

3 June 2009

Chairman
Environmental Protection Authority
Locked Bag 33
CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850.
Attn: Katherine Schell.

Dear Dr Vogel

EPA Bulletin No. 4, May 2009. *Strategic Advice –Dawesville to Binningup*

The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc appreciates the interest and initiative shown by the Environmental Protection Authority in the coastal strip from Dawesville to Binningup.

The outcome of the review will, we hope, stand as an icon in planning initiative and as a reference for protecting this fragile and important ecological system stretching from Dawesville to Binningup along the coastal strip.

The UBC strongly supports the proposal put by FRAGYLE for ‘the inclusion of the lands between the Lakes and the coast as National Park to be included as an extension to the present Yalgorup Park’. We strongly endorse the proposal that there should be ‘no more development in this area.’

We understand that the Federal Government is prepared to consider contributing two thirds of the value for the land to be included in the National Reserve System so this is a great opportunity to incorporate all rural zoned land into the Yalgorup National Park through a State and Federal partnership.

We cannot add any scientific information to the EPA relevant to the study area, but we do have experience in the encroachment of urban development on wetlands and natural areas. Pressures from developers lead to the erosion of wetland buffers (for example, Lake Karrinyup, Lake Yellagonga), to the destruction of Bush Forever areas (for example AK Reserve, Shenton Park, and proposal for Jindalee), and to loss of special bushland areas (for example Beckley Bushland, Murdoch, and Perth and Jandakot Airports). We have the opportunity here to protect this unique environment with its diverse habitats which is recognised as a major environmental asset.

The Yalgorup Lake System, if protected as an entire system, would be a world-class example of a conservation system protected for the future. The potential of the Ecological, Recreational and Educational Park as proposed by FRAGYLE is very exciting.

Threats to the Yalgorup Park have been detailed. We are very concerned about the quality of the underground aquifers, the lowering of the water table and to the composition of underground water and the effects on the whole system of lakes including the flora and fauna and the bushland.

The purpose of this letter is to show our support for the proposals put by FRAGYLE and to express our support to the EPA in being proactive in its research and consultation.

Yours sincerely

Mary Gray
President.