



Private Property Rights

Bulletin – 12 February 2013

Environmental Offsets Register

The Chairman (Gary Peacock) and the Policy Director attended an information briefing on the Government's proposed Offsets Register. EPA believes that the register will provide for efficient retrieval of offset information including spatial location, type of offset and the compensatory value of the offset.

PGA does not support the Department's latest Environmental Offsets Policy. We believe that the policy draft falls short of the intent of the Government to ensure that offsets are applied in a transparent and consistent manner. PGA believes in market based solutions and considers it the best way to deliver transparency and accountability within both the public and private sectors. What is required is an expanded offsets register that would allow offsets to be negotiated directly between the proponent and those wishing to offer suitable offsets.

The revised offsets policy is available on www.epa.wa.gov.au or contact Zak at PGA.

Land Clearing Meeting Esperance

At a recent meeting conducted by DEC in Esperance the Minister for the Environment Bill Marmion acknowledged that Native Vegetation Clearing laws could be improved and gave a commitment that if re-elected he would review regulations. Nils Blumann represented PGA at the meeting. Following that meeting a request was made by PGA to meet with the Minister to get an understanding on what changes to the Regulations he was considering or thought possible. The Minister declined. Subsequent discussions with the Minister's office did not instil confidence that the intended review would deal with the issue of regrowth or the current appeals process.

For additional information contact Zak at PGA. Ph 94794599.

State Planning Strategy

This draft document called "A Policy Framework for Inland Drainage has been released by the Department of Planning for public comment. It does not contain any strategies, policies or recommendations but sets out a number of objectives. Many of these objectives are not directly related to planning but paint a vision of the future for the State.

The Minister has stated that the Government intends to undertake a collaborative approach in planning for the State's infrastructure, environment, food security and economic development. Landowners wishing to utilise drainage as an option to manage salinity are now required to submit an Environmental Impact Report together with an ongoing management strategy consistent with agreed outcomes.

Copy of the policy is available at www.water.wa.gov.au.