



Feedback form

Draft guideline: A guide to preparing revegetation plans for clearing permits under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Respondent information

Company or association represented by this submission

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Why are you/your business or association interested in the draft guideline titled 'A guide to preparing revegetation plan for clearing permits under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*'?

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd holds a number of Native Vegetation Clearing Permits in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

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If you have marked your submission as confidential, please identify specific parts which you feel need to be kept private, and include an explanation.

Feedback on the draft guideline: A guide to preparing revegetation plans for clearing permits

Are there any parts of the draft guideline where the requirements are not clear? Please outline in the text box below, indicating the page, section number and title for each part being referred to.

1. The draft guideline runs the risk of being overly prescriptive rather than outcome based. The approaches proposed will not necessarily be practicable or suitable for all areas across WA. For example, prescription on November and December as the optimal time for seeding does not consider the practicalities and safety implications at the start of the cyclone season. An outcomes based approach would significantly broaden the successful application of the guidelines.
2. It is not clear from the content how the guideline will align with current or future NVCP conditions. For example, is the intent that the standard rehabilitation condition currently used in NVCPs will be replaced by a condition to prepare and implement a revegetation plan (the Plan) in accordance with this Guideline?
3. The level of prescription within the draft guideline means that it may not contain enough flexibility for site specific requirements.
4. The draft guideline does not fully account for the requirements of different Bioregions. For example, the time the guideline suggests is optimal for seeding is the middle of cyclone season for the Pilbara.
5. In the case that a Plan must be prepared, it is not clear:
 - Who will approve the Plan?
 - What is the timeframe for approval of the Plan?
 - Does the Plan need to be submitted with an NVCP application? (Note that this may not be practical for a purpose permit where exact clearing locations are not known).
 - Does the Plan need to be submitted prior to an amendment being approved for old NVCPs?

Please provide other comments or suggestions in the text box below, indicating the page, section number and title for each part being referred to.

The current standard outcomes based NVCP condition may actually hold Proponents to a higher standard than just having a plan which is to be executed.