

VEAC Statewide Assessment of Public Land

Discussion paper comments

The terms of reference was to include an inventory of the types of values on public land.

This term of reference has not been adequately addressed within the current discussion paper.

The most important and unique values of the public land estate lie in the diverse biodiversity they support. There needs to be an inventory of the biodiversity values of the public land. This information is needed to determine the management requirements of the land which then informs the determination of the appropriate land category classification.

The current discussion paper only focuses on the native vegetation but unfortunately vegetation is only part of the picture. Many blocks of public land have important values that are not determined by the native vegetation present or whether native vegetation is present. For example, many public lakes and wetland support important population of migratory wader birds. This is an important value that needs to be identified and recognised. Unfortunately Duck Hunting season clashes with the critical time when the migratory waders are trying to store energy in preparation for their very long migration. Duck hunting results in unnecessary disturbance which leads to the wasting of important energy reserves which may result in their death during the migration. Wetlands supporting migratory waders should be classified to exclude duck hunting. This is only one example. Other important biodiversity values may include important structural values such as cave or hollow bearing trees.

Draft proposals comments

Table 1

The follow 'Natural Feature Reserves' should remain as 'Natural Features Reserves and not changed to the proposed changes listed in table 1

Wildlife areas should stay as Natural Features Reserve

Highway parks should stay as Natural Features Reserve

Lakes should stay as Natural Feature Reserves

Mineral springs should stay as Natural Feature Reserves

Also

Forest Parks should stay as Forest Park or be included in Nature reserve or Conservation reserve

Water production should stay as Water Production. It requires a certain management to protect water quality and this management would be completely different to that expected for resources or 'services and utilities.

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