someone is seeking to clear land etc. It would be incredible to see more incorporation of traditional ecological methods. This land didn’t have a biodiversity crisis before 1826.
Bart Lebbing	<p>In the last fire season of 2020-2021 171,000ha were burned under the prescribed burning policy and in excess of 3 million hectares were burned in the other regions. Many of these fires destroyed habitat, species and complete canopies were lost, which will decades to recover. It is imperative that this policy should be reviewed and alternatives found to</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	mitigate wildfires, as this policy has a huge impact on the health of the native vegetation in this state and is not sustainable into the future if we want to maintain our unique flora and fauna.
Brooke Witheridge	<p>I grew up in the northern suburbs of Perth and spent most of my childhood playing outdoors with my siblings, neighbours and friends. Some of my fondest memories are from the frequent picnics we had with family and friends in bushland areas such as Fred Jacoby Park, John Forrest National Park, Serpentine Falls and others. Whilst the adults sat and talked, we would go off exploring - climbing trees, jumping over creeks, building cubbies, collecting gumnuts and enjoying our natural surrounds.</p> <p>As a parent, I enrolled my children in Scouts, and became a Scout Leader myself. I spent countless hours teaching children how to navigate safely through bushland and enjoy the outdoors, whilst also protecting the natural environment and our wildlife. I witnessed hundreds of children participating in activities such as camping, bushwalking, birdwatching, orienteering etc. Their excitement and enthusiasm was a joy to watch. The experience, knowledge and self confidence they gained from these adventures was priceless.</p> <p>As I walk my dogs through the bush tracks near our home in Wundowie, I am reminded daily of how beautiful, precious and diverse our environment is. I am also saddened by the realisation that our native vegetation, our wildlife, and our planet are under threat. We need to preserve and protect what remains and try to reverse the damage we have done through revegetation. It is time to stop being short sighted and prioritising infrastructure and profit over the preservation of our natural environment and our planet. I want future generations of children to have the same opportunities myself and my children have had - to experience our native bushland and wildlife first hand - not through a screen.</p>
Carilyn Maree	<p>Growing up, my family took regular trips down South during the school holidays to places like Margaret River, Pemberton and Esperance. I have so many precious memories growing up – family time spent together, wandering through the forests which is something so many of us have been so fortunate to experience.</p> <p>Nature is such an integral part of my life. For the last 15 years a group of my friends and I have regularly gone bushwalking, between 6 to 10 of us. Our last walk was down South, through the magnificent Karri and Jarrah Forests. I remember looking up at the dappled sunlight making its way through the leaves, the musty smell of the forest floor, the sounds of insects and birds and thinking how fortunate we are. Surrounded by trees that dwarfed us, I felt so connected and such a reverence and love for the natural world.</p> <p>I live on a few acres in Casuarina, which still has some Marri trees. What I have noticed is when we first came here 24 years ago was that there was an abundance of birds and we could always count on the Carnaby Black Cockatoos to screech and warn us that the rain was coming and to bring the washing in. It was a magnificent sight and we would see and hear a flock of 50 fly over us. That doesn't happen anymore. This year all I have seen is two in a tree as I walked around the block and three drinking from a puddle of water on the bitumen road after some rain. It honestly breaks my</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>heart that the loss of their native vegetation is decimating their population and that they are endangered. I want their population to recover. I want our native vegetation policies to have a positive impact.</p> <p>Lastly, my daughter just got engaged a few weeks ago. I want her and her family to be able to have these magical experiences of bushwalking in nature, seeing what I have seen, and witnessing the black cockatoos fly over once again.</p>
Cassidy Marino	<p>As a young person who is coming to the end of my degree, I find myself at multiple crossroads in my life. While the future excites me (I know I have some amazing opportunities ahead of me), it's really hard to shake the fear of what is happening to our environment. I live in The Vines and love going on walks to feel the fresh air and unwind. It's such a lovely, peaceful area with beautiful trees and native Australian animals. It's pretty cool being able to go out to the front or back of my house and see kangaroos, emus, kookaburras and turtles.</p> <p>In particular, there's this one trail that's one of my favourite places to walk. It takes you through some of the bushland in the area and you pass gorgeous gumnuts, acacias, banksias, and grass trees. The best part is that the trail leads you to a lookout where you can just sit and enjoy watching the nature around you, listening to the sound of birds singing and trees rustling, and watching kangaroos in their natural habitat. Recently, the owners of the golf course are preparing to sell majority of the land to allow for suburban development. Not only will the golf course be destroyed, but so will a lot of the bushland that surrounds the golf course – a home to so many Australian flora and fauna. If this residential development goes ahead, it will destroy the rural characteristic of the Swan Valley!</p> <p>I'm so grateful to have been raised in such a beautiful environment and I really hope that my kids will have the opportunity to have that too.</p>
Diana Blacklock	<p>I am an avid lover of nature and value of what it gives us physically, emotional and spiritually. We need to protect what native vegetation remains as a high priority. Historically it has been adversely affected through extensive agricultural and mining activities in our fragile ecosystem, which is now contributing to a drying climate.</p> <p>I go into nature for my mental and physical health regularly and ask the government to protect this for myself and my community</p>
Diana Corbyn	<p>The WA Minister for Environment Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA gave a very clear introduction. However, the draft policy is rather bureaucratic and less clear. So, I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback.</p> <p>Since coming to WA in 1974, I have lived in the Pilbara, the Goldfields, the karri forest area of Northcliffe and now metropolitan Perth, always appreciating the beauty and biodiversity of WA but concerned about the declining vegetation.</p> <p>A few weeks ago, on the long weekend I joined a group of friends from the Wildflower Society of WA and visited the Hyden area. A couple of nature reserves were rich in wildflowers but the lack of vegetation and trees across the</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	wheatbelt is deadening. Even the road reserves are no more than weed strips. We have so much to do to protect and restore native vegetation. At present we do not even seem to be able to protect Bush Forever sites in metropolitan Perth
Elizabeth Barton	<p>I come from a green lush land, the mixed growth forests and country walks I miss very much (but not the grey rainy days!). However, I have always found an intense beauty in the Australian outback. I wasn't disappointed on a recent trip to the Kimberley, a region that has been on the bucket list for years. Two weeks in a swag bush camping with the occasional camp site luxury. The aches and pains soon dispersed after walking through the amazing gorge at Windjana, sighting freshwater crocodiles and interesting plant forms and flowers. But nothing quite touches my heart and imagination like the Ancient Boabab Trees. They stand large in what otherwise appears a barren landscape with their crazy 'hair' and waving branches. They remind me of the Ents from Lord of the Rings. If Tolkien had travelled to Australia (or Africa) I feel for sure that these trees would have been his inspiration. As soon as they appear, they disappear as you travel beyond their range. As we crisscrossed our way to different sites it was always warming to be back in the land of the Boabab Trees.</p> <p>What an incredible ancient landscape we have in Western Australia and across the continent. How anything can survive in such a dry hospitable environment is a total wonderment to me, including the indigenous population. I can only imagine the intricate and fragile ecological connection that exists. It is for this reason that I write. We must never lose sight of this connection and importance. Nothing appears sacred anymore or safe from the continued destructive hand of 'man'. You only need consider the ecological disaster created by the good intentioned Murry Darlin Basin scheme to note that it doesn't work and closer to home the wanton destruction of the Juukan Gorge. If the checks and balances that are in place to protect such sites don't work, then what hope is there? And this is my concern, the lack of governance, compliance, monitoring and implementation of environmental protection legislation.</p>
Felix Nicholls	I am Felix Nicholls, 14 years old. My experience is of the wheatbelt when driving out to Wave Rock and watching endless fields of crops and grazing land. We stop at the Corrigin Wildflower Drive where I was able to add more than 7 species to my collection of orchid and drosera photographs. The one thing that I couldn't ignore was the fact that all I had to do was look out from a high point to see the wheatbelt fields where this bushland had once been. Later at home I looked at satellite images and could see the massive extent of the wheatbelt with the remaining bushland almost invisible. As bushlands are being cleared all over not just the wheatbelt, I ask that we strengthen WA's Native Vegetation policy so that I can continue to collect photos of my favourite flowers and enjoy WA in general.
Fiona Wheeler	I am writing to you because I care deeply about our natural areas and the ongoing degeneration of native vegetation in our home state. I am an avid outdoors person, enjoying the rejuvenation of body and soul felt when spending time in these unique natural areas. Last month I spent ten days with a hiking and camping group in the eastern wheatbelt of WA and was amazed by the beauty and biodiversity of the small remaining natural areas of this region. Together with the majestic granite outcrops/"mountains" of the region, this was a snapshot of what the entire region looked like before the mass clearings of the 19, 20, and 21st centuries. At Mount Caroline, I saw an echidna slowly walking through the masses of spring flowers that covered the gentle slopes of the mount. Bliss! The number of Eucalypts species, Wandoo,

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>shrubs and grasses and the animals and birds who depend on it, makes me realise how precious these places are and how important it is to make sure we look after these globally significant biodiverse areas for generations to come and to act with urgency as the rate of native vegetation degeneration is continuing so rapidly it will be too late. We also need as a matter of urgency to consider the importance of vegetation in mitigating the deadly impacts of climate change. The new draft WA Vegetation Policy needs to recognise further the need for more investment funding to protect these well loved and needed areas.</p>
Gavin Mackay	<p>Yes, I am a keen cyclist and love mountain bike tracks. For sure they must be developed with a sustainable and ecological underpinning. But, getting off the bike and living and breathing nature is where it is at, The shrill of birds a cacophony sometimes. The stillness of air, the moss, wildflowers, 'scurrying fauna' and the like.</p> <p>We need to preserve areas which are precious. Riding around the Dwellingup area on the Munda Biddy and other tracks highlights brings me into proximity and in my minds eye, the push by Alcoa to deforest northern jarrah forests for bauxite purposes.</p> <p>When you look at these magnificent trees coursing over the scarp, it is so natural, so native, so much a part of WA's flora.</p> <p>This is wanton destruction for mind and the state government need to include this tranche of land in the native forest logging ban, The regeneration of degraded land is not working and not evidenced.</p> <p>I am keen to ensure the state government makes a more ambitious, more earnest endeavour to protect ever the diminishing northern jarrah forests and native vegetation across this state for that matter. There is no social licence for this corporate ambition. I want to ride my mountain bike free of the scarp's scars in and around the Swan Coastal plain and adjacent areas.</p>
George Crisp	<p>Our health and well being and prosperity are dependent on intact and healthy ecosystems and the services they provide. They in turn are a function of the biodiversity that comprises them.</p> <p>On health in particular, the impacts of ecological degradation and biodiversity loss have not been appreciated in their range or significance.</p> <p>Ecological services underpin food production and quality, they are therefore also integral to the economy and well being of communities that rely on agriculture, they help regulate local and regional climate, affect urban heat and air pollution, recycle nutrients, maintain soils and regulate transmission of infectious diseases as well as aesthetic and recreational value.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>We are losing habitat and biodiversity at accelerating rate, both locally and globally. Now described as Earths sixth great mass extinction event.</p> <p>It their seminal 2009 Nature paper, Rockstom and colleagues described nine 'planetary boundaries' that define 'a safe operating space for humanity'. Biodiversity was one of 3 that had already been exceeded.</p> <p>This has primarily resulted from land use change for agriculture, but also urban sprawl and infill. Climate change is increasingly threatening biodiversity loss - as evidenced in WAs 2011 marine and terrestrial heatwave - as well as pollution (including air pollutants and chemical), unsustainable harvesting in the case of marine systems and other human activities.</p> <p>The effects of human activities must be quantified and captured to be able to determine their cost (in environmental impacts) and in determining proportionate actions to safeguard them.</p> <p>The draft consultation recognises the decline in WAs biodiversity.</p> <p>This policy must include targets that reflect the urgency and criticality of protecting ecosystem services be meaningful.</p> <p>It should similarly recognise the value and opportunities that arise from preserving biodiversity for a range of sectors including human health as well as the costs associated with further erosion (or business as usual).</p> <p>The fact that biodiversity is affected by policies from different areas - transport, agriculture, health, mining etc, - and the fact that loss in environmental services will also impact a range of sectors - health, agriculture, tourism, economy, - means that, like action on climate change, a while of government approach is needed.</p> <p>The assessment, regulation and implementation of conservation of biodiversity must be commensurate with its importance for our health, prosperity and security.</p>
Gwyneth Dean	<p>I wish that I had the time to go through the Draft Vegetation Policy with a fine-tooth comb, but my priority is as a volunteer for the jane Brook Catchment Group and my local Friends group.</p> <p>I am well aware of the danger our environment faces from climate change and "development", the effects of which I see every day.</p>
Hazel Law	<p>I am originally from the UK and as over the last eight years of being in Western Australia I have absolutely fallen in love with the beauty of the natural world here and feel lucky every day to call Western Australia my home. I went to Whistle Pipe Gully on the weekend, it is close to my home and was my 19-month-old daughter's first hike. She enjoyed the walk</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>so much, helping to hold the lead of one of our dogs, holding on to me with her other hand whilst she made the steep ascent. She pointed to all the wild flowers, the birds, the giant ants on the ground, she waved hello and goodbye to the waterfalls as we passed them, she didn't want to leave this beautiful place that had so clearly awakened a deep love for nature in her young mind. We could hear a buzz of the bees and the rush of the water as we made our way up the hill to the lookout point where we stopped to drink some water and look at the beauty of nature around us. This was such a special day for me and my daughter and the thought that she may not be able to experience and grow the special relationship with nature as I did as a child, and still do as an adult, makes me incredibly sad. My own relationship with the natural world has been such a joy to me and so important to my health, both physical and mental, the majesty of this land must be protected, not only for the survival of future generations, but also for them to thrive.</p>
Helen Brown	<p>I have so many wonderful memories of being out in nature. Hiking along the Bibbulmun Track, family time spent together camping and wandering through the Karri forests, (the kids daring each other to climb the Gloucester Tree and seeing who chickened out!). Recently I have been following the wildflower trail and the last place we went through was York and Wave Rock. Our native flora and fauna is magical. Some places along the way are just a carpet of flowers set against a vast blue sky. There are so many beautiful and unique wildflowers, from orchids, grevilleas to china cups – delicate pink blossoms that as so abundant, it makes me smile just to see them. My trip to Wickepin this week I saw beautiful bright patches of blue lachenalia.</p> <p>I actually grew up in the wheatbelt. I remember as a kid and adult when we travelled to Perth that our car windscreen was completely covered with insects. We usually had to scrape all the bugs off when we stopped for petrol because it was hard to see. That is no longer the case. My latest trip on the wildflower trail got us all talking and what really struck us, my relatives and friends.... was the lack of insects. Especially the last 10 years - not one insect has hit our windscreens in the thousands of km we have accrued traveling there and back. Being from the land, we know how important insects are to the ecosystem and what it tells us in happening to our native vegetation and the flow on effect to our fauna. We believe we aren't coming across any insects because of all the pesticides, which has also devastated the bird population. It is heart breaking. Our native vegetation and all the life dependent upon it for survival needs greater protection.</p>
Helen Brown Second submission	<p>My name is Helen and I have grown up and spent most of my life in Western Australia. I have lived in the Town of Victoria Park for over 30 years and am a regular visitor to Jirdarup Bushland, which is a Bushforever site a 5 minute walk from my house. Jirdarup means 'place of birds' in Noongar language and we often watch black cockatoos come to Jirdarup, as more and more bushland is being lost. My kids, who are now adults, have developed a strong appreciation of nature from many hours in the bushland.</p> <p>I am also an academic who works in the area of public health and environmental health, with a special interest in the area of climate change. The projections for climate change in WA are incredibly concerning for the future of the entire world. The protection of native vegetation and bushland should be a priority in its own right. I want my kids and</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>grandkids to experience the beauty and biodiversity that I have been able to enjoy over my life, but I am worried about the growing pressures of development and climate change. Given all the benefits we get from native forests and bushlands, plus the growing pressure of climate change, it is hard to understand why the government would not be doing all it can to protect them.</p>
Holly Cranwell	<p>I am Holly, a young woman born and raised in WA. I was very blessed to have nature surrounding me growing up and was always so fascinated by the environment. I have always found that being outside clears my mind from the chaos and fast paced life we all seem to live, it allows me to slow down and free myself from anxiety and stress.</p> <p>My favourite thing to do is to get outside and go camping, bushwalking, surfing, pretty much anything that involves exploring the outdoors. I recently visited Walpole and was blown away at how peaceful and beautiful the trees and bushland was, I walked through the forests and felt so connected to the trees and my surroundings. After visiting the local information centre I was told that the plant diversity and number of species present in the forests has willy decreased in the past 10 years. This felt so heavy and painful to hear it almost took the enjoyment out of being out in the forest as I just felt sad and ashamed. It made me think about the next generation. If I am feeling this heavy weight of anxiety when I think of how the world is changing rapidly from; climate change, deforestation, the decline in diversity, bushfires and acidification of the oceans, how are my future children going to feel? I should be excited about bringing a child into this world, but at this point in my life, I can't think of anything worse than raising a child in a world that is suffering on so many levels. Until we as humans make some drastic changes, I don't see why I should even consider thinking about starting a family.</p>
Hozefa Daginawala	<p>I am an avid photographer and explorer of nature, having a deep appreciation for the swan valley and the national parks in the region. More specifically, I often drive out to the Walyunga National Park and Bells Rapid Conservation Reserve to photograph the wildlife and the vegetation of the region. These are location approximately 30km north east from the Perth CBD. I have been visiting these locations for over half a decade now and have seen the way in which the rivers pollution has increased significantly affecting the local vegetation and the habitat of the fauna around. The pollution seems to only be getting worse, with the sight for reformation.</p> <p>If this continues to increase at the rapid rate that it currently is, it could prove to be highly catastrophic to all the native flora and fauna, potentially destroying the ecosystems present. The region is a habitat to numerous nocturnal species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Epic Bushtail Possum and many more. If this is not preserved, it will destroy the rural characteristic of the swan valley. This will affect me deeply and make me and others very sad 😞. Please preserve the native vegetation, flora and fauna, they deserve better than to face the brunt of our poor actions.</p>
Indianna Daniels	<p>I grew up in Helena Valley, a suburb that was surrounded by bushland and horse paddocks when I was young. My parents loved the suburb because it had a real country/bushlands feel with the convenience of being close to the city and midland area.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>A lot of the trails and parks we visited in the area were manmade or disturbed bushland but there was still a lot of different bird species and native fauna to be seen. Eventually, Helena valley was built up significantly, there are now 5 subdivisions that have been added compared to the two that existed when we moved there.</p> <p>The rate of development in Helena valley opened up my eyes to expansion of urbanisation in WA. When on walks, I used to look out onto bushlands and paddock clearings that and see hundreds of kangaroos grazing in the evenings. Now, that area is built on and still being developed by the new suburb of Bushmead. There are now regularly kangaroos crossing the road, I've seen many hit and I'm often afraid of hitting one when driving early in the morning or at night. Many of our neighbours have now reported seeing Quenda in their gardens, which could be chased and preyed on by pets. The increase in development has also changed the aesthetic of the area, it no longer has a rural or bushland feel – it resembles a lot of the other surrounding suburbs like Janebrook and Ellenbrook.</p> <p>My love and interest for nature has shaped my decisions throughout school and university and now in my career. Next year I am beginning my career as Graduate Environmental Consultant and I have already had experience working within the mining industry as a vacation student. I am beginning to understand how environmental protection legislation and policies operate. My degree and recent work experience I have had, has given me the knowledge to understand the environmental significance of state that I live in, and it concerns me greatly that the native flora and fauna aren't protected against industries like mining, agriculture and urban development.</p>
Iziah Wallace	<p>I am Iziah, 14 years old and want to provide feedback on the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021.</p> <p>One day when I was as kid my mum took me to Lesmurdie Falls to take me to experience something new in nature. I really liked it there and I really loved the waterfall.</p> <p>Another time a few years later, my friend and I went there because I wanted to share with him this beautiful place. When we went to the waterfall I felt underwhelmed and unsettled because the waterfall wasn't as thick and loud as the first time I saw it. It made me wonder about what has changed. I worry about the environment a lot and I worry so much when I see changes in the environment. I worry for not just the environment, but for humanity and our wildlife, our future. It made me feel filled with fear about how this world is changing. This is why I ask that everything is done in your power to help us protect our environment, minimise the negative impacts and have deep reverence for wildlife and vegetation.</p>
Jenny Thomas	<p>My grandmother instilled in me a love of nature and WA's special plants. Whether it was how to grow a plant from a cutting or going to visit King Park every spring to see the wildflowers, I still have her book of WA Wildflowers from 1941 written by the Government Botanist. I remember as a young child heading into the bush next door to our house (in what</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>is now suburban Manning) and discovering all the wildflowers that would come out each spring. That sense of freedom and exploration in nature was very magical.</p> <p>This spring, I visited the Leeuwin – Naturalist National Park. Looking for Orchids. Orchid spotting has to be one of my favourite things to do. The colours of the enamel orchids are truly spectacular, shouting ‘Look at Me’ with their beautiful pinks and purples. Then there are the delicate spider orchids are not so easy to spot and it’s pretty exciting when they are discovered.</p> <p>It’s such as special part of the world. I always feel so invigorated after spending time there. There’s the magnificent coastline that is very exposed and covered in the coastal vegetation. Further inland there is jarrah, marri and karri forest with an amazing variety of wildflowers. The park lies in the SW region of WA that is listed as a global biodiversity hotspot. A biodiversity hotspot region contains more than 1500 species of plants found no where else and has lost at least 70% of its native vegetation</p> <p>This region extends from Shark Bay right down to the Great Australia Bight. We must protect and cherish all our native vegetation in WA and the animal species that depend on these habitats.</p>
Jo Gunning	<p>Dearest Amber Jade</p> <p>Ok so the below is the prepopulated stuff which is necessary. However, I oh so want to add, no, I need to add that the protection of our forests must MUST extend to the forests under the Mining Act of 1961. And the leases the mining companies hold. And the problem this poses for our beautiful, fragile and unique Jarrah Forest.</p> <p>So the wording 1961 has got to send shivers up your spine right? 1961? ??? Weren’t we still mining asbestos then? What can possibly be right with this mining act. And the fact that we gave (ah hello American Alcoa, I am looking at you with your paltry 1.6% royalties and total decimation of our Jarrah Forest) our native forest “away”??</p> <p>So I kindly ask that you include Mining in your Native Vegetation Policy. Please? Our Jarrah Forest IS native forest. It MUST be included in the policy INCLUDING mining leases.</p> <p>Please be known as “the one” to save it.</p> <p>(And I will thank you personally too!)</p> <p>And in the interim, if you really want to learn more from the learned community of Cookernup and Yarloop and Wagerup etc exactly what is happening (not from Alcoa themselves but the real story, on the ground) re Alcoa Refinery and</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Mining, mia casa e sua casa, and I invite you to my home, my beautiful little farm for lunch and a glass of something delicious to hear from us, the community, who are affected seriously by mining.</p> <p>With an open heart.</p>
Joel Thomasson	<p>I grew up in the Shire of Busselton and the Shire of Margaret River, close to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, in the South West region of Western Australia. I now live in Perth but visit the region regularly with my friends for rest and leisure and to see my family who still live in the area. The region hosts beautiful landscapes and vegetation from the coastal walking trails in Meelup Region Park to the forest in Boranup. The region is truly an escape for all that visit and an opportunity to recharge in nature, listen to native birds amongst the vegetation and gain memories with family and friends. I grew up here walking through the bush with my brother, searching for surf with my friends and finding local wildflowers for our sister and our Mother with my father while he told stories of natural plants, birds and how each play a part in the overall biodiversity. I tell these stories with my friends from Perth who share that they continue to visit the region for the same reason - to recharge in nature, enjoy the local bush and forests and show their children how to connect with nature. Over the years I have seen continued development of this region from commercial vineyards and commercial accommodation including resorts to large residential developments. I am concerned that the very thing we love about the South West is being destroyed with native vegetation clearing, that I won't be able to share these experiences with my children and that the reason we visit the region will disappear.</p>
Jonathan Price	<p>Having been advised that this opportunity exists, I'd like to support the opinions of The Wilderness Society which I believe has the very best interests for future generations chance to live in a world fit for all peoples, plants and creatures.</p> <p>Therefore, know that I support WWF feedback on the consultation draft for the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021. That feedback follows.</p>
Katie Helps	<p>I watched a very, very small pocket of WA as it was stripped of native vegetation. Then, I saw the void this stripping created in the landscape (and my life) afterwards. Creating the strongest possible policy to protect our native vegetation is imperative if we are to retain biodiversity value, decrease the impacts of climate change and store carbon. As our state grows, we will need more infrastructure, more farms, more resources and more places to live. But, I don't believe that this growth has to come at the cost of the places and things we love.</p> <p>Whether it's remnant bushland near urban infill or incredible woodlands that are being considered for mining, all native vegetation in Western Australia plays a critical role in preserving biodiversity, providing a home for threatened species and storing huge quantities of carbon.</p>
Kaye Barr	<p>I am in agreement with the following email composed by the Wilderness Society. The bio-diversity of native flora in Western Australia is unique, and altogether an asset for W A. It is of great importance for the planet, something which</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>is only just beginning to be appreciated across Society. To lose more than has been lost already would be tragic - to retain it will be felt as something of great foresight in the future generations.</p> <p>An example is King's Park - the largest park of native bush in a capital city in the world. What foresight!! What value!! We must think like this, for our future benefit.</p> <p>And now, the composed email - valuable points please hearken .</p>
Kenny Ruellot	<p>I am Kenny, originally from France and recently walked the Bibbulmun track from Perth to Albany. I feel lucky that I have been able to be immerge in such an amazing part of the world and the diversity of their fauna and flora.</p> <p>My most vivid memory from this experience was when i got to experience all possible state of nature in one day.</p> <p>I woke up early morning when the sun wasn't up yet. I got to walk through the silence of the night and slowly hearing birds singing and waking up to create this pleasant loudness so powerful. Later this day, I walked on the beach through one of the most intense storm I've been experiencing. Everything was there, heavy wind throwing the sand on my legs, hail, thunder and lightning a few hundred meters over the ocean who was agitated by massive waves.</p> <p>Later this day, when the storm was away and the sky was slowly clearing up and while i was trying to dry my clothes on a huge rock, i saw one of the most beautiful sunset of the trip, over the bay with the powerful sound of the waves crashing against the cliffs. The sky went from blue, to purple, and then vivid red. I felt asleep on this rock in my sleeping bag to wake up in the middle of the night to see the milky way horizontally aligned with the horizon.</p> <p>I realize the importance of protecting nature and taking strong decisions for future generations to be able to experience what I've experienced.</p>
Kriti Bajracharya	<p>On one of my trips to Margaret River a year ago, I remember finding this huge wall of sand tucked in the corner of the road we were driving, almost hidden between the lush forests and an 'active mining site' sign posted next to the gate. It was off-putting and a bit shocking to find a mining site so close to Perth. It was eye opening as well, seeing first-hand the scale of destruction resulting from land clearing and mining... that too, so close to home. It felt like a reminder that nature, despite being strong, is fragile to our ambitions. So it's only fair that the responsibility lies in us to protect it and this policy has the potential to do just that.</p>
Liam Lilly	<p>As a young boy I lived in Albany, it was a formative experience in my relation to nature. My Dad would take me fishing in Oyster Harbour and climbing on Mt. Melville. Mum would take me to the beautiful beaches, and my sister and I would swim across the channel from Emu's Point to Voyager's Park. I always remember how green it all was. I live in Perth now, but whenever I can I love to get back down to the Albany region and run the Stirling Ridge, or Bald Head, West Cape Howe, Mt. Martin. I have run in many places around the world - Giant's Causeway, Sierra Nevadas, Grand</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Canyon, all over New Zealand, yet the southwest of WA, with its unique landscapes, vegetation, and cultural heritage & significance, is my favourite. It is unique, familiar, and meaningful. It’s more than survival of cultural heritage, more than the irreplaceable ecosystem services. It forms part of our identity. It makes us feel alive.</p> <p>I lived in Canberra for a long time, but I am now back in WA. Every time friends visit me from over east they try to plan their trip so that we can see wildflowers, walk some of the bib or cape-to-cape, run Bald Head, or climb in the Stirlings. It is always organised around nature, and seeing Western Australia’s beautiful, endemic and endangered wilderness.</p> <p>It breaks my heart when I crest a summit and see a mining expansion, or when I hear from elders about how the land is suffering, or when I take friends to places that have been destroyed by clearing. The half-assed efforts at land restoration and protection, witnessing of illegal logging and attempts to cover it up, the treatment of people who try to protect the land; it is all so sad. Clearing for miles and miles, salinity, dieback. It cannot help itself. It needs you.</p> <p>We need to stop the devastation that land clearing has wrought on this state. Not only stop it, but reverse it. Regenerate our native vegetation and restore our native places. Restore the livelihoods of First Nations people who cared for this land for so long.</p> <p>This policy has the chance to be world leading. Let’s make it so. Let’s finally put an end to this relentless and unnecessary expansion and destruction. I want our native vegetation policy to do more to protect these areas, and all other areas throughout Western Australia, urban and rural. Not only protect, but also put enormous effort, focus and resources into regenerative practices, with set deadlines for those responsible and real consequences for those who continue to destroy.</p> <p>I want our native vegetation policy to increase the intensity and investment needed to save what extent of flora and fauna we have left across the state, and again, put further resources into restoring what we once had. The policy needs to contain guiding principles on the extent of what we have already lost and destroyed, the condition that the remaining native vegetation is currently in and predicted to be in over various time-scales, and where we will hit the point of no return.</p> <p>So many people care but can’t do anything about it. You have the resources and the power to do something. To save our environment. We need a net gain in native vegetation, not just protection, but intensive restoration and regeneration, paid jobs to protect and restore the invaluable ecosystem services our native vegetation offers.</p> <p>Our policy needs to be set-out and assessed in measurable and tangible goals and outcomes, and hold all levels of government, as well as corporations, and individuals to account. Monitoring and compliance must be improved across the state to support the preservation and restoration of our native lands. Management of current clearing is deplorable,</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>the information on, justification of, and consequences for continued clearing needs to be improved. The policy needs to outline how clearing impacts will be mitigated, and how offsets will be sourced. Accountability needs to be enforced. We need to roadmap initiatives that are most important, inform people what is being prioritised and why. Please. For me, and for so many others who can’t speak, or aren’t yet born.</p>
Lisabeth Finn	<p>I was fortunate to be raised in the country with horses and dogs and cats and this connection fed my initial connection to and love of nature. However, my understanding of the essential interdependence of nature and humans and other living species began twenty years ago when I started practising Buddhism in wild and beautiful country places. Listening in the silence to the wind, the rain, the birdcall, the chorus of frogs and roaring eucalyptus trees on mountain sides developed an intimacy with nature which has increased steadily over the years to the extent that I no longer feel separate from it, from the bees that visit the flowers and trees in my garden to the birdcall in the early morning, I am a part of all of this – and this coincides with the outcomes of scientific research which warns that further destruction of the environment and its inhabitants from ants to worms to animals will eventually produce a world that is uninhabitable. I realize that my affinity with nature is intuitive, I can feel the connection with it, with the land, the sea and the fauna and flora I encounter. As a result more recently I have become active with a community group in rehabilitating land tin Cockburn that provided an essential community wildlife corridor from wetlands to the sea. This land was razed to the ground to make way for a freeway and then resurrected by a newly-elected government. I love watching this land changing and seeing bushes, trees and plants and the diverse ecology they attract ,lourishing, I love the resilience of the bush now growing ferociously again and attracting bees, birds, butterflies, and small mammals again. Please take account of my comments below so that the biodiversity and the precious ecologies of Western Australia can continue to flourish and ensure a future for our young people and for all life.</p>
Louis de Villiers	<p>In 2014 I was privileged to join a group of Perth Bushwalkers visiting Bungelbin/Helena Aurora when it was under threat of mining. Our group were blown away by the landscape, special features like the gnamma hole we found and the special flora of the place. The immediate threat at the time was averted and in 2017 the Environment Minister at the time dismissed the appeals against disallowing mining. But in late 2021 we are still waiting on the upgrade of the conservation status of this area to ensure its protection for ever.</p> <p>Earlier this year we were privileged to enjoy a wonderful four and a half month trip from Perth, through Karamilyi National Park in the centre of the state and around the north-east of WA, exploring the Gibb River Road and the gorges and incredible vegetation of the area. We were fortunate to arrive in Karamilyi, in the desert, following an excellent wet up north with the place lush and green, pools still in the river and the beautiful flowers delighting us. We were blown away again and again by the diversity of landscapes and vegetation it supports. At the same time, we were concerned by the signs of mining we encountered regularly.</p> <p>Finally, on our return via the Nullarbor and Kalgoorlie, we were horrified to see the extremely wide verge being bulldozed on either side of the Great Eastern Highway with apparent total disregard for the vegetation which otherwise</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>provides a far softer edge to the road, visual appeal and some shade. The back roads from Tammin to York were peaceful, so much more appealing visually in its natural and farming splendour and soothing to the soul. The display of flowers in all their variety, colour and splendour filled our hearts with joy. Approaching Perth we detoured via Mundaring and the parks surrounding the catchment where we enjoyed the spectacle and shade of the majestic trees and the undergrowth with its astonishing diversity of shades of green and colourful flowers. We felt deeply privileged to have experienced such rich natural variety on our adventures.</p>
Mark Phipson	<p>I was recently, thanks to my government free pass, able to (at very short notice), jump on a bus to Albany, Western Australia, to assist my ailing daughter in her wish to drive with their 4 children to Bunbury for a 2 night homestay for the purposes of supporting her Teacher husband's school bicycle car race weekend excursion. We were thoroughly spoilt by the convenience of the homestay and enjoyed a stroll along the waterfront. The return car trip via an alternate route to Albany gave us a glimpse of the picturesque Ferguson Valley, stopping along the way at a farm stall to purchase some of the juiciest apples I have ever tasted and some butter nut squash which we later cooked up for the family. We were saying how we would consider it worth it to drive all the way back one day, simply to replenish stocks!</p> <p>I stayed a few days in Albany before the, once again, very convenient and readily available bus trip back. All trips mentioned were at the time of the brilliant yellow canola fields, which should be a tourism marketing drawcard. While in Albany, my granddaughter and I, one afternoon after school, went to look for whales in the King George Sound, but had no sighting.</p> <p>I have on other occasions, years ago, been fortunate enough to have been through other areas of the Great Southern, quite extensively, but none quite as pretty as when the rolling canola fields are blooming, and the Ferguson Valley experience was a first for me, and a hidden gem.</p>
Matthew Codd-Aurish	<p>I am lucky enough to work at a small mine known as Rothsay which is located along the Perenjori-Rothsay road. It is one of the only places in the world you can view a “Wreath flower” and is home to some of the most beautiful wildflowers in Western Australia. As a miner, it is sad that we sometimes feel we need to separate ourselves from the nature around us, and work knowing the risk of that these activities pose on the environment.</p> <p>I want to be able to work without guilt, and be proud that I am able to work in such a beautiful landscape without feeling I am destroying it. The native vegetation policy reform key to this.</p>
Meg O'Hara	<p>My connection with WA's forests and woodlands runs deep. I gain immense value from immersing myself in our wonderful natural environment, as do my children and family. I am very conscious of the fact that Western Australia's forests, woodlands and outback native vegetation play a critical role in preserving biodiversity, providing a home for threatened species and storing huge quantities of carbon.</p> <p>From our delightful coast - Cottesloe being my favourite - to the warm red centre, we as inhabitants need to treasure what we have by protecting it with diligence and passion.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Our vegetation is unique and incredibly special. It has been treasured for an incredibly long time, and it is our duty as stewards of this land to ensure it's protection and survival for a great deal longer to come.</p> <p>I firmly believe that a formal policy for the management of WA’s native vegetation is essential to ensure that native vegetation is protected, plays an effective role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and provides critical habitat for threatened species.</p>
Melanie Fraser	<p>I had the privilege of growing up in a vast variety of Western Australian natural environments including the Kimberly and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Being exposed to such amazing landscapes and native vegetation from a young age has very much shaped the person I am today. I had the privilege of experiencing untouched, pristine environments and learning first hand of the beauty and amazement that is the natural world. It was this exposure to native landscapes that inspired me to pursue tertiary studies in environmental science.</p> <p>The many years I spent with my family on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, enabled me to witness the tropic landscape as it naturally occurred. I visited Pulu Keeling National Park on a high school excursion where the sky was so thick with birds they would land on our arms. We saw the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Buff Banded Rail, which is only found on North Keeling Island. It was a sad realisation that the other islands in the atoll were also once as abundant with birdlife, prior to the copra industry and the lack of protection of the native vegetation.</p> <p>Having witnessed the disastrous ecological outcomes resulting from a lack of protection for native vegetation, I cannot understate the importance of protecting native vegetation throughout WA. Every Western Australian, now and in the future, should share in the experiences and opportunities that I have had.</p>
Murray Johnson	<p>What is of great concern to me is the obvious misrepresentation of the forest estate in the South West as I have already advised you in my email of 15 September 2021 as follows " I have lived in the Pemberton area for nearly 40 years and am very familiar with the local environment, and a recent discovery has made me wonder if politicians are being misled regarding the forest estate.</p> <p>I draw your attention to DPAW map of Old Growth Forest dated May 2020 from the website [link removed] and the link to the Old Growth Forest map.</p> <p>Interestingly the entire Yeagerup sand dune system is represented as Old Growth Forest.</p> <p>Please compare the map to the satellite imagery of the area.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>How many other eco-types such as swamps, sand dunes, woodland ecology etc. have also been denoted as "Old Growth Forest" I wonder?</p> <p>This gross misrepresentation of the environment puts the entire forest reserve percentage claims in question.</p> <p>For any management plan it is vital the true ecology of any area be known before any management decisions can be made.</p>
Murray Radestock	<p>I have an interest in WA’s iconic Black Cockatoos. Recently I visited the Central Wheatbelt town of Moora, which is known for its small seasonal population of Carnaby Cockatoos. We drove around some of the local country backroads observing the verges for wildlife. There was a variety of vegetation types, from salty marshes, freshwater pondages and lakes to mature marri, wandoo and red gums. But it was a thick patch of banksia woodland that yielded a largish flock of Carnaby Cockatoos grazing on cones, making a real noisy racket of enjoyment as they fed on the flaky seeds. It was an absolute joy to watch and listen as they went about their feeding frenzy.</p> <p>Later that day we went for a walk around the Carnaby Cockatoo Walking Trail in Pioneer Park adjacent to the Moore River in town. There were quite a few Carnabys and a few pairs were using the large man made nesting boxes erected high in the trees or on metal poles. I was saddened to think that the cockatoos had to resort to these artificial boxes as there were not sufficient mature gums with nesting hollows in the region. Obviously the Wheatbelt has been largely cleared for crops, but even the road verges, one of the last habitat bastions of mature gums are now being impacted by road widening, fires and clearing. We need to give our native vegetation time to mature to produce nesting hollows for all of our beautiful birds and we need to treat our road verges as some of our last wilderness. Please find my comments addressing the consultation questions below.</p> <p>3. How well do you support the strategies and outcomes?</p> <p>Many countries and companies are seeing the planting of native trees as an important element to addressing Climate change. We and the govt need to work with companies (like Woodside etc) in a coordinated manner to ensure the tree planting is not just a numbers game, but done to improve biodiversity in a productive way, (using SMART principles- Specific,measurable,achievable,realistic, time frame), geographically targeted and ensure watering and resources are committed to producing a high survival rate of the plantings by year 3-5.</p> <p>5. Which roadmap actions are most important?</p> <p>- Work in a coordinated and cooperative way with industry sectors and private groups that are actively developing small nature reserves with many of the principles in play already and offer to scale up their reserves.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harness the large pool of volunteers that will gladly help , providing basic / camp style living conditions are supplied - Develop baselines for before and after measurements of biodiversity and its impact on fauna. - View the returning of biodiversity and fauna as a 100 year project with a series of 5-10 year measurement horizons. - Take on board the existing science (Prof. Kingsley Dixon - Curtain, Dr. Michael Craig UWA - Biological Sciences etc etc), experts in rehabilitation / restoration of endangered Biodiversity. <p>Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important policy.</p>
Niamh Keelan-Wake	<p>I am Niamh, 12 years old and on the 15-17th October 2021 my dad and brother, 3 people from the WA Nats Club and I went to south Yunderup to do a survey on the wildlife there. The sad things was the rubbish and people zooming around on boats. But still there was lots of wildlife. I saw a wolf spider with babies on it's back. There was rare stylidium which is a flower, kangaroos bouncing around and lots of termites flying about. We saw nests in a tree and then we realised that there was a spoonbill feeding it's babies and lots of Nankeen Herons on nests. We found lots of eggshells on the ground. In the next 10 years the council want's everyone to leave because they think the island will be covered in water in the next 30 years.</p> <p>It was a great experience and lot's of fun but forests, woodlands and outback native vegetation play a critical role in stopping impacts of climate change and provides critical habitat for threatened species.</p> <p>Please make sure the places I love to visit are protected.</p> <p>Thank you for this important policy.</p>
Nicole Brown	<p>I have always loved nature. I joined “The Outside Club” when I went to Curtin University which upped it again. I remember going rafting down South, 5 day hikes around Walpole, camping in Pemberton and Margaret River to name a few, surrounded by trees and the sound of the birds, insects and wildlife.</p> <p>I also lived in the Eastern States for over a decade when I was in the military, (Queensland, ACT, NSW and VIC), and when I returned to WA, it really struck me how absolutely unique our native vegetation is here. The Karri forests found nowhere else, the beautiful black cockatoos, the woodlands popping up throughout the wheatbelt. I am yet to see our State emblem the Numbat, but hopefully one day it will no longer be under threat. I love traveling up to Monkey Mia and being entranced by the changing landscape, the rolling hills covered in brush and spinifex and the stunning forests down South. What we have is so diverse and so special.</p> <p>My appreciation for our native vegetation deepened even further after a debilitating injury which then resulted in depression. The single biggest thing that helped my mental health was slowly opening up and seeing all the beauty around me in nature. Simple things like listening to the birds around me, the rustle of leaves in the trees, seeing</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>bandicoots run around, baby magpies playing or even just resting on the earth and feeling the sun and listening to the insects and wildlife. WA’s beautiful woodlands and tall trees helped me to engage and see beauty in the world and gave me so much gratitude. I only read again today in the Sunday Times how vital connecting to nature can be for mental health and I can personally attest to that. Along with family, our native flora and fauna is the biggest things I am grateful for every single day.</p> <p>My nephew recently went bushwalking past Serpentine Falls. He spoke of the silence, free of man made noise, the smell of the forest and an incredible experience where he came across an Echidna and her two little ones. Seeing the joy on his face as he recounted the experience of seeing Echidnas in the wild was something I will always remember.</p> <p>Please do the right thing. Our native vegetation and the wildlife it supports is so precious. I want it to be here for generations to come. I see the dwindling numbers of the black cockatoos who used to be a regular sight over my house, and I know more needs to be done.</p>
Paige Heath	<p>I am Paige and I am 11 years old and want provide feedback on the draft policy for the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021.</p> <p>Me and my family were driving by a park with lots of trees. It's a park I used to go to when I was young. I used to run through the forests but one day we were driving and I saw them cutting down the trees to make a nature park. I was so sad. I like trees, they help us breath and are good for animals and as much as I like playgrounds, I understand they are not more important than animal habitat and the trees that help us survive.</p> <p>I would like to ask you to protect our native vegetation so I can continue to run and play and explore through the forests and trees. Thank you.</p>
Patrick Wake	<p>My name is Patrick, I am 14 years old and want to provide feedback for the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021.</p> <p>I live near the coast at Quinns Rock. Recently in the last few years we've had an increase in red-tail and carnaby black cockatoo numbers. We've got Neerabup National Park and Yanchep National Park that are marri-jarrah forest but Yanchep burnt last year and Neerabup keeps getting bits of it cleared for new suburbs. Similar is happening to the National Parks and old growth forests in the Hills and in consequence the red-tails and carnabys are being pushed further and further south-west eventually it will hit the coast if it hasn't already. Back cockatoos also feed on pine but the plantations keep getting cut down and not rehabilitated. If we protect old-growth marri-jarrah forests it will help provide food and habitat for the 3 species of Black Cockatoo we have in the south-west. Thank you for this important policy.</p>
Ratna Sulastin	<p>My name is Ratna Sulastin, I am one of those thousands of migrants. I fell in love with both native WA plants and its animal since I saw white-tailed black cockatoos eating bottlebrush flower in my front garden. What a bless! My native Jakarta has none of that. They all gone. I moved to another house and started a native WA garden 11 years ago. It's a</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>mature garden now with more than 13 mallees. This morning 4 white-tailed cockatoos visited Hakea laurena and ate the seeds for breakfast. One evening, my husband and I saw a tawny frogmouth sat on the fence looking in the garden. We have Lizzy, the blue-tongue lizard for a few years now.</p> <p>Every year we went out and about to see the flowers. Last year was a disappointment since the Wheatbelt is full of weed. We travelled from Karijini back to Perth, meandered through the coastal area and to Coalseam. What a bless! We just came back from Northcliffe and Porongorup to see the flowers. Sad about the devastated Stirling Ranges.</p> <p>As a migrant, I really appreciate how great WA plants and animal are. So much diversity! Just do the Mahakam river in Kalimantan, Indonesia to see how damage the island is, let alone flying over it. Hopefully my predecessors can enjoy what we were given and appreciate it as I am.</p> <p>I am a volunteer, who week in, week out, on hands and knees, trying to week a small plot so it is saved for the future. Hopefully I work won't be just a waste of time.</p>
Ray Swarts	<p>Currently legislation to protect the environment is inadequate. The Federal EPBC act has been found to be not fit for purpose. This comes as no surprise to conservationists and reflects an environment in steady unrelenting decline. The only way to effectively halt or reverse this trend is to secure legislation that legitimately protects the environment.</p> <p>Step one – all efforts must first go into drafting then lobbying for federal legislation (the environment does not recognise borders) that recognises and legitimately protects the natural world as a matter of priority.</p> <p>Step two. Accepting that economic/population growth industrial expansion will only come at the expense of the environment – thats what you call unsustainable. All of the wishful thinking under the sun will not change that ... sorry</p> <p>Step three, muster up some adult courage and start being honest about what living sustainably within planetary laws and limits really means.</p> <p>Step Four, admit that protecting the environment has never been a priority, that's why it's in decline – make it a priority because our lives depend on it.</p>
Ray Tauss	<p>Years ago I completed a bush regeneration course and I've refined my skills and knowledge since then.</p> <p>I'm a member of two urban 'Friends of bushland' groups and as a volunteer I make tools for them as well as contribute my weeding and planting skills. My weeding skills are complemented by tools I make for the purpose, for myself and others.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>I published one book explaining how to achieve sustainable utilisation of vegetation in rangelands, and I have a long-term interest in the arid ‘red soil’ regions of Western Australia. I’ve seen environmentally devastating changes wrought by unsustainable stocking practices in the pastoral area of WA, and seen vast numbers of feral goats, feral camels, and most recently, feral horses. These last three displace kangaroos and other endemic mammals, and destroy economic futures by their destruction. Some of the landscapes may take hundreds of years to recover, even if the feral animals suddenly vanished today. This impacts future beneficial use of land and of waters.</p> <p>When the vegetation is denuded surface water moves faster. I’ve seen the erosion this can cause (for instance in the Shires of Meekatharra, Wiluna, Ngaanyatjarraku, Mt Magnet, Cue and Yalgoo). Faster-moving surface water means less water penetrates into the ground, so the landscape loses water faster. Vegetation has to be protected by avoidance of inappropriate grazing practices, and by inappropriate passive and active acceptance of feral animals.</p> <p>Fire regimes instituted by departmental ambitions and created by incendiary bombing and other intensive burning practices destroy landscape’s capacity to support the broadest possible range of vegetation, and inappropriate burning practices lessen or destroy the capacity of landscapes to support native animals.</p> <p>I’ve seen vegetation destroyed by inappropriate management in many places across Western Australia.</p> <p>This year I’ve been planting and weeding in the Mundy Regional Park, happily assisting Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls. I’m fascinated by their hopes of re-introducing aquatic molluscs, mammals and fish. So far the group has slowed surface water’s entry to the creek (so more water sinks in to the bush areas, and slowed the escape of water towards the Yuel Brook (so the tadpoles now have slower water to breed in).</p> <p>My enjoyment of Lake Claremont is added to by the active fencing and protection of some ‘lake shore’ areas there, and I’m very excited by their intentions to see kwenda reintroduced there. I love watching birds nesting on water and seeing the cooperation between breeding pairs.</p> <p>My enjoyment of forest east of Southern Cross is ongoing, not only when I’m there (including October 2021), but in my mind’s eye as a personal restorative. I love the tall forests of the Great Western Woodlands and I love going to Aboriginal Cultural Centres and knowing the local Aboriginal people’s involvement in landscape is ongoing. Cooperation in landscape use holds a beacon for the future, whereas selfish land uses are inclined to be exploitative and environmentally destructive. This winter I’ve been in one Aboriginal Cultural Centre in the wheatbelt, and one Aboriginal Language Centre.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>I love the landscapes from Salmon Gums all the way south to the Esperance coast, and I’m fascinated by the remnants of ocean life found as shells on the surface of the soil scores of kilometres from the coast.</p> <p>At Lake Joondalup I like to walk for recreation and find peace in the bushland surrounds.</p> <p>This year once again I’ve had the pleasure of the lands surrounding the Great Central Road, and the saline wetlands adjacent. The saline wetlands throughout the Goldfields are fascinatingly diverse and provide crustacea and other food for international migratory birds. I love to see those richly contrasting landscapes.</p> <p>My enjoyment of Mt Leseur is immense, and I found it reinvigorating to see it again this year by road, followed the same day by coastal sands and nature’s vegetation offering barriers to its movement, then the inland waters such as Yardanango spring with its fresh water in the midst of sand.</p> <p>I have studied environmental sustainability and fire in arid landscapes. I am deeply aware that Aboriginal land management practices (including use of fire) rooted in Aboriginal culture actually support people, plants, lands and waters, and I hope all coming generations of people have access to those skills, that knowledge, and sustainably managed landscapes.</p> <p>For all those reasons described above, I would now like to address the consultation questions embodied in the policy draft:</p> <p>1. Has the policy’s context adequately covered native vegetation values, opportunities and challenges?</p> <p>While I think the intention to improve vegetation retention is admirable, the draft policy does not show but must show urgency to address current issues in habitat loss, landscape destruction and vegetation destruction and the policy must now take on and show clear targets to support what is proposed in it.</p> <p>2. How suitable are the guiding principles in providing a contemporary foundation for managing native vegetation?</p> <p>The guiding principles do acknowledge the decline of our native vegetation that we have been witnessing for many years; however, acknowledging now is not enough. We need urgent action and appropriate investment into the protection, monitoring and restoration of native vegetation.</p> <p>3. How well do you support the strategies and outcomes?</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Strategies are in the draft, but I don't see how outcomes will be achieved without building in a sense of urgency and appropriate investment to achieve them (as mentioned earlier). Outcomes really need to focus on net ecological gain, land restoration programs and reject any further clearing of Threatened Ecological Communities.</p> <p>4. How suitable are the goals and approaches in guiding implementation of the policy?</p> <p>Not suitable as there are no clear targets or measurables of achievement for the outcomes. There is a lack of transparency in the decision making process and a need for a whole-of-government approach to this policy that is urgent rather than meeting a baseline that ultimately requires additional resources to later be found. Transparency also needs to be visible and embraced in the way data is gathered and used. The draft's description of current vegetation is almost irrelevant as focus should be on future goals and approaches and ways to achieve them. Condition status can be improved and the policy should support implementation of improvement actions immediately. As outlined in the purpose of the draft policy, this needs to be a state-wide objective and a clear whole-of-government priority. Furthermore, I believe Traditional Ecological Knowledge should be central to approaches and should be included as a matter of urgency.</p>
Rebecca Zwaal	<p>I am from The Netherlands where natural areas are scarce. Everything within the landscape of my home country is planned and made as space-efficient as possible. No space is unutilised. I felt overwhelmed wherever I went, without realising what the issue could have been. I remember very well my first road trip to the Margaret River region 1 year ago when my husband decided to show me one of many beautiful places in WA. After spending a week on different campsites, we spent our last night at a rest stop, which ended up being even more beautiful than the campsites we stayed at. We arrived here just before sunset. It was in the middle of the forest and we were surrounded by massive long trees. Not long after, the sun went down and started shining right through the gaps between the trees creating an image that makes me smile whenever I think back about it. It was such a peaceful experience, and it was the moment I realised that nature was what I had been missing all that time. I wish that everyone now and in the future has the chance to experience it.</p>
Remi Lane	<p>My favourite place in the world is the region in the South West around Dunsborough and the Blackwood River. I travel down there every chance I get. From hiking up the trails around Cape Naturaliste to see the amazing views from the lighthouse to driving through the lush greenery of the Karri Forests with the undulating hills and valleys. It is truly magical.</p> <p>I was horrified and felt sick to learn that our Jarrah and Karri forests which are hundreds of years old were being cut down for things like firewood, wood chipping and matches. I know new laws are being put in place, and I hope that these adequately protect these state treasures which are important for so many reasons – from the pure love and enjoyment they give, to reducing the impact of climate change, to providing habitat to threatened species. There are so many reasons to protect, preserve and enhance our natural vegetation, and this is just one that is close to my heart.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
Rethink EastLink	<p>We are a community group made up of dedicated individuals from across Perth Hills. In July 2021 we teamed up with the mission to research, inform and communicate the irreparable harm that will result to the environment in particular if the proposed new heavy freight route called EastLink WA Highway is built from Midland to Clackline in Perth Hills.</p> <p>Perth Hills is home to 118 + species of native birds, including three types of cockatoo which are under threat from extinction due to habitat loss. Recent bushfires in this area have also had a devastating impact on native vegetation and are still in the early stages of the recovery process which would be decimated by the construction of a Highway.</p> <p>Further, the land reserved for EastLink WA has created a wildlife corridor - a green belt of native bush land and the biodiversity it supports. Nature is a vital part of the Hills, and the potential impacts from light, noise, carbon emissions and the clearing of at least 680 hectares of land would cause irreparable damage to our regional landscape and the rare, protected and endangered species of flora and fauna who call it home.</p> <p>It is so, so vital that WA’s native vegetation is not only protected but restored. A formal policy for the management of WA’s native vegetation is essential to ensure that native vegetation is protected, plays an effective role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and provides critical habitat for threatened species.</p> <p>We want to contribute and work towards strengthening our nature and environmental laws and have positive environmental outcomes from both considered and current climate-smart solutions. We all have a responsibility to provide a sustainable plan for future generations.</p>
Robert Jack	<p>I am compelled to submit feedback on this critically important policy in the hope that it will stop the rapid deterioration of Perth’s unique urban environment, as well as WA’s equally unique rural Flora & Faunal zones.</p> <p>I feel I was indoctrinated into the power of the natural environment from birth. While initially growing up in a pine plantation in NE Victoria, for my first 5 years, the bush became my main source of learning and a constant source of comfort. I learned to love the peaceful reassurance that nature offered, unaware of its complex associations and dependencies. I also became aware of the extraordinary lack of value that most people seemed to place on what I considered ‘significant vegetation and environmental areas’. This subsequently encouraged me to take action, when I felt that I could protect these increasingly vulnerable elements from our unsustainable use of our planet’s finite resources.</p> <p>Since moving to WA in 1996, one of my regular adventures involved exploring the natural wonders on show in your wildflower season. The awesome spectacle of seeing carpets of everlastings, versus the thrill of finding 20 varieties of orchids, kangaroo paws, Leschenaultia in the more temperate southern regions is unique and to be highly valued. Especially now, during a period of strong spring growth, where we are overwhelmed by the diversity & abundance of</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>wildflowers, delighted and reassured by the piercing calls of gangs of Carnabies, Magpies, Cockatoos, Wattle birds that live in or depend upon the Tuarts, Marri, Banksias, Hop bush, we are reminded of the value of such assets.</p> <p>We must undertake to preserve what remains of such unique environments, through mechanisms such as those proposed in the Native Vegetation Policy. Protect critically important State Forests, significant vegetation corridors in road reserves and farmland for the community and future generation’s enjoyment. On my regular drives down south, say on the South Western Highway, I feel a great sense of trepidation when I see magnificent 100 year old Tuart, Karri, Marri’s with red tape on them. This signifies MRWA’s desire to sacrifice such an irreplaceable asset for the sake of an outdated design template, rather than seek ways to protect it and their vehicle driving customers. I acknowledge that we need to provide for a growing community’s demand for goods & services, food supply, commercial logistics, expanding domestic and tourist access to this unique & vulnerable environment, however not at the further loss of these natural links and biodiverse hot spots.</p>
Robyn McElroy	<p>Also environmental weeds are a serious threat to the survival of native species and not enough funding is being set aside to tackle this very serious problem. Every person in this State should be making a contribution by way of a levy or through taxation to help this situation and a range of people should be employed to work through the issues to protect our very precious flora.</p>
Roz Osborne	<p>My husband spent his childhood in Toodyay (WA) playing with scorpions, learning to swim in the dam and going outdoors to play at sunrise and coming home only when he was hungry. My childhood was somewhat different, living close to to London (UK), and where you had to drive to find green space.</p> <p>We are so lucky to now live in a place of such biodiversity in Gidgegannup (WA), where the opportunities for my little ones to be explorers, Michelin star mud-pie makers, to play hide and seek in 100-year-old gumtrees and to splash around in Noble Falls are endless. I want my children and their children to be able to learn their numbers by counting cockatoos, as well as kindness and compassion by helping our neighbourhood bobtail lizards, ducklings and echidnas cross the country roads safely. It frightens me to think that this could be destroyed by tonnes of asphalt if the EastLink WA highway is approved for construction, and the irreparable damage that could be caused to the place that we all call home.</p> <p>Living in such a beautiful and abundant environment for the past decade has contributed greatly to who I am today. Aside from the health benefits of open space and clean air, I have been able to meet like-minded people in the community through a shared love of the outdoors as well learning so much from nurturing plants, vegetables, and rescue animals to not only survive but thrive. I would never have thought this possible growing up, and firmly believe that everyone deserves the same chance to awaken a love of the natural world and connect to all that it offers us. We not only owe it to ourselves, but also to future generations, to protect our home among the gumtrees.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
Sally Lambe	<p>Recently my husband and I headed down to the southwest. This was where we chose to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. Mount Frankland was a highlight. Just getting there was a highlight as the road took us through magnificent Karri forest. As we arrived at the carpark I was immediately struck by the great display and variety of wildflowers. So incredibly pretty! Mount Frankland, I was to discover, is a huge granite monolith. A steep climb to the summit was certainly worth the effort; the 360 degree views were breathtaking. I tried to imagine what a day's work would be like for the fire spotting person ensconced up there, or , what devastation a wild fire would do to precious Karri, Jarrah and Tingle, not to mention the wildlife.....In contrast to the wild windy summit, the walk around the base was awe inspiring for a different reason - the calmness, peace, bird sounds, freshness of the air, the myriads of wildflowers, the grandeur of the trees - filled me with a sense of joy and well-being.</p>
Sally Marsh	<p>As Convenor of the Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc. I have been authorised to speak on behalf of this group in this submission.</p> <p>The Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc. (CCWC) in Western Australia comprises over 200 members and supporters. Our vision is to achieve “A conserved and enhanced bushland and wildlife corridor that connects the Beeliam Wetlands with the Indian Ocean” [link removed]. The people in this group know only too well how easily and quickly mature trees and bushland habitat can be lost. Our community watched the destruction by bulldozer of over 90 hectares of banksia woodland (a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) – Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain) in the summer of 2016-17 until the destruction was halted in March 2017 with the election of a Labor government.</p> <p>Our group is actively involved in the rehabilitation and protection of this bushland and we now have an excellent awareness of how much money and effort over a long period of time is required to restore lost habitat. And yet it is still under threat. Sections of the land are yet to be removed from the Metropolitan Regional Schedule, and if it were to be, it is being eyed off by developers for housing, and by local Councils for housing, transport hubs, roads, parking lots and playing fields. The significance of this urban corridor in the context of regional connectivity of remnant vegetation in the Perth area (de Marco 2003) has been clearly identified by Zelinova (2020).</p> <p>"As retention of natural areas that provide close to continuous link between conservation areas is listed as priority, establishing an ecological linkage within lands previously reserved as road reserve in the MRS (known as Roe 8 and 9) provides the best option for connecting Beeliam Regional Park to the coastal bushland reserves."</p> <p>With the passing of the Beeliam Bill the protection of the Corridor land east of North Lake road is assured, but we will still need to advocate strongly for protection of the envisioned bushland corridor through to South Beach. This will be the major challenge facing us in the short to medium term.</p> <p>State environmental laws should be strong enough to protect urban remnant vegetation that meet criteria as TECs (Banksia woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain and Tuart woodlands) and habitat for a critically endangered species</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>(Carnaby’s Cockatoo - <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) which feed on banksia woodlands, and also ensure permanent protection of Bush Forever sites. Our group of volunteers have been GPS mapping the tuarts and banksia in the remnant bushland in the corridor to identify areas that meet TEC criteria. Providing this type of data should be our best defence against the loss of significant bushland remnants in our corridor, along with its connectivity value, but both seem to be easily ignored or dismissed by decision makers.</p> <p>The ongoing loss of endangered Carnaby’s Cockatoo habitat is disturbing. This bird is listed as an endangered species by the Federal government and “specially protected fauna” by the WA government, due to much of its habitat being fragmented and threatened by ongoing land clearing and development. Remnant cockatoo habitat in the Perth metropolitan area is under continuous threat from development: for example 0.67 ha of mature tuart trees in the recent High St upgrade (now lost); a significant cockatoo roost in the proposed Yule Brook industrial development (now lost); proposed housing development by UWA in the Underwood Rd bush used as a Carnaby’s foraging area (still being planned), loss of Banksia woodland "Bush Forever" for the Cockburn rail extension (approved to go ahead); planned harvesting over the next 2 years of the Gnangara pine plantation feeding area and mega-roost site, to mention just a few. Developers will always claim that they are meeting offset requirements but providing suitable offset for both Banksia woodland and Carnaby’s habitat is extremely difficult if not impossible in the Perth metropolitan area.</p> <p>Too much remnant bushland in the Perth metropolitan area is being lost. The CCWC are very worried about the ongoing threats to our wildlife and urban bushland that we are seemingly unable to influence despite our best efforts. Our concerns are echoed by environmental community groups working to protect wildlife and bushland habitat throughout Western Australia. We feel that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State environmental regulations are currently not adequately protecting or restoring the environment e.g. there is continued loss of habitat and species, often from legal land clearing in addition to illegal clearing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to not only protect landscape and habitat, but also to restore habitat in a poor ecological state. • There needs to be better cooperation between Federal, State, and Local government and consistency in regulations to protect the environment. • Consideration needs to be given as to environmental regulations can be strengthened to protect the extent and condition of our environment, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better processes for monitoring and auditing of EPA approvals, • review and overhaul of the offset process, with responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation to be clearly defined, • extending the scope of funding to focus beyond single species to habitats and landscapes, • better records of what is being lost, and the cumulative impacts of this on TECs and endangered species – data for landscape/habitat perspectives are needed.

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>We would like to see a more ambitious approach by the State government toward the protection of precious remnant urban bushland, as well as native vegetation throughout the state.</p> <p>For example: Values: The significance of the biodiversity of native vegetation in the southwest of WA is under-stated and does not refer to its status as one of 35 globally recognised biodiversity hotspots ‘for conservation priority because it is under threat’. Opportunities: There is an opportunity to shift the focus to positive protection and care of our unique native vegetation. Native vegetation is under threat, it cannot keep being depleted. Protection of our native vegetation should include an overall policy of no further clearing in the Wheatbelt, and no further clearing on the Swan Coastal Plain.</p> <p>To illustrate how our community values and wishes to care for and protect urban bushland I've included below quotes from myself and 3 of our members:</p> <p>Lou: I feel very strongly connected to the local bushland and feel compelled to work to protect it for its own sake and for the enjoyment of our community and generations to come. It really is an amazing stretch of remnant bushland – the largest East-West corridor on the Swan Coastal plain, making it very important for maintaining biodiversity (especially within species genetic variation). The SW of WA is a Biodiversity hotspot and it's very important to preserve what precious little bushland is left. We advocate for the bush by working with public servants and politicians at all levels of government; we run educational and community building workshops; we do physical work in the bush with weeding, mapping, planting and watering programs; we engage in outreach to schools. I feel positive about the future for the Corridor because there is broad support from community and government for its protection.</p> <p>Rob: Over the past 4 years, one of my regular (bimonthly) nurturing nature experiences has been through a group of volunteers formed following the senseless destruction of a unique section of urban bushland in Hamilton Hill in 2016/17. Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor (CCWC) undertake to preserve what remains of this vulnerable environment, re-establish the many significant specimens that were lost and maintain this important urban bushland for the enjoyment of the community and future generations. I gain immense satisfaction from my association and fortnightly activities with CCWC, which include control/ removal of weeds, collection of native seed, infill planting of endemic species and the general nurturing of a small 2ha lot bounded by Stock & Forest Roads. These often seemingly labouring tasks are made most satisfying by the power of nature to recover from such adversity. Especially now during the spring growth period, we are overwhelmed by the diversity & abundance of wildflowers (orchids, wattles, hibbertia, cotton heads, kangaroo paws, daisies) as well as the need to address the abundance of weeds (gladdies, freesias, veldt & rye grasses). We are regularly delighted and reassured by the piercing calls of gangs of Carnaby’s cockatoos, magpies, Red-tailed cockatoos, and wattle birds that live in or fossick in the Tuarts, Marri, Banksias, Hop bush.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Contrasting with this idyllic environment are the sounds and smells of the heavy vehicle traffic that moves through this suburb via Stock Rd. Such necessary commercial logistics, together with the environmental footprint of our domestic commutes & consumption, underline for me the vital importance of retaining these natural links and biodiversity hot spots.</p> <p>Lizzie: In recent years I have become active with a community group (CCWC) in rehabilitating land in Cockburn that provides an essential wildlife corridor from wetlands to the sea. Sections of this land were razed to the ground in 2016/17 to make way for a highway, destruction that was stopped by a newly elected government. I have come to really love the Corridor bush and its inhabitants opposite my home, and to love the bush everywhere else on the Corridor when I work there. I love watching the land changing and seeing bushes, trees and plants and the diverse ecology they attract, flourishing. I love the resilience of the bush now growing ferociously again and attracting bees, birds, butterflies, and small mammals again. I am one of the co-ordinators of CCWC’s bushcare team, and several bushcare volunteers have commented that they love the bushcare mornings and feeling connected to the land and the elements – a feeling of wellbeing which can last all day for some! And of course, our bushcare activities allow native vegetation to grow and flourish, and in so doing to provide homes and food for native fauna, right here in the Perth metropolitan area. In this time of rampant environmental destruction and its very real impact on climate change, so many species of fauna, flora and insect life across the globe are threatened with extinction. Working for the Corridor is one way that I can show care for and honour the land and its inhabitants.</p> <p>Sally: I am a passionate advocate for the need to protect Perth’s remaining urban bushland – too much has been lost and continues to be lost. As a South Fremantle resident I have been involved with working for CCWC’s vision of a bushland corridor from Bibra Lake to the Indian Ocean (from wetlands to waves) since the summer of 2016/17. The proposed Corridor has the potential to become a truly unique 10 km bushland east-west link over several different ecological zones. It connects in the east with the Beeliar Regional Park, and in the west with the coastal dune bushland of Manning Park. Environmental corridors provide important avenues for wildlife movement and seed dispersal. They are like the hallways of a house – connecting important rooms that are our parks and remnant bushland areas. In addition, the Corridor is important to me because of the strong community which loves this bushland and has fought for its protection for many years as a valuable natural community asset. And finally, the Corridor is important to me because of the significant Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the area which I believe should be acknowledged and respected.</p> <p>Specifically, we support the Urban Bushland Council's suggestions that the that the Outcomes be modified to be stronger in intent and thus better deliver net gain in native vegetation as follows: Outcome 1: Native vegetation is protected and restored with no further loss in a biodiversity hotspot.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>Outcome 2: Certainty, transparency and data sharing are best practice and adequately funded. This is an urgent outcome in the protection of native vegetation</p> <p>Outcome 4: Native vegetation outcomes are achieved. “Other State priorities” have already had due consideration and should not be included in this Outcome. It is time to act for native vegetation.</p> <p>Additionally, many citizens are working on the front line to protect bushland in the Perth urban area. Local people are knowledgeable about habitat, bush condition and the use by fauna of specific bushland areas. They can add valuable information that augments expert advice, and ground-truth claims made in approval applications but local knowledge is too often ignored or disregarded, to the detriment of decisions affecting our urban bushland.</p>
Sara Botten	<p>Living in Gidgegannup for many years has given me a deep appreciation for the unique and beautiful yet fragile natural environment we are lucky to experience. Each morning walk amongst the bush on our property and enjoy the wildlife that is coexisting with us in this beautiful setting. We have a regular flock of Carnaby Cockatoos along with red and white breasted robins, magpies, wrens, wattle birds. We often see birds of pretty right down to tiny splendid Fairy Wrens. The environment is teeming with life and a pleasure to enjoy each day. On weekends I enjoy walks in John Forest, Bells Rapids, Avon Valley National Park, Berry Reserve and many other reserves and areas of natural vegetation. They provide a beautiful opportunity to enjoy the natural environment and I feel its value is ever increasing. Having walked in these areas for many years never have I seen so many people enjoying this special environment than I have seen in the last 12 months. The desire and appreciation for the natural environment and need for its preservation has never been clearer.</p> <p>Recently I have been made aware of the proposed clearing of vegetation associated with the Eastlink Main Roads project. This project is set to dissect our wonderful property and destroy much native flora and fauna as well as hundreds of hectares along its route. Our tranquil peace of paradise is set to become a grade separated freeway providing a freight route for majority of freight traffic leaving and entering WA. While I respect the need for development, I hold critical concerns of the process involved in environmental assessment for this and other road infrastructure projects as well as the justification of this destruction without consideration of the consequences in an ill-defined business case. Once this vegetation is gone it is gone yet it appears the consequences of this are not considered in the assessment and business case process. This doesn't just shock me but genuinely horrifies me.</p> <p>Recently I was lucky to watch a presentation at the UWA Centre for Business Analytics Conference highlighting the incredible work the WA Department of Water and Regulation highlighting the fantastic work being done using Artificial Intelligence to develop an algorithm that applies a layer to regularly updated satellite mapping to identify areas of land cleared illegally. This included the ability to identify land down to a farmer clearing a single tree within weeks of it occurring. While that work is admirable and I find it frustrating that is it possible to do this with such precision to prevent</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>farmers from clearing a tree yet acceptable for road infrastructure to destroy hundreds of hectares of vegetation unquestioned.</p> <p>We must place more value on the preservation of the natural environment. Once it is gone, it is gone! My recent experiences with the Eastlink Project have taught me a lot about the environmental assessment and I am horrified at the extent of vegetation clearing that is left unquestioned in the desire for development. I do not feel these policies reflect the expectations from the community to protect the natural environment. Protection policies must change faster to reflect the attitudes of the public in ways that provide tangible outcomes.</p>
Simon McKinley	<p>I've called Western Australia home for 6 years now after moving from the east coast. I have been lucky to travel north and south on several occasions and I'm constantly in awe at the landscapes and biodiversity that I see. Natural areas give me a much-needed escape from the stress and business of life living in an urban area near a city. When I travel to spend time Western Australia's natural areas I am able to rest and reconfigure my mind to survive work harder when I return home. Whether half an hour away in the Nature Reserves of the Perth's hills, or long 16-hour drives to national parks like Karijini, these areas make Western Australia what it is and what I, my friends, family and many others, cherish. I want to raise a family in Western Australia one day and I want to know now that they have the opportunity to experience the incredible nature that this state has. Nature and biodiversity are so vitally important, please protect as much as humanly possible to preserve them</p>
Simone Clement	<p>Serpentine Falls is one of the most scenic nature sites closest to our family home. We are always at peace when we visit and are able to hear and see the babbling brooks, the vivid colours of the animals, birds and flowers, the rush of the waterfalls and the beautiful natural plantations really encapsulate a cross-section of what the Serpentine Jarrahdale region has to offer. Ever since we moved into the area, we have always loved visiting the site as a family to relax and reconnect with nature and each other. As my family comprises of working professionals and busy students who often spend 18+ hours of their day studying and working in front of a computer screen, it is vital to our mental and physical health and wellbeing to take some time off technological devices and spend time in and amongst nature.</p> <p>Numerous studies show the impact that activities and recreation in nature can have on our health and the less of these sites there are, the less likely it would be to find one in your local area and therefore spending time in nature would be more difficult. This site is home to a lot of our local wildlife and this location is their natural habitat. If this were to be destroyed a lot of the natural ecosystem in the area would be disturbed and much of the local flora and fauna would have to be relocated or would be lost. Whatever aspects left behind would be at risk of contamination. It is important that we make every effort to preserve this precious piece of nature.</p>
Stephanie Jones	<p>I was born and bred traversing the world's nature spaces. I was familiar with the natural lands and vegetation of three continents before I was 12 years old. Africa, England and Australia. What strikes me when I look back is how different they all are.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>In Western Australia, as in all countries, we have our unique forests, vegetations and landscapes. These are so incredibly different to other countries, even the other states and territories. For this reason alone it is valuable. It is valuable to us, to who we are and where we are from. It is valuable to others who seek to know more about our landscapes and wish to travel here. It is valuable and vital for those animals, insects, birds that rely on it for survival. It is valuable as a resource which we will use in multiple ways to live and thrive. For these reasons, we need to look after it in all its uses. We can do that with clever thinking, and actions which may be different to our past actions. Mostly, we can look after it if we are all conscious of how valuable our lands and vegetations are.</p>
Sue Radford	<p>To whom it may concern As we who are fortunate to live here know so well, our flora is one of the most stunning, bio diverse and unique in the world. It is beautiful and can be locally abundant. But the moving baseline means we gradually get used to losing more and more of it without really noticing. Death by 1000 cuts. I am seeking to provide feedback on the consultation draft for the native vegetation policy for Western Australia, which was released on 30 August 2021.</p>
Tanya Jasinski	<p>PS. I live in Carabooda amongst the Kookaburras, Quendas , Kangaroos ,Echidna's, Blue Wrens, Red Robins. I realize how close suburbia is , and no one realizes what they are destroying as we make way for progress. I refer to most recently the Romeo Road extension to the Mitchell Freeway in Perth. My heart ached , as i drove past each day to see them clearing trees that were hundreds of years old. Initially i thought all the trees that were taped were going to be saved, but NO one afternoon coming home i almost stopped my car backing up traffic as i witnessed them pushing down my trees. I felt like that man in the machine needed telling, couldn't understand why he didn't realize what he was losing, what we all are losing. But because society lives in blocks as small as 191m2, they have no recollection of how it was. These animals have no where to go, the black cockatoos that feed on the Banksias. When you knock down a forest you ruin the Eco System, that's why you can't grow much of a vege garden in suburbia as the pests out weigh the birds. Here there is still enough of a balance although we have market gardens around us there is still enough for all to live. When will a government realize we need a plan that recognizes the value of what we have. Look at Banksia Grove, absolutely nothing left of the Banksia wall to wall houses. How will we get Oxygen in the future?? One of the main things we can do is protect the Fora and Fauna and keep corridors linking areas for movement of Animals, like they are trying to do In NSW with the Koalas . re treeing Farmer"s land . This is thanks to some amazing Human beings who are out there doing it talking to people. Please think there is so much bio diversity so close to Suburbia.</p>
Terry Brown	<p>I am retired and have always worked with the land. Initially as 4th generation farmer and later when I moved to Perth as an irrigation specialist. I know how critical the native vegetation and land conservation is. I remember in my 20s a whole host of land was opened up in the wheatbelt. My parents, farmers all their lives, said to their dying day how devastating that was and the changes it wrought to the rainfall in the area. It really was devastating. This area should have been left alone. My brother still owns a farm in Hyden and I love going out there still. The silence is incredible, and you can see every star in the sky. There is a bit of woodland but mainly grassland and salmon gums. Its probably what most people think of when they think of Australia.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

Name	Additional comments
	<p>I moved to Perth a long time ago, and I live on a few acres. I still grow my own fruit and vegetables, I am currently a member of the Bee Society and we have all noticed that our bee hives are increasingly struggling due to insufficient feed, pollen from native trees especially, for our bees. The loss of habitat from bushland and forests is having a massive effect. Just one example in our daily lives is the Carnaby Black Cockatoo. Growing up, I saw massive flocks, then 20 years ago, I saw this diminish to seeing 50 or so flying over our property - now we see less than 10 flying over. I was also horrified to learn that logging is still occurring in our old growth native forests. I thought this all ended in 2001. I honestly can't believe that there are loopholes/inadequate legal definitions that allowed this to occur and I hope this new policy addresses this and preserves our magnificent karri and jarrah trees.</p>
William Edge	<p>Spending time among WA's native vegetation is a valuable state pastime that we must protect. I recently visited Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary and was reminded of the beauty of Australia's native flora and fauna. Spending time in undisturbed nature such as this was a relaxing and restorative experience. I think that more than ever we are realizing how important nature is for our health and well-being. Add to that all of nature's other benefits and I believe it's clear that we must do all that we can to minimize future damage to existing native vegetation and begin the process of restoring areas that we can.</p>

The Wilderness Society Ltd – Take a minute for WA’s native vegetation

List of campaign submitters

Name of submitter	
Anna DeLany	Louis de Villiers
Ava Irani	Mark Phipson
Bart Lebbing	Matthew Codd-Aurish
Brooke Witheridge	Meg O'Hara
Carilyn Maree	Melanie Fraser
Cassidy Marino	Murray Johnson
Diana Blacklock	Murray Radestock
Diana Corbyn	Niamh Keelan-Wake
Elizabeth Barton	Nicole Brown
Felix Nicholls	Paige Heath
Fiona Wheeler	Patrick Wake
Gavin Mackay	Ratna Sulastin
George Crisp	Ray Swarts
Gwyneth Dean	Ray Tauss
Hazel Law	Rebecca Zwaal
Helen Brown	Remi Lane
Helen Brown (second submission)	Rethink EastLink
Holly Cranwell	Robert Jack
Hozefa Daginawala	Robyn McElroy
Indianna Daniels	Roz Osborne
Iziah Wallace	Sally Lambe
Jenny Thomas	Sally Marsh
Jo Gunning	Sara Botten
Joel Thomasson	Simon McKinley
Jonathan Price	Simone Clement
Katie Helps	Stephanie Jones
Kaye Barr	Sue Radford
Kenny Ruellot	Tanya Jasinski
Kriti Bajracharya	Terry Brown
Liam Lilly	William Edge
Lisabeth Finn	