

Submitted on Monday, September 10, 2018 - 05:06

DETAILS

Company:
First name: Amy
Last name: Elkington
Address: [REDACTED]
Suburb: [REDACTED]
State: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Sector: Other Consultant and private land owner

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

1 . Would a strategic approach to clearing, through a strategic purpose permit, benefit you?

Response: unsure
Comments:

2. Is the 'purpose component' reasonable to apply considering the added complexity of assessing this type of clearing permit?

Response: unsure
Comments:

3. Is the proposed fee structure fair and does it adequately reflect differences in the financial capacity of clearing permit applicants?

Response: no
Comments:

I work in the environmental industry and am very familiar in obtaining clearing permits. I have also obtained a clearing permit for my own rural property for the purposes of building a house.

The main concern I have is that the small clearing works (less than a 0.5ha) will be fairly costly and particularly for those who do not have a good understanding of the process, will be less inclined to request a permit. This is of particular concern where a clearing permit may normally be exempt however it is located in an ESA. For a typical household, if they need a clearing permit, they may already be out the expense for a vegetation survey or alike. Adding the cost of permit fees could make it even more difficult.

I suggest that clearing permit applications for the establishment or modification for a housing envelope and access is either exempt from the fees, or the current fees apply. Perhaps add a maximum clearing area to avoid people claiming a housing envelope which also include paddocks for stock or the like. Please bare in mind the current planning requirements surrounding the BAL assessment. My house required a 15m buffer around it before the house plans could be approved by the LGA.

For the larger clearing permit areas, I think the fee structure is about right. The only thing I would suggest is perhaps break the top bracket up into two categories, ones which require offsets and ones that don't. From sitting on the applicant side of the fence it appears the offset selection process adds in another level of assessment complexity.

4. What is the likely impact on your business or industry of the proposed clearing fee structure?

Comments:

No comment

5. Additional comments regarding Native Vegetation Clearing not addressed in the questions above.

Comments:

No comment

WATER

6. Do you consider it reasonable for taxpayers to pay 100 per cent of the cost of assessing water licence and permit applications and if so, why?

Response: unsure

Comments:

7. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, what do you consider to be an appropriate fee for a water licence or permit application?

Comments:

No comment

8. Would you consider a risk-based model for determining water licence and permit application fees to be appropriate? If not, what basis could the department use to structure fees?

Response: unsure

Comments:

9. What would be the likely impact on your business or industry if water licence and permit fees were introduced?

Comments:

No comment

*10. If water licence and permit assessment fees were introduced, how could the collection of fees be

timed to better support your business or industry?
For example, would you benefit from paying fees up front, at the end of a
licence assessment or
annualised over the term of the licence?*

Response: unsure

Comments

No comment

*11 . Additional comments regarding Water licences and permits not
addressed in the questions
above.*

Comments:

In terms of applying for a 26D licence, I believe it may not be
appropriate to charge a fee if it is
considered as part of a 5C licence application.
Otherwise a discount would be good.

I have been advised that a 26D licence is legally required when a 5C
licence is applied for to undertake
construction dewatering. This appears to be a tick and flick, as it is
not like installing a long term bore
which needs to be constructed to a certain specification. This is a
temporary excavation undertaken to
do construction works, and the precise details of the structure are also
assessed under the 5C licence
application. This could be seen as an unnecessary fee for no further
protection of the water resource.