

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

Name

Greg Stone

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?

For the last five years I have worked with almost 50 landholders who have entered into OEH Conservation Agreements and Wildlife Refuges. All are committed to protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity as much as possible at their own cost, however for many the implementation of required management actions is difficult due to a lack of financial support from the government. As this financial support has gradually decreased to almost nothing over the last five years, it is now not possible to advise potential CA and WR landholders of any government support.

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?

In my experience, very few landholders entering into a CA have included (agriculturally) productive land within the conservation area. I have found that the binding nature of the agreements is considered as a positive element to the scheme, as most landholders desire to preserve the conservation area in-perpetuity. My overall impression gained from landholders who have had CAs for up to ten years is that they feel that the government has failed to provide ongoing support after the initial encouragement to sign up for agreements. Not only financial support, but in terms of resources and staff to provide advice, on-going training and education, and general encouragement. The major current impediment for individuals who want to manage their land for conservation are that that the government will offer little support once the agreement has been signed.

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?

If appropriately resourced and staffed, NCT could successfully fulfill these functions.

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?

No Answer

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

The effectiveness of conservation programs could be monitored and evaluated simply by committing sufficient resources to this. Currently only a small number of conservation programs are monitored, and this has been done in an ad hoc manner. I have visited CA properties which have existed for almost ten years for the purposes of monitoring, to be told that I have been the first person to do so since the CA was established. There are plenty of suitable MERI methods available, but the government commitment and resourcing has been poor.

How should any tradeoffs be assessed?

No Answer

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

No Answer

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

No Answer

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?

No Answer

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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