

SECTION 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 Disagree

Invasive species:

Strongly Agree

Loss and fragmentation of habitats:

Strongly Agree

Degradation of habitats:

Strongly Agree

Unstable 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?

A major threat is increasing population making increasing demands upon the resources that are the biodiversity we rely on. If biodiversity is being compromised by climate change, then we must address this resource consumption and carbon emission energy sources urgently. Until we deal with these issues in an holistic manner, and in the process develop a framework to hang all these issues off, we will not create a satisfactory solution.

SECTION 2

Do you agree or disagree that the proposed 'priorities for change' (outline 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'?

Not until the core issues are tabled and dealt with. Until population increase and consumption growth are acknowledged as the key issues, we will not even begin to address the issues this policy is aiming at.

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

Clearly from what I have said above, population growth and consumption need to added to the list.

Do you have any comments on the vision?:

Too narrow and does not encompass any of the thinking evolving within the debate about how we as a society can move to one that has a smaller ecological footprint.

SECTION 3

Do you believe 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?

Strongly Disagree

provides sufficient emphasis on improving community awareness of biodiversity?

Strongly Disagree

addresses the need to implement conservation action at the appropriate scale(s)?

NULL

is applicable to urban and rural environments?

Somewhat Disagree

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?

For me education is THE major issue. And, it is not enough for students in all educational institutions to learn about biodiversity. Biodiversity is only one aspect of sustainability. Sustainability involves every aspect of what we as a society and as individuals do. Until we come to grips that this debate is about redesigning virtually everything we do in this world, we will not be dealing with it as we should. Every student from primary school to university should graduate, yes with a knowledge and understanding of biodiversity, but as well, with knowledge of every aspect of what sustainability is about. They should be brought to an understanding that the debate is not JUST about biodiversity - this is only a small but very important issue. It though is not the driver. Until we deal with what is causing the biodiversity loss, we will not be addressing core issues.

SECTION 4

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

I must admit I did not read this, but if it fails in the areas I have discussed here, then I am sure it will fail here as well.

SECTION 5

Do you agree or disagree 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?

SECTION 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?

Unless it contains the issue I have written about, it will not achieve what it sets itself out to do because it is not dealing with the issues that are causing the problem in the first place. Enough said.

SECTION 7

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

Strongly Disagree

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

Again, if the core issues are not dealt with it does not matter how much investment is made, the problem will not be solved.

SECTION 8

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

I think I have said enough!

Section 9

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

It may, yes. But all that may mean is that so called current 'best practice' is not good enough to really deal with the issues as outlined.

Section 10

Will the consultation draft effectively engage private sector interests in long-term biodiversity conservation.

If by private sector this means the corporate, business and/or financial, I doubt it. In saying this I am coming from the position as I have stated previously. Biodiversity cannot be dealt with on its own as a single issue. There was a great cartoon a couple of years ago, showing Biodiversity preserves. It was a series of jam jars spread over the countryside each filled with a different species of animal. There no linkages between them. The message was that we 'bottle' out biodiversity and lock it away in isolated areas. Also, this is issue is for all the population not just the corporate world.

Final comments

Biodiversity is only one aspect of a sustainable future. I cannot emphasise strongly enough the need to deal with it holistically. As stated earlier, if climate change is going to be THE major issue compromising the survival of significant population of species on this planet, then failure to deal with its cause will not solve any biodiversity issues we might have. Until we accept that population growth, and increasing consumption associated with this growth, and an economic paradigm that defines growth as a core need for survival, become replaced with a new set of values that come to grips with some of the issues arising from this debate, no government proposal like this one will ever work. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.