

Name

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### **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?**

I am one of a very small percentage of private landholders who have been willing to enter a voluntary in-perpetuity Conservation Agreement in NSW. With over 62% of land in NSW in private hands it is quite obvious there is no real incentive beyond personal gratification to protect and enhance the biodiversity values of private land. While I applaud the Native Vegetation Act, it has come at the expense of many a landholder. The tragedy at Croppa Creek comes to mind as does the plight of Peter Spencer. It is legislation which places value on a resource ( carbon sequestration abilities of native vegetation) and then proceeds to strip landowners of the opportunity to benefit from this resource. In effect landholders are expected to not only manage biodiversity at their own expense but are also expected to subsidize the rest of the economy by providing carbon offsets. How can this possibly be considered an effective way to expect land managers to protect the biodiversity values on their land.

**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?**

Without binding agreements that are in-perpetuity, the efforts of landowners can very quickly be negated when properties change ownership. Essential in obtaining a balance between productive land and land for conservation, is an emissions trading scheme, designed at a State level, which remunerates landowners for the intrinsic value of their native vegetation. Currently landowners are being asked to do all the lifting in the climate change stakes, while mining and manufacturing are outstanding in their leaning tendencies.

**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?**

No Answer

**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?**

Science should always be the ultimate decider in the how and the where. A robust fully funded scientific community is essential in determining priorities for conservation and to provide open and frank advice to other stakeholders.

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

OEH has the expertise and commitment to provide such a role, they just need the funding.

**How should any tradeoffs be assessed?**

No Answer

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

 we are constantly reminded of the failures of past land use practices. Acid sulphate soils, riparian degradation, salinity problems, deforestation, species extinction, feral animals and water pollution are just a few of the issues we tackle on a daily basis. While there are many in the community dedicated to tackling these issues, funding and resources are always in short supply.

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

No Answer

### **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 in my opinion. While some issues are dealt with at a micro level, I don't think the cumulative impacts on landscape values are properly considered.

**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**

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?**

While reasonably effective legislation is in place to provide protection for our biodiversity; enforcement and community consultation needs to be improved. As an example I live in a rural community with a feral pig problem, exacerbated by pig hunters who's main aim is to provide a continued supply of pigs for their sport. While the legislation is there to address the problem there is no manpower to enforce the legislation.

**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