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Proposed Development of Lesmurdie House by St Brigids College to build a Day Care Centre

The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc is opposed to the proposal for clearing 0.26ha of mature trees and bushland for this proposal – Day Care Centre at Lesmurdie House - for the following reasons:

- The loss of mature Jarrah, Marri and Banksia trees would be a significant loss. If these trees and bushland were to be valued, an alternative plan could be formulated. We understand that there is another alternative area for car parking which does not require tree removal and this should be pursued.
- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd does '*consider the foraging value for black cockatoos is a key value*' but then considers '*the site is not considered significant in the local or regional context for the management or protection of this value.*'

As the three species of black cockatoo are listed as either 'vulnerable' or as 'endangered' any loss of habitat used by black cockatoos is significant. The trees and bushland do provide foraging for the three species of black cockatoo. Marri seed is used for feeding by Carnaby's, Forest Red-tailed and Baudin's cockatoos, Jarrah seed is used by Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Banksia seed and nectar by Carnaby's cockatoos.

Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd comments that '*There was a range of larger marri which may provide foraging resources for black cockatoos*'. Residents of the area can confirm that black cockatoos do use these trees for foraging on a daily basis as the cockatoos travel to and from their roosting and possibly nesting sites. The Urban Bushland Council is certain that chewed Marri, Jarrah and Banksia residue would be on the ground under these trees, providing evidence of cockatoo habitat. In addition, the fact that the trees provide foraging for black cockatoos is mentioned in the Memorial Heritage listing of the site. This should not be ignored.

- Other plants in the Proteaceae family, as listed in Mattiske's Appendix C - *Hakea lissocarpa*, *H prostrata*, *H stenocarpa* and *H undulata* are black cockatoo food. Thus these plants should be retained and protected.
- Banksia woodlands are now listed as an endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act and the Approved Conservation Advice with this listing says that the ecological community should be protected **to prevent further loss of its extent**. This means no further clearing of patches, regardless of size. Actions and decisions at all levels of

government are supposed to adhere to this advice. Thus according to the federal Advice, this vegetation should not be disturbed or cleared and an alternative cleared site found for the car park and other works.

- Furthermore, this patch of vegetation is also a priceless and irreplaceable community asset for human health and wellbeing, as well as being an outdoor educational resource for children and adults at St Brigid's College.
- Bandicoots are present in the site as well as other species including probably thousands of invertebrates. The Bandicoots require low shrub cover as exists now on the site.
- The vegetation complex is Dwellingup 2 (D2). According to the EPA, only 16.2% of this complex is left as secure for conservation. (*EPA Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million: July 2015*). This is less than the desirable levels of 20% (IUCN) and 30% for local cover. If indeed other Dwellingup complexes (D1, D3 or D4) are present, their extent secured is much less.
- The local and wider community want to see trees, bushland and nature protected. With the heat island effect increasing due to lack of tree and vegetation cover and continued clearing as proposed here, this area of tree cover and its understorey should be retained and protected.

We bring these matters to your urgent attention and recommend that the proposal be amended accordingly.

Yours sincerely

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