

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Biodiversity Legislation Review Questionnaire' with the responses below.

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[REDACTED]

Theme 1: Objects and principles for biodiversity conservation

Check box to view and respond to questions

Should there be an aspirational goal for biodiversity conservation?

Of course! Everyone should take their part - it should be part of being a responsible citizen and introduced early into our schools.

Given available evidence about the value and state of the environment, are the existing legislative objects still valid? Do the current objects align with international and national frameworks, agreements, laws, obligations? If not, what objects are required?

The framework should be very general and simple for everyone to understand: to understand that it is the little things that make the difference. For every individual to pay daily attention to keeping their environment free of rubbish and chipping others who don't, to have strong respect for every living thing plants and animals, to save on power, on resources of every kind, to believe in our effect on world resources and climate, to attempt to make amends for our misdemeanors of the past, growing trees, minimising our use of power and other natural resources, picking up rubbish, speaking out and teaching others about respect for the environment, being an example to others in our behaviours not in a religious sense but in a practical and proud sense.

To what extent are the current objects being met?

The current laws and regulations are unfathomable. Otherwise, there is a start but in general people put money-making before thought of the environment and are rewarded for it. People are little-rewarded for respect and engagement. For people like us at the end of a life of fitness find it extremely difficult to keep up what we have set as our environment obligations of spraying and digging weeds, culling rabbits, environmental fencing, and maintaining clear and clear waterways.

Could the objects of the current laws be simplified and integrated? If so, how?

Yes. Stating aims for the environment, conservation and biodiversity in an overarching document for national and state implementation with specific ecosystems having their own set of regulations. Solutions ensconced in education and practical applications such as school gardens, friends of national parks and forests, community work for unemployed and gaol inmates to earn credit for tree planting and other conservation and biodiversity works. A paid

Land Army of trained conservationists to train the newcomers who may also be a National Service of Land Army recruits who could move from public/private conservation block to help out with required works. [The Australian Conservation Volunteers Canberra and elsewhere have a form of this with unpaid environmental volunteers from overseas and Australia.]

Theme 2: Conservation action

Check box to view and respond to questions

Is the current system effective in encouraging landowners to generate public benefits from their land and rewarding them as environmental stewards? Or are current mechanisms too focused on requiring private landowners to protect ecosystem services and biodiversity at their own cost?

Current mechanisms are very focused on people protecting ecosystems at their own cost because not enough government money or resources such as manpower have been dedicated to it. It is an expensive exercise as many of us have found without the skills to rally other willing helpers around

Are there elements of the current system for private land conservation that raise impediments (for example, binding nature of agreements and potential loss of production) for individuals who want to manage their land for conservation? If so what are they? What incentives might be effective, efficient and equitable in promoting biodiversity conservation on private land?

Agreements need to be binding and providing they are thought out with a view to future options, such as setting aside a portion of land for production and/or subdivision, this may not be a problem. The promise of a group of trained people to assist two or three times a year with labour, and some contribution each year to the funding of fencing requirements (if any) or to chemical costs as well as the requirement to take part in such operations should suffice to make people interested in biodiversity conservation on private land. Ongoing professional assistance as to what needs to be done would also help. We think that the time for paying private landholders for maintaining conservation blocks is fast approaching... an amount per annum per hectare of biodiversity would be an equitable way to fund this, which would help pay for fencing and tool replacements, and required chemicals.

What should be the role of organisations and bodies, such as the Nature Conservation Trust, in facilitating and managing private land conservation through mechanisms such as conservation and biobanking agreements?

Training of personnel, provision of trees, provision of personnel to advise and work with private landholders.

How should the government determine priorities for its investment in biodiversity conservation while enabling and encouraging others (e.g. community groups) to contribute to their own biodiversity conservation priorities?

Managing their own national parks and forests efficiently and within conservation values, primarily. Tie community involvement in with unemployment and community volunteers with a reward system for participation.

How can the effectiveness of conservation programs be monitored and evaluated?

Outcomes in terms of personal and group behaviour and commitment in schools etc, group participation and strength of involvement (outside of schools), the number of organisations and private landholders becoming involved, improvement to degraded ecosystems, including waterways, in terms of measured biodiversity.

How should any tradeoffs be assessed?

Don't know what this means.

To what extent is the system forward looking or dealing with legacy impacts?

Don't know what this means.

To what extent does current practice (rather than the legislation) determine outcomes?

Community interest, community participation, the participation of respected individuals, positive news coverage about current activities (not just news coverage about police intervention etc), committed and effective teaching in schools.

Theme 3: Conservation in land use planning

Check box to view and respond to questions

How effective are current arrangements at ensuring biodiversity values are identified early and properly considered in strategic planning systems? How can they be improved?

Not very effective. By ensuring that local councils and state government entities have no conflict of interest and have personnel who believe in conservation and biodiversity

How effective are current arrangements for delivering strategic outcomes for biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services? How can they be improved?

Again, ensuring no conflict of interest at all levels of government. Training of a Land Services Army of conservation personnel and workers using community personnel who are interested and who want to assist in this area.

How should the effectiveness of strategic planning approaches be monitored and evaluated?

This is not our area of expertise.

Theme 4: Conservation in development approval processes

Check box to view and respond to questions

To what extent has the current framework created inconsistent assessment processes, environmental standards, offset practices and duplicative rules? What can be done to harmonise processes?

Aims, regulations and laws that apply nationally and state and territory-wide.

Can we have a single, integrated approach to the approval of all forms of development, including agricultural development, that is proportionate to the risks involved? If yes, should one methodology (or a harmonised methodology) be used to assess all impacts? Does a need remain for some differences in assessment approaches?

Yes. Yes, as a general rule, but there does need to be the equivalent of a tribunal of disinterested parties to make final decisions in some difficult areas. A Prime Minister should not have a final decision on what should happen to/in a national park, for example. The burden of proof should be on the person/enterprise making an application for a development, not on a government or a conservation body trying to protect a conservation area.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different biodiversity assessment methodologies? Are the rules transparent and consistent? Is the way data is used to underpin decisions transparent? Do the assessment methodologies appropriately accommodate social and economic values?

This is not our expertise.

Does the regulatory system adequately protect listed threatened species, populations and ecological communities? Is there utility in specifically protecting these entities through the regulatory system?

No. Yes.

Are there other models (international or Australian) that regulate activities impacting on biodiversity that may be relevant to NSW?

This is not our expertise.

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Not our expertise.

To what extent has the current regulatory system resulted in lost development opportunities and/or prevented innovative land management practices?

Not our expertise.

Some impacts cannot be offset. What are they? Are these appropriately addressed in approval systems? What is the relevance of social and economic benefits of projects in considering these impacts?

Reduction in biodiversity, whether plants or animals. cannot be offset at all!

How can offsets be more strategically located?

Don't know.

Are there areas currently regulated that would be better left to self-regulatory codes of practice or accreditation schemes?

Don't know.

Theme 5: Wildlife management

Check box to view and respond to questions

Have the threats to biodiversity posed by: (a) people taking animals and plants from the wild, (b) feral animals and weeds, and (c) illegally imported species, been effectively managed?

No. A start but no. People need assistance to help eradicate feral animals and weeds. the effect of removing or adding species is not currently well-understood... again, needs to be better included in early education.

Has the NPW Act and the supporting policy framework led to a positive change in the welfare of native animals (captive and free-living)? What role if any should the government have in ensuring the welfare of individual native animals – particularly where there are already stand-alone welfare laws such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?

Government should have a strong role.

Has the NPW Act and the supporting policy framework led to a positive change in the welfare of native animals (captive and free-living)? What role if any should the government have in ensuring the welfare of individual native animals – particularly where there are already stand-alone welfare laws such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?

No Answer

Are the provisions for marine mammals effective?

Pollution is an unregulated area.

Is the current framework for wildlife licensing, offences and defences, including those applying to threatened species, easily understood? Is the current licensing system too complex? How can it be improved and simplified to focus on conservation outcomes?

Education in schools. Visits to schools by educators.

Is there currently appropriate regulation for the sustainable use and trade of wildlife?

Not our expertise.

Theme 6: Information provisions

Check box to view and respond to questions

What information should be generated about the different kinds of value (for example, monetary and intrinsic value) of biodiversity and other natural assets in NSW?

Include in school curriculum.

What type, quality and frequency of data should be collected about biodiversity? Who should be responsible for such a system?

Biology schools in universities, in combination with Dept of Environment.

Is current data about biodiversity highly credible and readily accessible? If not, how can quality and access be improved?

Online education units for all levels of schooling.

How effective is the threatened species listing process (including the listing of key threatening processes) in guiding subsequent conservation action?

Don't know.

Should threatened species listing decisions be decoupled from decisions on conservation actions (including recovery planning) and regulatory processes?

Don't know.

To what extent, if any, does having national and state lists of threatened species cause confusion, regulatory burden or duplication of conservation effort? How could national and state lists be rationalised?

Don't know.

To what extent is the identification of critical habitat an effective tool for biodiversity conservation? Should we list critical habitat for more species where relevant and useful?

Yes. Very good.

Should private conservation data be collected and if so how?

Yes, why not ? dept of Environment and universities.

Other comments

This questionnaire is too long.

