



2 March 2015

Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority  
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### **Comments on the Scarborough Draft Master Plan January 2015**

The Urban Bushland Council WA (UBC) is the peak community organisation for urban bushland conservation and protection in Western Australia. The Council has over 70 community conservation groups as members as well as individual supporters.

#### **Bush Forever**

Since its inception in 1993, the Urban Bushland Council has lobbied for public recognition, legal protection and management of the rich biodiversity of urban bushland in the Perth region and the South West of WA and other regional centres.

Extensive and scientifically rigorous flora and vegetation surveys were undertaken by botanists and the community and 287 regionally significant Bush Forever Areas were identified by government for protection as Bush Forever sites. As the vegetation communities in the Perth Metropolitan Region are unique, the collection of Bush Forever Areas and each Area individually are of both regional and national significance.

#### **Bush Forever Sites 308 and 310**

The proposed new roads north and south of Scarborough outlined in the Scarborough Draft Master Plan (SDMP) would both cut through Bush Forever sites and as a consequence the SDMP is not acceptable.

We note that the SDMP has not even identified the Bush Forever sites correctly, and mis-identifies Bush Forever Site 310 as Bush Forever Site 305 (which is near Guildford).

In addition, the SDMP has incorrectly characterised the areas where the roads are proposed as in 'generally poor condition.' There is native vegetation in both areas that is in very good condition, and indeed some vegetation and landforms that may in fact be unique to the area. These areas must be preserved.

In any event, the condition of the land does not preclude it being of significance. The SDMP also fails to take into account the effect on flora, fauna and landforms of road construction, runoff, subsequent dune de-stabilisation and the ongoing negative effects of vehicular traffic with its

consequent increased pollution. These negative effects would negatively and permanently affect a large area of the dunal system, not just the land where the new roads are proposed.

### **Conclusion**

We emphasise that Bush Forever is a world class plan to protect our unique world class natural landscapes and its rich biodiversity – found nowhere else in the world. These priceless natural assets belong to the people of Perth and WA and must be recognised and fully protected.

Coastal dunes and their vegetation are extremely fragile as they are subject to active coastal processes. All existing remnants need to be retained and managed to protect their values. They are also of priceless social value. A major road in and between coastal bushland and buildings will only sever the access and views to the coast and will degrade these inherent social values. This is surely contrary to the MRA's intent.

The Urban Bushland Council strongly objects to the proposed roads and their incursion into Bush Forever Areas. We recommend that road upgrades be confined to the existing roads without any incursion whatsoever into the coastal dunes or into Bush Forever sites. Rather than attempting to whittle away at these two Bush Forever sites, the MRA should instead consider how the integrity of these bushland sites can be maintained and enhanced so as to complement the development that they propose for urban Scarborough Beach.

Representatives of the Urban Bushland Council are available to meet with the MRA if this opportunity arises. We may be contacted directly by phone on 08-9420 7207 (leave a message if unattended) or to 08 – 9444 5647, or by email to [ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

Yours sincerely

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