

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2015 inclusive.

### **Bush Forever**

Again there were no positive advances in the administration of Bush Forever. We had a major focus on Bush Forever culminating in our '*UBC Call for Action October 2015*'.

The WAPC's estimated cost of acquisition of the remaining Bush Forever sites zoned P&R is \$70 million. This does not include the cost of acquiring freehold sites *not zoned P&R*. WAPC owns more than 70 Bush Forever Areas or parts thereof extending over more than 15,000 ha and these have not been transferred to the Crown as A class nature reserves under the Land Administration Act. Adequate initial capital works and on-ground management is not taking place and there is serious degradation continuing by rubbish dumping, off-road vehicles, trail bikes, hoons. WAPC spent \$37,000 last year on tip fees alone for rubbish taken out of their sites.

This situation represents a massive failure of state governance and must be addressed without further delay.

### **TEC nomination for Banksia woodlands**

Our nomination for listing the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the EPBC Act is still in the process of being assessed. We continued engagement with government officers to assist in compiling relevant data.

### **Strategic Assessment Perth and Peel Region (SAPPR)**

During 2015 under the Strategic Assessment, the State government released three series of documents for public comment. Firstly, the four fundamentally flawed *draft Sub-regional Structure Plans for Perth Peel @ 3.5million*. Secondly, the EPA's *Interim advice* on these draft plans. Thirdly, just before Christmas, the 3,000 pages of the fundamentally flawed *Perth Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5million*, but with no readable maps. The EPA's interim advice provided a very good review of the environment and its issues, but its recommendations were far too weak.

The whole process is flawed in terms of planning to protect MNES under the EPBC Act and State values under the EP Act. Mapping and protection of these values should have been planned and legally secured first. Then areas for expansion and redevelopment with appropriate infrastructure should have been planned by avoiding all these protected areas. We advocated 80% infill and 20% expansion onto lands already cleared and alienated within an urban growth boundary. The UBC's advice has been totally ignored over the recent years, especially for Bush Forever and clearing of Banksia woodlands.

### **Environmental Weeds**

As we said at last year's AGM, the legal powers are now available under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (BAM) Act to control plant and animal pests in natural areas. The refusal of DPaW to take a lead role, or indeed any role in controlling environmental weeds in the Perth Peel regions generally, remains outstanding. Yet staff in 'Urban Nature' have done good work in establishing appropriate weed control techniques for specific weeds in certain sites on the Swan Coastal Plain.

### **Engaging with Ministers**

Again we have had neither regular nor individual meetings with the Environment Minister or Planning Minister. UBC representatives attended an Environment Forum organised by Eleni Evangel. We raised some key issues. Minister Jacob said Bush Forever was not an issue for DPaW in his portfolio. So much for the Whole of Government policy and plan for Bush Forever (2000).

### **Attitude of infrastructure agencies**

The aggressive lack of respect by these agencies for environmental attributes and government policies for Bush Forever, ecological linkages, local bushland and associated UBC advice is appalling. Main Roads, Landcorp, Water Corp and Department of Housing head the list.

### **Engaging with EPA**

The UBC appreciated the EPA's NGO forum held in November, and the opportunity to present our key issues for EPA attention. We expect the EPA will act on these issues and involve itself proactively in *stopping all* incursions into Bush Forever Areas and Regional Parks, and generally into our precious but threatened Banksia woodlands.

It is time the EPA initiated a process for statutory protection for all Bush Forever Areas and their linkages. And it is time to end the urban sprawl and continuing loss of Banksia woodlands and Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat causing serious decline in their population.

### UBC Council meetings and events 2015

- 3 March: Professor Richard Hobbs.
- 6 May: Felicity Bradshaw guest speaker on her primary school program for bushland.
- 14 May: Guided walk along regenerated Stirling coastal area with SNEC.
- 14 June: Fungi walk with Friends of Lightning Swamp.
- 18 June: Briefing by DPC Simon Taylor and his team on SAPPR. Well attended.
- 18 July: Briefing by Matt Giraud on South Metro Peel Sub-regional Planning Framework..
- 22 July: Perth Greenways Roundtable discussion held at National Trust. Draft 'Urban Tree Forest Plan' presented by Troy Treeby and Greens Lynn McLaren MLC and Senator Scott Ludlam.
- 22 August: Guided walk: Woodman Point with Perth branch Wildflower Society, leaders Bronwen and Greg Keighery.
- 11 November: Jessica Sheppard, also Bec Ryan, Liesl Rohl OEPA briefing on EPA's Interim advice on Perth Peel @ 3.5m.
- 8 December: Dr Christine Groom, Dr Geoff Barrett: Extinction Crisis for Black Cockatoos. ~50 attended.

**Executive Committee:** We have struggled as an under-sized committee in 2015 in the face of major initiatives by a State government which seems to have cast aside the profound significance of our precious bushland. A very sincere thankyou to our dedicated and hard-working team: Secretary Margaret Owen, Treasurer Christine Allbeury, Web Manager and e-news producer Chris Richardson, and committee members Nina McLaren and John Williams. Special thanks to our extended team: Editor and compiler of the *Urban Bush Telegraph*, Renata Zelinova; technician Kim Sarti, Facebook editor Cath Cooper, and Kevin McLean and others who contribute submissions and attend agency meetings with us. I sincerely appreciate the spirit of co-operation and mutual support you have all given to each other, to the UBC, and to me personally.

### Submissions, issues and campaigns

The table below is a summary of the issues and key events that involved our attention during 2015.

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
1	<b>RPH Shenton Park redevelopment by Landcorp</b>	Met Landcorp several times, 5 buildings proposed in the bushland strip linkage. Local Friends attended many consultation meetings. UBC requested meeting with CEO Landcorp as process unacceptable. <i>UBC submission on rezoning recommended that bushland linkage section be rezoned P&amp;R.</i>	<i>Local Friends and UBC advice consistently ignored by Landcorp.</i> <i>City of Nedlands supports retention of whole bushland linkage. Opposed any incursion into the linkage – is part of their Westroc Greenways 19</i> Plans still have high rise in the linkage. Landcorp attitude unacceptable, meeting with CEO did not happen, met at Director level only.
2	<b>Draft 2014 Perth Airport Master Plan</b> <b>Forrestfield Airport Link</b>	Need to retain conservation precincts 5 & 7 as in previous M Plans. High conservation values.  UBC appealed against Airport link with tunnel spoil to be dumped adjacent to Munday Swamp, TEC clearing, DRF, Cockatoo and bandicoot habitat loss. Perth Airport Forum10/12 attended by UBC.	UBC submission and past commitments ignored. Both precincts removed in final approved Master Plan.
3	<b>Lancelin Dunes – 'back beach' reserve</b>	'Save Our Lancelin Back Beach' formed & very actively opposed the proposal. Proposed tourist park rezoning from P&R to special purpose (caravan park) supported by Shire of Gingin, would destroy sensitive coastal vegetation. Wetlands Research Assoc. assisted with survey and assessment of flora /veg and coastal dunes and prepared a	<i>Critically endangered TEC SCP19 identified and confirmed by DPaW's Val English.</i>

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		technical report on the dunes for UBC. Vic Semeniuk gave presentation to DOP staff on significance of dune system geomorphology and ecology. UBC submission opposed rezoning by major MRS Amendment. T. Cameron and UBC gave presentation to WAPC Statutory Planning Committee hearing.	<b>Rezoning rejected by WAPC.</b>
4	<b>Pt Peron/Mangles Bay Marina and canal developm't - ongoing</b>	HOPP considered legal challenge to EPA assessment. Major MRS Amendment to rezone Pt Peron Bush Forever site to urban. UBC submission done opposing the amendment as it is Bush Forever and Lake Clifton CE TEC thrombolites and sedge community threatened.	Federal government approved the proposal
5	<b>Lot 59 Wilkins Rd Kalamunda</b>	Is in Darling Range Regional Park. Proposal to rezone from P&R to Urban by Shire of Kalamunda to allow aged persons accommodation. UBC and NRPG met local MP Christian Porter, recommended it <i>not be rezoned. Unsuitable location.</i> High fire risk zone, clearing in Regional Park unacceptable. UBC presented to WAPC meeting 29/7 re MRS Amendment – opposed rezoning.	Deemed a ' <i>Controlled Action</i> ' under EPBC Act. NRPG & UBC submissions. ?
6	<b>Ocean Reef Bush Forever site 325, ongoing</b>	Marina and associated major development	Marina to be formally assessed by EPA. Minister Jacob to step aside in decision as he has conflict of interest.
7	<b>Trigg coastal Dunes, Bush Forever</b>	MRA proposes road through narrow band of coastal dunes New active group 'Friends of Trigg Beach' formed to campaign to protect the site with no road.	
8	<b>Neerabup National Park freeway extension</b>	Main Roads proposal. QREG and UBC submissions opposing extension.	Proposal approved by EPA with Ministerial conditions set.
9	<b>Great Cocky Count 2015</b>	GCC held 20 April 2015.	GCC Report stated population Carnaby's fell another 15% /year.
10	<b>Lot 56 Cottonwood Crescent, Dianella</b>	Friends of Dianella and UBC met Dept Housing officers. Site adjoins Channel 10 and is $\approx \frac{1}{3}$ Banksia woodlands. Recommended high rise in cleared portion and retention of Banksia Woodlands. Fantastic views.	Dept Housing ignored advice, only interested in cheapest construction and will bulldoze all bushland.
11	<b>Lots 1 &amp; 2 Gay Street Dianella, Channel 9</b>	Lot 1 is part of additional Bush Forever Area no. 4 to be added to BF 43 Cottonwood Crescent. UBC submission on MRS minor amendment to rezone the WAPC owned part of Channel 9 bush to P&R but not Lot 1 Gay Street. Local Structure Plan by Swan Television Co. open for comment, Friends, Wildflower Society and UBC submissions oppose clearing Lot 1, add it to BF. FoDB and UBC met Cr Lagan and Cr Tyzack on site 30 June and suggested City of Stirling could acquire Lot 1. FoDB and UBC presented to the City's Planning and Development Committee. Committee voted to recommend LSP not be approved by WAPC.  UBC requested (letter 20/2) WAPC acquire Lot 1 and add it to Bush Forever 342. Lot 1 is the linking block. Excellent condition Banksia woodland, species rich. WAPC funded a level 2 flora survey of the Channel 9 species rich Banksia woodlands.	<b>City of Stirling recommended against approval of LSP, recommended Lot 1 go to public ownership.</b>  WAPC yet to make final decision.  No substantive reply. Acknowledgement only of our letter late July. Results revealed high quality TEC SCP 20a.
12	<b>Underwood Ave, ongoing</b>	*Public forum held 24 May 2015, >80 attended. *State EIA approval, but development not commenced. *Friends and UBC met Chairman EPA to present new	UWA Pro Vice Chancellor Kent Anderson attended. Federal govt EPBC Act

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		information, reasons approval should not be extended. FUAB prepared 14 page paper explaining significant changes and new information.	approval still not obtained. State approval under EP Act lapsed. UWA sought extension, no approval to extend as at end 2015.
13	<b>Inquiry into potential recreational hunting, ongoing</b>	DPaW, DAFWA did not support a trial. UBC supported minority report.	Report 23 by Standing Cte on Public Administration tabled 10 March. Majority supported a trial, minority report did not. Minister or Cabinet did not support trial.
14	<b>Introduction of a Regional Improvement Tax (RIT)</b>	RIT proposal in State govt budget estimate papers. To be used to acquire conservation areas in Peel and other regions. UBC wrote supporting introduction of RIT (to apply outside PMR, similar to MRIT). Legislation needed to introduce RIT. UBC met Labor's Planning spokesperson Rita Saffioti and Chris Tallentire to seek their support so that there is bipartisan support for RIT.	
15	<p><b>Strategic Assessment Perth Peel Region (SAPPR), ongoing</b></p> <p><b>4 x Sub-regional Structure Plans</b></p> <p><b>EPA Interim Strategic Advice (s16e) on above Structure Plans</b></p>	<p>*Briefing of UBC by Simon Taylor DPC.</p> <p>*On radio 6PR with Bob Maumill 19 April, UBC asked questions of Minister Jacob about his commitment to protection Carnaby's Cockatoo.</p> <p>*UBC met (11/5) with DG of DOP Gail McGowan and Kim Davis to present <i>Case Studies for Reform of Planning &amp; Development Act 2005 and Metro Region TPS Act 1959, in order to meet requirements of SAPPR</i>.</p> <p>UBC attended DPC Forum 16/12 as pre-release of <b>Green Growth Plan</b> – at beginning of holiday period. Released for public comment until 31 July, UBC submission made.</p> <p>No mention of Bush Forever, extent of clearing, or Local Biodiversity Strategies by LGAs, or how MNES affected. No data or mapping supplied.</p> <p>UBC met DOE staff to express deep concerns about poor process and lack of information. Also letter of complaint to state Ombudsman.</p> <p>Interim EPA advice released for public comment. UBC submission. EPA advice good but recommendations do not go nearly far enough.</p> <p>UBC attended SAPPR Stakeholder Reference Group where Dr P Vogel, EPA Chairman presented EPA interim advice. UBC gave brief comments, also CCWA.</p>	<p><i>These plans are premature and should have come after the SAPPR showing protection of MNES. More than 1,000 public submissions.</i></p> <p><i>Is interim advice only. EPA to give advice on the draft Strategic plan.</i></p>
16	<b>Balannup pressure main through Anstey-Keane Damplands, BF</b>	Water Corporation persists with its proposal despite the local road-proposal being rejected by EPA/Minister for Environment as environmentally unacceptable in formal EIA.	EPA level of assessment not yet set, OEPA/EPA has asked Water Corp for more information.
17	<b>Criminal Code Amendment (Prevention of Lawful Activity) Bill 2015</b>	Draconian proposals for restriction of non-violent protest, included reversal of onus of proof. Widespread community opposition, especially in conservation sector and farmers.	UBC signed CCWA petition opposing the legislation
18	<b>Bush Forever - ongoing</b>	UBC requested meeting with Planning Minister John Day. UBC grave concern at lack of recognition and action by DOP and DPaW on Bush Forever in SAPPR process. UBC working group developed ' <i>Call for Action on Bush Forever October 2015</i> ' with 10 key actions.	Meeting refused.  <b>UBC 'Call for action on Bush Forever' presented to:</b> <b>- EPA Chairman,</b>

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		<p>Presented to state agencies at series of meetings.</p> <p><i>DPaW advises there are reporting requirements for CAR reserve systems. Bush Forever is set up as a CAR reserve system with at least 10% each vegetation complex reserved.</i></p>	<p>- DPaW staff, -DG of DOP and Chairman + Sec WAPC, -DPI Simon Taylor and staff. No reply to UBC letter to Chairman WAPC seeking his support and response to Call for Action. ? no reporting.</p>
19	<b>BGPA prescribed burn trials in Kings Park and Bold Park</b>	<p>Burns over 6 ha planned for late April - early May. A 3 ha plot to be burnt every 6 years, and adjacent 3 ha plot to be burnt every 12 years. Ben Miller is the research scientist at BGPA. UBC believes the research is highly questionable.</p>	<p>First burn done, unacceptable smoke haze over some suburbs.</p>
20	<b>Gateway project by Main Roads to Perth Airport - ongoing</b>	<p>UBC appealed against extension of conditions on clearing permit 5242/3 which was for extension of 1 year to pay offset money to DER. But area already cleared.</p>	<p>Appeal dismissed.</p>
21	<b>Roe 8 Highway extension: Rethink the Link</b>	<p>'Rethink the Link' formed an alliance with 21 groups to campaign against the Roe 8 proposal and Perth Freight Link. Highly active and well co-ordinated campaign. Public meeting Fremantle Town Hall 21/7 with 400-500 people. Crowd funding raised \$10,000 in cash. Roe-8 declared a 'Controlled Action' under EPBC Act.  Senate Committee of inquiry into Perth Freight Link and Roe 8 <i>Save Beeliar Wetlands and EDO took out Supreme Court action for judicial review of EPA assessment.</i></p>	<p>UBC joined the alliance. Lots of media coverage, thousands of local people at rallies, events, lots of signs up locally. Roe-8 approved under EPBC Act.  <i>Case won and environmental approval declared invalid.</i></p>
22	<b>Clearing 73 ha Bullsbrook City of Swan</b>	<p>UBC appealed clearing permit for 73 ha of Banksia woodlands and Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat to be cleared for agriculture.</p>	<p>?</p>
23	<b>Seaward Village Swanbourne SAS redevelopment</b>	<p>Defence Housing Aust proposal includes clearing impact on adjacent BF. Strong local public opposition.</p>	<p>UBC advised DOE to 'call in' the proposal under EPBC Act</p>
24	<b>Lightning Swamp Bushland</b>	<p>Main Roads constructed a sump in the BF site without permission.</p>	<p>Permanent damage to the bushland, weed incursion, altered hydrology</p>
25	<b>Main Roads clearing 400 ha Ellenbrook - Bullsbrook</b>	<p>Clearing of western part Whiteman Park. UBC submission.</p>	
26	<b>Scarborough MRA redevelopment</b>	<p>Includes new near coast road through Trigg each Bush Forever site. UBC opposed the proposal, appears quite unnecessary duplication of nearby parallel road.</p>	<p>New group <i>Friends of Trigg Beach</i> formed to oppose the incursion into BF.</p>
27	<b>Bushmead residential development Hazelmere</b>	<p>Proposal by Cedar Woods. UBC submission.</p>	
28	<b>Bold Park City Beach High School site</b>	<p>4 possible sites for a new High School all in Bold Park Bush Forever Area. Bold Park is an 'A' class reserve for conservation and recreation. Friends of Bold Park active in opposing all proposals and associated clearing.</p>	<p>?</p>