

**Anonymous**

1. Do you consider the main biodiversity threats identified in the Consultation Draft (see below) to be the most important in reversing the decline in Australia's biodiversity?

- climate change  
    strongly agree
- invasive species  
    strongly agree
- loss and fragmentation of habitats  
    strongly agree
- degradation of habitats  
    strongly agree
- unsustainable use of natural resources  
    strongly agree
- changes to the aquatic environment and water flows  
    strongly agree
- inappropriate fire regimes  
    strongly agree

Are there any other threats you think should be addressed?

*Maximum 90 words*

2. Do you think that the proposed 'priorities for change' (outlined in the 'Making Enduring Changes' section) will be effective at delivering the Strategy's vision to ensure Australia's biodiversity 'is healthy, resilient to climate change and valued for its essential contribution to our existence'?

*Maximum 90 words*

The effectiveness of the priorities is limited because the objectives, actions and results are extremely vague. There is no information on the other possible 'priorities' that were discarded from the strategy. Why are these ones better than the unmentioned priorities? Details on how this decision was made should be included in the strategy.

'Success' has not been defined. The strategy must have measurable targets such as 'Increase xx number of species from endangered to least concern listing'. Only then could we 'measure success'.

Do you think the six 'priorities for change' identified are the most important ones? If not what others would you suggest?

*Maximum 90 words*

Greater attention to detail within each priority is needed. The first priority about building ecosystem resilience should have a larger focus of minimising the threats species face. Even if an ecosystem is resilient (what ever that means), it would not be capable of surviving if threats are still present.

No matter how resilient biodiversity is to climate change, many species will still be lost. The strategy assumes defeat in the climate change battle and provides no actions to prevent the impacts before they occur!

Do you have any comments on the vision?

*Maximum 90 words*

The vision should be "To prevent the further loss of any Australian species, community or ecosystem, in order to achieve successful long term persistence of biodiversity" This should be accompanied with the target "To increase xx number of species from endangered to least concern listing'.

The vision should not focus on climate change when there are many other threats endangering species which more immediate, just as severe and have effective management actions.

You can have a healthy ecosystem, or a healthy organism, but the term healthy species does not make sense.

3. Do you consider that the Consultation Draft:

- promotes a good balance between conservation on private and public lands?  
somewhat agree
- will facilitate a good mix of regulation and incentives?  
strongly disagree
- provides a good balance between marine and terrestrial issues?  
somewhat agree
- provides the necessary national framework to produce innovative conservation action?  
strongly disagree
- has a sufficient focus on institutional arrangements and change?  
somewhat disagree
- provides sufficient emphasis on improving community awareness of biodiversity?  
strongly agree
- addresses the need to implement conservation action at the appropriate scale(s)?  
strongly disagree
- is applicable to urban and rural environments  
somewhat agree
- provides a clear framework for balancing conservation, social and economic issues?  
strongly disagree
- adequately deals with the issue of climate change?  
strongly disagree

Do you have any other comments on these issues?

*Maximum 180 words*

The strategy does not adequately address the issue of climate change. Making more resilient ecosystems is dealing with a problem we could have prevented. We should be minimising the impacts through reduction of CO2 emissions.

There is no mention of regulation as the strategy is a list of recommendations. For the strategy to be effective it must become legislation at both state and federal levels. The strategy has no power unless it is backed by government policy. Incentives may work until some point, however to get full commitment from all stakeholders, law must be incorporated.

There will never be a balance between conservation, social and economic issues, until governments believe that the environment is just as important as the economy. It is unclear in the strategy how this will occur.

Why are these questions important? How will biodiversity benefit from institutional change? Rearranging departments wastes conservation money. There is no need for innovative conservation ideas, because they already exist. There is just a problem of finding support from the government and adequate funding for them to be implemented.

4. Do you think the Consultation Draft adequately covers the roles of Indigenous peoples in biodiversity management?

*Maximum 270 words*

It is good that you are including Indigenous people in the strategy. I am no expert in this field and therefore I should not comment.

5. Do you consider that the proposed arrangements for reporting on implementation will be effective in the monitoring and evaluation of the expected outcomes (results) of the Consultation Draft?

not sure

Do you have any suggestions for alternative reporting arrangements?

*Maximum 270 words*

What is this question actually asking?

The strategy states that long term outcomes must be explicit, providing a basis for measuring the strategy's objectives. That is absolutely correct, but why have you not yet decided on these long term outcomes? These long term outcomes should already have been known before the objectives and actions were written. For the strategy to be useful, it needs to outline these outcomes, not say that they will 'appear' later.

Evaluation cannot occur unless there are clear objectives and quantitative aims to compare against. There are many objectives within the strategy, however none of them make explicit mention of measurable targets, providing no comparison for evaluation. The expected outcomes and results need to be specified before this question about the monitoring and evaluation methods can be answered properly.

If we ignore the strategy's lack of explicit outcomes and return to the actual question, the strategy does not suggest how the reporting will 'effectively monitor and evaluate' the implementation or the expected outcomes. Reporting on implementation could be useful, but only if it outlines the successes and the failures. Without voicing the failures no one will learn from past mistakes. I can not suggest any alternative reporting arrangements because the proposed arrangements are unclear and vague, giving me no details to comment on.

There is lack of details on how biodiversity will be monitored. What techniques will you use and are these the most effective ones available?

6. To what extent is the Consultation Draft an appropriate national framework to achieve biodiversity conservation benefits, considering the different responsibilities, legislation and funding arrangements between governments.

*Maximum 270 words*

A national framework to protect biodiversity conservation benefits is needed, however I am not convinced that this strategy will achieve this. The strategy has correctly acknowledged that different responsibilities exist between governments and attempted to allocate responsibilities for each action to certain stakeholders. It will be a mighty big job to coordinate all of these governments to ensure that they are doing as suggested in the strategy. Will there be someone who is in charge of coordinating all of these governments?

In regards to legislation – this strategy should push for stronger policy at all levels of government, not just a 'verbal commitment' which may not be upheld.

Funding is a very serious issue that the strategy Consultation Draft did not address at all. How much will the federal government spend and how much does it expect state governments to pay? As there is a focus on public and private investments in the strategy – how will their money be allocated towards implementation of biodiversity conservation?

Finally, the strategy will not achieve conservation of biodiversity unless the money is available. How much money does it cost to implement this strategy and where does this money come from?

7. Is the Consultation Draft likely to encourage a good mix of public and private investment in biodiversity conservation?

not sure

If not how can the Consultation Draft improve in this area?

*Maximum 270 words*

8. Is the Consultation Draft sufficiently clear about its role and how it will be implemented?

*Maximum 270 words*

The role is clear and the intentions are sound. However, the consultation draft is not clear in many areas. There is definitely not enough information on how the strategy will be implemented. Here are a few examples.

1. It is great to say the governments will implement this strategy, but the most important driving factor of success is how much does it all cost? And secondly, where does this large amount of money come from? Thirdly, is this strategy achieving the most effective outcomes at the cheapest price?
2. It mentions short and long term goals, without specifying what they are. Also, there are no deadlines as to when the medium and long term goals should be achieved by. How will you evaluate them to see if they have been successful and effective at conserving biodiversity?
3. What decision making tools will be used to prioritise between actions?
4. How will the 'appropriate' scales be chosen to implement these actions (Objective 4.2)?
5. How will uncertainty be dealt with? This question is unknown even within the scientific community.
6. It mentions in Action 6.2.1 that tools will be developed to place a value on biodiversity and ecosystem services. This has been attempted before; although, it is highly subjective to personal opinion. How will the government set these values objectively?
7. Action 6.4.3- how will effectiveness of strategy be evaluated when there are no real predictors for success?
8. In Action 6.1.1, how will these key indicators be developed? To make baseline assessments in 2010, these need to be developed before then. However, this process is likely to take years.

9. Does the Consultation Draft reflect the best practice on biodiversity conservation?

*Maximum 270 words*

I am happy to see it mention decision tools, connectivity, monitoring and action against specific threats. These are all important concepts for biodiversity conservation. However it fails to add details on how they will be used... They seem to have been thrown in as token concepts without any further thought.

It does not address the cost effectiveness between different actions, therefore does not reflect best practice of biodiversity conservation. This is important because research have shown that by incorporating costs into management and conservation problems, much more can be achieved for the same amount of money. There are no budgets associated with this strategy or any information about where the money will come from.

While it mentions mitigation of threats, this section is extremely important. It is even worthy of becoming another priority action, separate to 'building ecosystem resilience'. More thought should be put into the this section as to how to deal with the list of threats at a national scale... eg nation wide fox baiting and rabbit baiting scheme.

It is good to recognise knowledge sharing between state and federal governments with conservation practitioners and scientists. It is also important to mainstream biodiversity and involve indigenous peoples. Well done in those sections.

10. Will the Consultation Draft effectively engage private sector interests in long-term biodiversity conservation?

*Maximum 270 words*

Unless there are clear incentives or obligations for private sectors to protect and invest in the protection of biodiversity, I am unsure as to whether they will actively participate. This could be improved by including an action in the 'Knowledge for all' priority to extend available knowledge to private sectors, especially in agricultural areas, to let them understand how protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services may improve their overall production outcome, product image and long term sustainability.

Do you have any other comments you wish to make on the Consultation Draft?

*Maximum 360 words*

I would like to make a comment on this public submission process. The information session held in Brisbane in April was not structured to provide enough useful information. There was not enough time allocated for questions. The questions that were asked were not answered directly. Instead, the presenters avoided the actual issues raised by defending the strategy, as if it was perfect. It seemed that the strategy was set in stone, with no room for improvement. I left the room feeling that that no attempts would be made to consider the issues raised by the public in the strategy.

The presentation about how the national strategy fitted in with QLD approach to biodiversity was slightly irrelevant, as there seemed to be no concordance between state and federal governments. This section could have been replaced with extra question time.

Finally, the layout of this submission form was quite restrictive in what people could include. The questions were quite confusing, especially Q5. I find it hard to understand why those particular questions were asked, because they seemed trivial compared to other aspects of the strategy. It seemed that questions were about topics of public interest rather than questions about the overall structure, approach and 'meat' of the draft.