



29<sup>th</sup> May 2009

National Biodiversity Response  
PO Box 1715  
Tamworth  
NSW 2340

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **FWDV Response to the Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020**

Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWDV) is the peak body representing four wheel drive (4WD) interests in the State. The Association currently consists of 77 4WD clubs, which in turn provide a membership totaling five thousand subscribed members representing 4WD enthusiasts and their families.

Adopting the mantra 'Driving in a Sustainable Environment' our Association has established itself in the modern 4WD environment having regard to the interest of protecting the land in which we tour, supporting the communities in which we travel and contributing to the State's economic health to the extent of over \$100 million dollars annually.

Australia's biodiversity present a key element of our recreation, so it was with great interest that FWDV read the *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020: Consultation Draft*.

The following provides a review of the *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020: Consultation Draft* following the suggested format for submissions.

#### **Our Details**

**Title:** Mrs

**First Name:** Louise

**Last Name:** Klint

**Organisation:** Four Wheel Drive Victoria (FWDV)

**Industry / Sector:** Not For Profit

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**Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Origin?** No



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**  
somewhat agree
- **degradation of habitats**  
strongly agree
- **unsustainable use of natural resources**  
strongly agree
- **changes to the aquatic environment and water flows**  
somewhat agree
- **inappropriate fire regimes**  
strongly agree

Are there any other threats you think should be addressed?

*Maximum 90 words*

*Lack of awareness* – Four Wheel Drive Victoria would also like to emphasise the importance of Information, Education and Interpretation. This is reflected in some of the actions of the plan as well as in the 'Knowledge for all' priority for change, but a lack of awareness could easily also be an important threat to biodiversity.

**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*

Yes, FWDV strongly believes that the 'priorities for change' set out a good framework that will be effective at delivering the Strategy's vision.

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

*Maximum 90 words*

Yes, the 'priorities for change' identified above are all key areas of importance to the Australian biodiversity.



FWDV appreciate the strong focus on informing and educating the general public on issues of biodiversity and in fact FWDV plays an important role in creating this connection between the natural environment and the general public with our involvement in the 4WD Camp Host program.

The 'measuring success' priority of change is a vital component of this strategy and it is very positive to see that monitoring has been given a great deal of attention.

### **Do you have any comments on the vision?**

*Maximum 90 words*

*Australia's biodiversity is healthy, resilient to climate change and valued for its essential contribution to our existence*

The strategy's vision above is a good and clear vision. However, as there are 6 main threats to biodiversity, it seems strange that only one (climate change) has been mentioned in the vision.

FWDV is aware that climate change will impact on some of the other priorities for change, (e.g. aquatic environment and water flows), but is it possible to somehow represent all of these challenges/threats in the vision, or is this emphasised in the notion of a healthy biodiversity?

### **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 agree
- **provides a good balance between marine and terrestrial issues?**  
strongly agree
- **provides the necessary national framework to produce innovative conservation action?**  
somewhat agree
- **has a sufficient focus on institutional arrangements and change?**  
somewhat agree
- **provides sufficient emphasis on improving community awareness of biodiversity?**  
strongly agree
- **addresses the need to implement conservation action at the appropriate scale(s)?**  
strongly agree
- **is applicable to urban and rural environments?**



somewhat agree

- **provides a clear framework for balancing conservation, social and economic issues?**

somewhat agree

- **adequately deals with the issue of climate change?**

somewhat agree

Do you have any other comments on these issues?

*Maximum 180 words*

The Strategy sets out a broad framework, which purpose is to guide action by all levels of government, community, Indigenous peoples and the private sector. FWDV believes that forms a solid framework, which will assist in the development of more detailed and state, regional and local strategies and action plans. Thus, it may be that FWDV has not strongly agreed on all of the above comments, but FWDV assumes that these individual areas will be touched upon in greater details in the strategies and action plans that this Strategy forms as a road map for.

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

*Maximum 270 words*

Yes, FWDV believes the role of Indigenous peoples has been given great attention in this Strategy and there are many good objectives and actions related to this area of biodiversity management.

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?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any suggestions for alternative reporting arrangements?

*Maximum 270 words*

FWDV believes that it may be a possibility to look at the use of a participatory GIS approach in monitoring the value of biodiversity seen by the General Public.

This approach is currently being used in the Alpine National Park for the development of the new management plan. It provides an interesting and more qualitative approach to assessing the value of biodiversity.



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*

The Consultation Draft is an appropriate national framework, as it sets out a broad guiding structure with valuable strategy objectives and actions, which can help direct the further development of strategies, actions and even management plans.

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

somewhat agree

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

*Maximum 270 words*

N/A

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

*Maximum 270 words*

Yes, FWDV believe that the Consultation Draft is rather clear in its role and the role of stakeholders in the implementation of this plan. It may be valuable to include Appendix 1 – Roles and Responsibilities for implementing the strategy in the beginning of the document, to ensure that readers can reflect on their responsibility while they read the Strategy, instead of afterwards.

Also it would be valuable to have a conclusion at the end of the Strategy, which encourages the reader to really get involved in biodiversity conservation here and now.

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

*Maximum 270 words*

Yes, FWDV is of the opinion that the use of 11 case-studies definitely in the Consultation Draft reflects best-practices on biodiversity conservation and makes the document more inviting to read.

It may be that there are also other more relevant case-studies out there, but FWDV is not in capacity to recommend any other best practice examples of biodiversity conservation.

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

*Maximum 270 words*



If incentives are provided to the private sector, yes then FWDV believes this could be an opportunity. Also, an increased awareness and understanding will encourage further involvement by the private sector in biodiversity conservation.

Do you have any other comments you wish to make on the Consultation Draft?  
*Maximum 360 words*

Yes, FWDV believes that the Consultation Draft has been set out following a clear structure and is comprehensible to a number of readers. However, it may be valuable to provide an overview of the 'priority areas for change' and the relevant objectives at the beginning of the document, so a better understanding of the relationship between objectives and 'priorities for change' is gained early on.

FWDV would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide constructive criticism of the Consultation Draft, which is believed to be of high standard. We hope that our comments will be of use to your further process of reviewing and developing the Strategy.

We look forward to receiving the final *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020*.

Yours sincerely,

*Louise Munk Klint*

Louise Munk Klint

Research & Strategy Officer