



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

**Optional template to guide submissions for  
AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE VEGETATION FRAMEWORK  
CONSULTATION DRAFT**

**Submissions must be received by  
5pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) 31 March 2010.**

**How do I make a submission?**

First, read *Australia's Native Vegetation Framework* consultation draft (the framework) thoroughly. The framework can be downloaded from the website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/native-vegetation-review>. If this is not possible, we can post you a hard copy of the framework. Once you have read the framework, think about how it may affect you, the environment and the wider community, and how it could be improved.

**All submissions require a cover sheet to accompany them.** This is regardless of whether or not you choose to use this template. We prefer that your submission use this template, but we will of course accept all submissions. The template provides some key questions and guidance that will help us to improve the framework, and also ensures that you provide us with the detail we need to properly address your submission. You may answer as many or as few of these key questions as you like.

You can then make a submission by emailing it to us (preferred) or sending it through the post.

Email address (preferred method of submission):

[vegsubmissions@environment.gov.au](mailto:vegsubmissions@environment.gov.au)

Postal address:

Native Vegetation Framework Review Secretariat  
Biodiversity Conservation Branch  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**Will my submission be acknowledged?**

We will write to acknowledge your submission has been received. If you have provided an email address, this acknowledgement will be emailed to you within two working days, or else it will be a printed letter posted to the address you provide, and should arrive within one to two weeks, depending on postal times.

**What will happen with my submission?**

Your submission will be thoroughly read and considered. Any suggestions or comments you have made will be considered, along with all the other submissions that are received, and the framework will be redrafted to take these into account where appropriate.

**Will my submission be placed on the web site? How long will this take?**

Yes. We are aiming for this to happen within four weeks of receipt of a submission.

**Can I keep my submission confidential? How?**

Yes. Please see *Confidentiality statement* in the Cover Sheet (available on the website) for information on how you can do this.

Unless you ask that your submission or your name be kept confidential, your submission will be published on the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) website (<http://www.environment.gov.au/native-vegetation-review>) including your name and your state/territory. However your other personal information (e.g. phone number, email address, postal address) will be kept confidential.

**Further information**

The website (<http://www.environment.gov.au/native-vegetation-review>) has details of how to make a submission, and some Frequently Asked Questions, and you can read background information about *Australia's Native Vegetation Framework*.

Enquiries and requests for further copies of the framework may be directed to the Community Information Unit of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on freecall 1800 803 772 or email: [ciu@environment.gov.au](mailto:ciu@environment.gov.au).

## YOUR COMMENTS ON THE FRAMEWORK

### 1. General Comments

*Please note: if you have comments regarding a specific section or words in the framework we would appreciate you using the table at Question 3.*

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### 2. Key Questions

#### 2a) Vision

*Do you consider the framework's vision is appropriate? (Yes/No)*

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*If no, what would be a more appropriate vision?*

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#### 2b) Principles

*Do you consider the framework's underlying principles are appropriate? (Yes/No)*

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*If not, what changes do you suggest to the principles?*

**2c) Goals**

*Do you consider the framework's goals (goals 1-5) are appropriate? (Yes/No)*

No

*If no, how should the goals be changed?*

Goal 1 mixes a conservation aim with a productive use aim. These should be separate issues. Goal 1 should read...

*“Increase the national extent of native vegetation to build ecosystem resilience and improve landscape connectivity”.*

Goal 2 could include the productivity statement, as these are better affiliated to read...

*“Maintain and improve the condition of native vegetation and improve productive capacity of the landscape”*

## 2d) Outcomes

*Are the outcomes for each goal logical and achievable? Should there be others instead of or in addition to these?*

Logical, yes. Achievable only if sufficient funding is allocated to the task.  
Significant funding needs to be allocated to onground work.

## 2e) Targets

*We welcome your suggestions on national measurable targets, for example, one for each of the five goals of the framework. What targets do you consider would be appropriate for the following goals? If you feel that one of the 'example' targets below is suitable and that example includes an 'X', what number would you suggest for 'X'?*

*Goal 1: Increase the national extent of native vegetation to build ecosystem resilience and improve the productive capacity of the landscape*

Examples of targets for Goal 1:

- By 2015 there is a X% net national increase in the extent of native vegetation
- By 2015 all strategic land-use planning decisions maximise opportunities to encourage revegetation, build conservation connectivity and limit clearing of native vegetation

**Your suggested target for Goal 1:**

Protection of all remnant and regrowth vegetation as buffers around high conservations areas, which include all:

- rainforests;
- wet sclerophyll forests;
- alpine and subalpine zones;
- high altitude areas;
- climate refuges;
- rare or threatened species habitat; and
- significant riparian zones.

*Goal 2: Maintain and improve the condition of native vegetation*

Examples of targets for Goal 2:

- By 2015 the condition of X% of Australia's native vegetation has been significantly improved
- By 2015 all of Australia's native vegetation is covered by management planning aimed at reducing priority threats to condition and their underlying drivers

**Your suggested target for Goal 2:**

*Goal 3: Maximise the native vegetation benefits of carbon markets*

Examples of targets for Goal 3:

- By 2013 national standards have been developed for accreditation and reporting of schemes that promote biodiverse native vegetation outcomes along with carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits
- By 2015 all native vegetation plans, policies and programs will be designed to maximise native vegetation condition outcomes of carbon market opportunities

**Your suggested target for Goal 3:**

Strategic vegetation management is implemented in key areas for carbon sequestration.

Widespread modification of fire management practices is adopted to promote soil carbon.

*Goal 4: Build capacity to understand, value and effectively manage native vegetation by all relevant stakeholders*

Examples of targets for Goal 4:

- By 2015 X% of Australians understand and value native vegetation
- By 2015 the functions and values of native vegetation are appreciated and existing knowledge is shared among the wider community

**Your suggested target for Goal 4:**

*Goal 5: Progress the engagement and inclusion of Indigenous peoples in management of native vegetation*

Examples of targets for Goal 5:

- By 2015 X% of decision-makers understand the cultural significance of

native vegetation to Indigenous peoples and give that significance weight in their decision-making

- By 2015 Indigenous peoples are fully involved in native vegetation management and decision making

**Your suggested target for Goal 5:**

## **2f) Actions**

*At section 3.2 (pages 34-36) of the framework, you will see a table of indicative actions (actions 1-26), and who could play a role in taking those actions.*

*Are there any additional actions you would like to suggest? If yes, please indicate whom you feel would be best placed to carry out those actions.*

Action 20 should include a statement about appropriate fire regimes for carbon sequestration and soil carbon storage.

Case study 7 does not consider soil carbon impacts from fires.

## **2g) Other issues**

*Do you think the framework will adequately address the major native vegetation issues? If not, do you have any suggestions for improvement?*

*Is there anything else this framework should cover?*

<p>Prioritising climate refuges.</p> <p>Identifying and defining new and novel vegetation types as they develop.</p> <p>Strategies for allowing landscape change of vegetation, which includes changing fire management practices to permit changes to occur.</p>
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**3) Specific comments**

*There is no obligation to provide more detailed comments on the draft framework. However, if you wish to do so, we would appreciate you using this table to ensure we can address your comments accurately and quickly.*

<b>Page</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Comment</b>