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corporate@planning.wa.gov.au

Department of Planning
Locked Bag 2056
Perth WA 6001

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Tamala Conservation Park Establishment Plan

The Urban Bushland Council welcomes moves to establish the Tamala Conservation Park and makes these comments on the Establishment Plan by the Community Advisory Committee.

The Urban Bushland Council is the peak community organisation for urban bushland recognition and protection and is an association of more than 60 community conservation groups concerned about urban bushland. The Council is a voluntary, non-government organisation.

The proposed Tamala Conservation Park is an important area of bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain. The area retains vegetation types, fauna habitat and landforms lost from most of the plain near Perth and, as a Conservation Park, will be a valuable addition to Perth's conservation estate.

The use of coastal land between Burns Beach and Mindarie has been in contention for many years. The Urban Bushland Council, its affiliate the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group and others have argued for protection of the bushland to keep an example of the biological diversity and geoheritage of the northern Swan Coastal Plain near Perth. Bushplan and Bush Forever (and earlier studies) recommended protection of the proposed conservation park and the land to the east that links through to Neerabup National Park and beyond.

The Council supports the proposal to establish a Conservation Park over the area to be managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation. This should encompass the bulk of the area covered by the plan, and the abutting coastal foreshore should be managed in a compatible way by the City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo.

The Establishment Plan does not include a timetable for creation of the Conservation Park. We understand that part of the land covered remains in private ownership. We recommend that as a matter of priority land should be reserved as a Conservation Park and vested in the Conservation Commission.

The Establishment Plan makes reference to creating an east-west bushland corridor from the coast to Neerabup National Park but the use and management of the land east of Marmion Avenue is not dealt with in any detail. We recommend action to secure the bushland on the land through to the Neerabup National Park and ensure that design for proposed urban and infrastructure development enhance ecological connectivity along this corridor (for example with habitat planting and physical connection across the freeway/railway corridor). The planning study recommended in the

Establishment Plan would help but is insufficient. Planning and transport agencies and the local council must be involved along with the Department of Environment and Conservation to plan for this ecological corridor.

The proposal for a coastal shared path and beach access is raised in the Establishment Plan. The Tamala Conservation Park is proposed because of its regional conservation significance, including coastal landforms, vegetation types and habitat for fauna. Protecting these natural attributes must be the priority in any decisions about use and management of the area. The construction of a north-south shared path through steeply undulating dunes could erode the conservation values of the area and bring recreational pressures that impact on the bushland the park seeks to protect. This proposal must be thoroughly reconsidered including potential impacts and options that would offer public access without compromising the landscape and biodiversity qualities of the area.

Resources are needed to tackle pressures on this bushland. This includes motorbikes and 4WD vehicles using and making tracks through the bush - unless perimeter fencing and enforcement is given priority the continuation of this activity will increase later management costs borne by the community. Weed control should also be a priority - containing weeds to improve habitat quality and reduce fire risk is important and requires funding allocation to the land managers.

Recommendations in the Establishment Plan for flora and fauna surveys and weed mapping are endorsed.

In summary, the Urban Bushland Council supports the proposed Tamala Conservation Park and urges action to establish it and manage it to protect the bushland's high conservation values.

Yours sincerely

C Mary Gray
Vice President