

Submitted on Thursday, November 15, 2018 - 08:51

DETAILS

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Sector: Agriculture

NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

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

Response: yes

Comments:

If it can be proven that bona fide farm forestry involving ecologically sustainable silviculture is taking place then a permit (if required) should not even use the term clearing, and should last ten years minimum.

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:

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

Comments:

It would be a major financial imposition given the losses that have already occurred from improving the ecological and economic values of the forest.

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

Comments:

I'm disappointed that Farm Forestry was not one of the sectors listed in the preliminary information

required above. It is further proof that this type of land use is not relevant to the clearing permit process.

Having managed native forest along side high quality saw log plantations for wood production I have seen the ecological benefits of tree growing and harvesting first hand. If no grazing is allowed and the appropriate fire regimes are implemented then the felling and removal of weak, diseased or damaged trees adds to forest health and vitality. Most forest in the SW has been 'high graded' and poorly managed and can benefit from expertly guided silviculture. If there are appropriate management plans in place and stock are not introduced then this type of land management should be encouraged. Clear felling of Karri forest can also be justified if re grown and managed effectively.

If small scale farm forestry has any more restraints (added to the low financial returns, difficult access to markets etc...) then even less of it will occur. This will also potentially impact on forest fuel management.

I firmly believe that if native forest silviculture does not result in a change of land use then it should only require an approved management plan and a commercial producers licence. This should not come at a cost anywhere near what large corporations or government bodies should pay to be permitted to PERMANENTLY clear vegetation. It is patently obvious that clearing for urban subdivision, mining or the growing of non indigenous crops/animals is far more destructive than even poorly managed forestry. Lastly, I should mention that wherever non native animals have access to remnant vegetation then incremental illegal clearing is likely to be occurring. This needs addressing by environmental regulators before any more scrutiny and costs are imposed on farm forestry.

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: no

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:

None, my crops contribute to sound water cycling.

*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

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

Comments: