

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

Name

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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. Without goals, little is achieved for the longtime biodiversity and survival of threatened species

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?

Early in Australia's Colonisation there were efforts by scientists such as Sir Joseph Banks to record, draw and catalogue plant species, many samples of which remain in care in Botanical Gardens collections. Unfortunately, also marking our colonisation of the Great South Land has been ungoing, rapacious development including land clearing for agriculture and extractive industries such as mining of precious metals and other minerals for local use and for overseas trade, all largely motivated for profit and immediate financial gain with scant consideration of the biological impacts or longer term survival of species, plant, animal or human.

To what extent are the current objects being met?

Not well at all. Development continues to be mindless, rapacious and profit driven.

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

Probably but I am not a lawyer so to make suggestions would be presumptuous but laws should be accessible, written in plain English and based on the KISS principle.

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?

Largely at their own cost.

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?

Biodiversity credits. Conservation costs and lost income to be subsidised. Large unmanageable tracts of land to be reduced to manageable proportions.

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?

Assist, advise and support NOT dictate or confront dogmatically.

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?

Encourage and educate from Primary School upwards.

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

By annual goal setting and subsequent measurement maybe Five Year Plans as in India's Green Revolution.

How should any tradeoffs be assessed?

Openly, honestly and publicly

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

Has to be always based on stewardship for future of all.

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

Always. Good practice has good and beneficial outcomes.

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?

Genuine consultation as in Landcare programs and by encouraging community involvement. Tasks often too onerous for single landowner who probably needs physical support and

encouragement to repair damage eg replanting where earlier landclearing has led to soil erosion and major damage to watercourses and pastures.

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

Good field officers to advise not punish for past mistakes based on ignorance.

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

As in all other instances by well conceived processes of measurement appropriate to the problem to be solved and based on standard evaluation techniques.

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?

Consult and communicate openly what the problems are and seek to raise awareness and promote widespread interest in the issues.

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?

No Quick Fix. One size does not fit all. Local solutions for local problems but overall consistency and fairness.

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?

Could not say.

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?

Apparently, pretty slack regulatory framework based on individual self interest and laissez-faire capitalism.

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

Undoubtedly research can yield evidence from other similar experiences in developed and developing countries alike. Important to identify best practice and adapt and emulate rather than reinvent the wheel.

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

Species specific reclamation and protection through zoos, specific programs eg Asian elephants, pandas, rhinoceros breeding programs, Bengal tigers to name a few.

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

By taking a punitive rather than supportive approach.

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?

Attitudes and beliefs underpin behaviour. Believing that there are no conservation values more important than profits is a very destructive belief system both short and long term. Haste makes Waste. This world's resources are not limitless. We waste today at the expense of our tomorrows for our children and their children.

How can offsets be more strategically located?

Locally and regionally. No point in shoving our responsibilities for our own neglect and waste onto other nations.

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

Could not say.

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?

Customs etc were doing good job but not sufficiently resourced now and attention being focused on drugs etc

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?

Could not say

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?

These measures are not widely communicated to the general public. Like Neighbourhood Watch, individuals and communities need to be mobilised to take an active role in ensuring the well being of native animals and why it is important to protect their habitat. They had prior occupation of the land.

Are the provisions for marine mammals effective?

Just look at what is happening to our Great Barrier Reef. How was this allowed to happen? Who is responsible? How can they be brought to account for this scandalous and wanton destruction?

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?

Do not know. I do not own a gun and do not wilfully go out to kill other species.

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

Think it exists but do not know how effective it is in detection and prosecution of those who are trying to trade illegally. Would need to get the facts to make intelligent assessment of the situation.

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?

We all need to be taught about the intrinsic value from childhood on. How we inculcate values which rise above personal interest and greed is another challenge for widespread educational programs. We each have one brief life on our fragile planet and we all need to be encouraged to leave things in a better condition than we found them. Really pretty simple proposition.

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

As much data as possible. Initially Local Government and Community based groups working collaboratively.

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

Do not know what currently exists or where. Improvements will take time and Federal and State Governments and politicians with vision based on conservation values. Not the majority of those who are in the pockets of big business interests as we have at present. Mostly myopic, ego-driven and self-absorbed more interested in short-term power and political survival than anything of lasting value. There are, however, some who thankfully do have deep concerns for the things that really matter. These are worth their weight in gold.

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

Probably at least identifying those already in crisis but the issues should be known so as to stop lurching from crisis to crisis.

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

Why?

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?

One system, one umbrella policy structure with opportunities for local and regional input. Interactive rather than unilateral communication processes and only people working in this vital area who have genuine commitment and concern.

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?

Very critical. Yes.

Should private conservation data be collected and if so how?

If possible. Locally by willing volunteers in their own gardens and local bushland. Not everyone has the skills or encouragement. What to do to utilise those who do?

Other comments

Wow. Quite a questionnaire. Best wishes, Lyn Maciver