

Main area or issues of interest:

Continued loss of habitat through lack of policing of existing FFG, NVR regulations and lack of monitoring of compliance with planning permit conditions.

Illegal clearing of native vegetation especially understorey.

Loss of paddock trees through attrition.

What are your major concerns about the health of the natural environment/biodiversity - please be as specific as you can:

i) In your area:

Fragmentation of remnant vegetation with a lack of cohesive landscape scale plans for maintaining connectivity.

Displacement of native understorey by weed invasion.

Lack of public and local government knowledge of biodiversity issues, and therefore inadvertent damage.

ii) Across the state:

Paddock trees reaching senescence with no fencing of remnant trees to encourage regeneration.

Serrated tussock invasion of western plains basaltic grasslands.

Continued loss of remnant vegetation through lack of policing by responsible departments.

e.g. Blatant clearing of a National Estate registered site - advised by Departmental officer that there was not 'the political will to prosecute'.

More large landscape scale projects like 'Yarriambiack strategic biolink' to maintain connectivity and to assist movement across the landscape to help accommodate climate change.

What are the major barriers to addressing these issues?

i) In your area:

Apparently a lack of political will to enforce on ground action rather than just write policy, at both state and local government level.

Lack of public knowledge of importance of issues.

ii) Across the state:

Lack of finance for weed control at a strategic level actually being implemented on ground with appropriate follow up revegetation.

Again, lack of will to enforce existing regulations to dissuade people from

continuing with illegal clearance.

What are some of the solutions?

Funding and education for widespread fencing of remnant paddock trees to encourage regeneration - similar to project undertaken by Greening Australia
Deniliquin 10 years ago.

Finance for strategic on ground weed control.

More public education for biodiversity issues, especially to assist in developing a common vision for the need for vegetation to assist in ameliorating the effects of climate change.

DPI and DSE to enforce FFG and NVR more rigorously.

Landscape scale biolink projects need to be developed across the state, where offset plantings can be done in a cohesive landscape scale context.

What other issues would you like to see the White Paper address?

Why is there such a gap between policy and on ground results - is it a lack of resources, education etc

"Natural resource management is strategy rich but results poor"

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