

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

Name

Ross Floyd

Email address

[REDACTED]

Theme 1: Objects and principles for biodiversity conservation

No Answer

Should there be an aspirational goal for biodiversity conservation?

No Answer

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?

No Answer

To what extent are the current objects being met?

No Answer

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

No Answer

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?

As a landholder how has just gone through the process of setting aside a revegetation block. It only proceeded because I wanted to do it. The monetary return was a pittance and we only ended up with 2.5 ha not the original 9 to 10 ha, as I could afford to "lock up" that much ground. The advising of these schemes is flawed; they tell you can get \$6000 for your project only to be told that your "points systems" was not enough, hence you only get \$1800(the total amount for ten years, what a joke). After some discussion with the local CMA person I found out that no one gets the full amount because no farmer has any pristine land in the first place. So what is the scheme trying to do if not to assist the landholder?

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?

If you want private landholder to commit to conservation agree for a specified time you have to have remuneration on a yearly basis for that time. It is no having a once off payment and expecting the landholder to maintain the site with the ever increasing costs burden, over the specified time frame. Most farmers are conservationist (not greenies). They know how to manage the land, make use of this and reward them on the work that is done. (yearly review)

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?

I'm unsure about this, I do not know enough about Biobanking and I suppose that tells you something about the information not getting out there.

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?

It all comes down to money. The government has recently bought large scale farming land in central Australia to preserve a unique environment. While this on a very big scale, who and how is it managed. You have landholders that are on site 24/7 and who don't get the recognition or support for what they are trying to do. Large scale sites need to be preserved, but don't underestimate the smaller projects. Put in place a "management agreement" with the landholder. Set some milestones over the course of the scheme and monitor the outcomes. A year payment would make sure that this would happen as the landholder would know he or she was getting a set income.

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

Get the bureaucrats out of the office and in the field like they use to, some thirty years ago. That's what they are being paid for, by the tax payer. !!!!!

How should any tradeoffs be assessed?

Work completed - site maintained - yearly payment.

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

200 years of clearing, but sheep and cattle grazing are the main issue as no new seedlings survive. If something is not done to address this, the tree coverage you will have in 50 years will be wind breaks and National park areas. There will be a lot of bare paddocks. !!

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

Ha. How the politicians love to say that there has been a million trees planted. Ask them how many are still alive and they could tell you. It is no good just throwing money at an idea, you need to have set strategies and “on ground” management plans. Not some public servant telling you what you should be doing.

Theme 3: Conservation in land use planning

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

Theme 4: Conservation in development approval processes

No Answer

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?

No Answer

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 Answer

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?

No Answer

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 Answer

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

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No Answer

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

No Answer

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?

No Answer

How can offsets be more strategically located?

No Answer

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

No Answer

Theme 5: Wildlife management

No Answer

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 Answer

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?

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No Answer

Are the provisions for marine mammals effective?

No Answer

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?

No Answer

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

No Answer

Theme 6: Information provisions

No Answer

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?

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

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?

No Answer

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?

No Answer

Should private conservation data be collected and if so how?

No Answer

Other comments

No Answer