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Good afternoon, below is my comments on the review of the current BA.
Topic 1

- In all the Topics in this review what the biodiversity is based upon is essential. A baseline needs to be established so we can gauge our level of diversity improvement or decline. Should this baseline be on what the environment is now or what it would of been pre-European? If we judge what we have the first nations people are vital to set this baseline and how we repair it or manage it will require their input.
- All these topics require funding, will this come out of current budget or new budget lines be established?
- Compliance management is critical and currently the compliance of environmental destruction is minimal and without proper compliance management a new Act is irrelevant.
- How will the new Voice in Parliament of First Nations people affect the new act?

Topic 2

- I would of thought that there is enough detail in the current act to avoid any destruction of the environment (hence protect our biodiversity), its compliance that we miss.
- Minimising damage to the Biodiversity in the environment should not occur as we do have many options and avoidance will give us those plans.
- My big issues once you get into rehabilitation and restoration is the need to know what the land should look like and in most cases we don't have enough Botanist to create these baselines.
- The other issue is that we still lack skills and knowledge in how to repair any damage. I have had experience in establishing native grasslands and its extremely expensive and the establishment process has given very variable results. When the damage is in low rainfall regions the chance to do any form of repair work is going to be very difficult.
- Once we get into the Offset compartment we have real problems because of the issues above - Lack of Botanists with suitable knowledge to set up the baseline of what the environment should look like, The lack of knowledge to re-establish the pre damaged environment, The very cost of the work.
- Get compliance, development and education right and we will AVOID the destruction of the environment.

Topic 3

- Management of the environment as part of any development should be the first issue to be assessed and educate those developers about ESD is vital so as development can avoid any issues.
- If the government is to maintain a public register of development it needs to be fully transparent so the public can see what the results are going to be and make it easy accessible.
- Here again there are issues with the lack of knowledge of baseline data because in a lot of cases we don't know the full story of the environment and how every section is linked and how can we make clear decisions if we don't know what we have.

Topic 4

- This is a very important part of the new BA.
- Much of the land is slowly being cleared and its so small that is not noticed. In our region the biggest loss is through the clearing and mismanagement of unused roads. These are roads that might have tracks going through them and there is no intention to bringing them into full use, but neighbours are slowly clearing the land for their use. I would like to give some examples, one is a farmer who has cleared remnant vegetation and has large grain silos on that area now, the second one is where a farmer pushed over some bush to make it easier to move his machinery. These unused roads should be fenced by the neighbouring land holders, but the fences have been removed to allow stock to graze in them, completely changing the biodiversity. Another small issue but when you join all this together it creates a large problem is the roll district councils play in removing native plants to widen these dirt roads for farmers to mover there larger machinery along these roads. The destruction of council / public/ crown owned lands all adds up and these roads are very important to link much areas of bush.
- Again, this is about education and enforcement of the act, councils are not enforcing their parts of acts they manage but layered over that is the land clearance laws. If we cant enforce the acts that already exist how can we enforce mor rules.
- We shouldn't forget the roll education plays in all this, I had the need to stop a council worker because he was going to slash some native grass at a critical time but once I explained to the works manager why I did it he was very helpful. Its about education to make the public aware and they will take ownership of the environmental protection.

Topic 5

- Its very hard to assess extinction once its happened, this is why I talk a lot about the knowledge of what we have and in most case this is poor.
- Extinction is about the lack of education in the environment, setting up scientific panels to tell us something has died out is too late what we need to focus on is knowing what we have and knowing how better to manage it.
- Having a list of species and their status is good if it means something and protecting a species form extinction will only come once people know its under threat.
- The classic species is the Pygmy Blue Tongue Lizard once thought extinct but we know we have a number of areas where they are doing OK but there could be other areas out there where they could be found. The act needs to be resourced enough to fund the management of these very threatened species but not only protect the species but the ecosystem they need as we know the PBTL is very ecosystem sensitive.

Topic 6

- The establishment of a statewide BA is not essential the BA should be about regional Biodiversity protection and Ecosystem protection.
- But, what are we trying to protect, is it the current ecosystem or the pre-European ecosystem? One part of my family moved here in the late 1800s to farm, it was a grassy plain it didn't take long for the salt to rise and it changed to a salt bush environment so what form of Biodiversity are we trying to protect the original or the current. The BA needs to clearly define what ecosystem it is going to protect.
- Could the change back to the original Ecosystem in itself be going against the BA?

Topic 7

- As I have written earlier knowing what we have is vital for the BA to be properly resourced.

- A fully transparent listing of species survival status and ecosystem status is vital for the BA to function properly.
- The hard part is to make sure it has the intellectual and financial resources to make sure if functions correctly
- Do we not have enough resources out there already to make this act function properly? Is there a need to create a new act, could other acts be improved to make them function better?

Topic 8

- I see no point increasing the size of the State Government owned land to protect Biodiversity only under exceptional circumstances should this be done.
- What is far greater is to resource private land holders and Local Councils better to look after the land they own or manage. I see in our district good bush land that is part of an ecosystem not being protected or managed well because there is not enough financial benefit or the lack of assistance to understand what they have. We don't need the State Government to purchase more land.
- I agree 100% with the papers last comment about assisting private and local public land holders to increase their area of Biodiversity protection and make sure they are adequately resourced.

Topic 9

- What a wonderful thing it would be if everyone has a "biodiversity duty of care" but it would require such a large educational programme to start with and then follow up with the resources to enforce it would be extensive.
- We do have currently a base for enforcement but the visual appearance of enforcement is so poor people have no fears and show no signs of "Duty of care to the environment or biodiversity"
- I fully agree that Biodiversity protection and it should be for everyone and every institution and business to help manage but I fear that education is going to be along way behind enforcement.

Topic 10

- This get backs to mitigation hierarchy, the act needs to make sure that issues of non compliance don't get pass number 1, to get up to 3 and 4 would be disastrous. To repair damage is so hard and in a lot of cases the Biodiversity in some regions is unrepairable.
- It worries me that it would require a large effort to monitor and rehabilitate for non compliance of the act that it could become cost prohibitive and there may have to be other ways to enforce the Act.
- I would like to see the public given scope to put on notice those people who are going against the Act, currently I feel its hard to let the relevant authorities know of environmental damage but also know how the case is going.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to respond to the Biosecurity Act discussion paper
Kind regards
Bruce Michael