



PROPOSAL 3 City of Stirling

To (i) transfer lot 56 Venice Court, Dianella from the urban zone to the parks and recreation reserve and (ii) include it in Bush Forever site 43.

The Urban Bushland Council acknowledges the role of the Friends of Dianella Bushland in the initial acquisition of Bush Forever site 43 and its subsequent management by the City of Stirling as a regionally significant bushland reserve. The Friends of Dianella Bushland is a volunteer community group conducting educational walks and events in the Cottonwood Crescent bushland (Site 43), and assists the City of Stirling in the management of the reserve.

We support (i) the transfer of Lot 56 Venice Court to P&R reservation and conditionally support (ii) its inclusion in Bush Forever site 43 with the following comments:

- The area is not suitable for housing or development because of its irregular elongated shape and position in the landscape adjacent to the sump, the road and Bush Forever site 43.
- The area considered on its own does not qualify for inclusion in Bush Forever as it does not meet the criteria for regionally significant bushland. Being adjacent to a Bush Forever site however, it has important value as a buffer zone to a Bush Forever site and as an ecological connection to Cottonwood Crescent reserve, the Water Corporation Sump and to the Channel 9 bushland.
- Although in poor condition, the area itself does have some important bushland vegetation values (eg Jarrah habitat, native orchid habitat, kangaroo habitat) making it worthy of retention and management as bushland contiguous with the Cottonwood Crescent reserve.
- The area is highly disturbed due to the extensive plantings of invasive woody weeds including Victorian Tea-tree, Calothamnus, lupins and veld grass. If added to Bush Forever these weeds will all need to be removed and the area revegetated with local species native to this landform and soil type - ie *using only plants which belong in this habitat*

- The topography of the area has been grossly altered by the tunnel structure under the road and accompanying site works (limestone retaining walls).
- From the proposal it appears the tunnel will exit into the bushland, and cut off pedestrians and cyclists from the pathways bordering Dianella Drive, negating the original purpose of the tunnel to transfer residents safely from one side of a busy road to the other. This will need to be changed so that pedestrians and cyclists have easy access to the roadside pathway but so that kangaroos do not have open access to the road.
- New fencing will be necessary given the area is habitat for up to 20 Western Grey Kangaroos.

SUMMARY

Our support to the amendment is subject to the following conditions being added to the addition of lot 56 Venice Court to the Parks and Recreation Reservation:

- 1. The area be managed by the City of Stirling as a bushland conservation site with a budget allocation to re-fence and rehabilitate the site as below**
- 2. All woody and grassy weeds be removed and the area be properly rehabilitated and revegetated with local provenance species which belong to the native plant community of the site.**
- 3. The area be re-fenced so that kangaroos have controlled access to the area but not the road, and pedestrians using the underpass have easy access to the roadside footpath**
- 4. The City of Stirling provide operational budget allocation each year for management of the area as a bushland conservation area.**
- 5. The area be added to Bush Forever site 43 after the initial weed removal and rehabilitation is completed**

C Mary Gray
President
28th January 2010