

**From:** [Hazel Law](#)  
**To:** [Publication and Confidentiality Regulations](#)  
**Subject:** HPE CM: Feedback on the draft Environmental Protection Regulations (Publication and Confidentiality) Regulations 2021.  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 September 2021 8:45:49 AM

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Hello

I would like to provide some feedback on the draft Environmental Protection Regulations (Publication and Confidentiality) Regulations 2021 based on my understanding of the document.

In the interest of protecting our natural environment, in part, due to its role in combating the alarming climate emergency, I believe that it is necessary to provide as much information as possible to the public regarding clearing permit applications. The destructive clearing of our urban forests, native forests or any accessible green spaces is a concern to us all and should not just be made public, but consultation *actively* sought from local constituents and conservation and environmental groups.

Despite the attempt to make the new regulations more transparent and in the interest of keeping the public informed of proposed clearing for development, it seems to me that any CEO can simply ask for the information to be kept private? If I were a CEO looking to make money from a development after the clearing of a piece of land, of *course* I would ask for the information to be kept private if I thought it being public might interfere with my possible profit. I do understand that some information needs to be kept private, but why then not simply omit this information from the public notices rather than seemingly skew the Publication and Confidentiality regulations in the benefit of business?

The very fact that the clearing permit applications are made public suggests that at some level concerned individuals, environmentalists, or groups can input feedback and have *impact* on the outcome of the proposal. This is not possible if the applications themselves are kept private. I would love to see you invite and seek out consultation from conservation groups such as the Conservation Council of WA, the Australian Conservation Foundation or the Wilderness Society for each proposal so that these organisations can get the information to interested parties to feedback on, otherwise your proposal and update for the Environmental Protection Regulations Amendment is just for show and not about care for the environment at all.

I implore you to make all applications public with *truly* confidential information omitted in the spirit of protecting our green spaces and defending our future generations against the horrific consequences of the impending climate emergency and the unpredictable and unprecedented weather occurrences that will accompany it.

Please do not disguise these important matters in poorly concealed favour for CEO's and business vs. the safety and wellbeing of the earth's residents. There is a very real possibility that ours will be the first generation to have children whose quality of life will be worse than our own. Please consider their right to thrive, not just survive, an uncertain future and make that more important than a new

development – future generations will thank you.

Please keep me updated on the progress of this draft and the

Thank you very much,

Yours sincerely,

Hazel Law

Volunteer member of the The Australian Conservation Foundation Perth  
Community Group

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