

In 2031, will there be any cockatoos left to count in Western Suburbs?

The Carnaby's Cockatoo roost site at Perry Lakes is a major roost site. A roost site is where the cockatoos sleep overnight and where they have traditionally roosted over generations. The central core of the Perry Lakes site is in tall trees at the corners of the intersection of Underwood Avenue and Brockway Road near Perry Lakes. The north-west corner trees are on the Perry Lakes Landcorp development site and the south-east corner trees are on Lot 4, where Underwood Avenue Bushland lies.

125 metres south along Brockway Road, the Red-tail Black Cockatoos roost.

In the mornings leaving their roost site, the flock of Carnaby's Cockatoos fly either west towards the coast, north-east through bushland and suburbs or east into Underwood Avenue Bushland. From 3 April to 18 April, they have flown east from their roost site on 10 mornings out of 18 mornings. When they fly east they fly right into the stand of flowering *Banksia prionotes*. A little deeper into the bushland they can eat the seeds of the finished flowering *Banksia attenuata*. So all of the bushland is their feeding ground.

Photo below: Part of the flock of Carnaby's cockatoos drinking from the gutter of a house at Perry Lakes development.



Photo by M Owen



Photo by M Owen

Red-tailed Black-cockatoos sharing a jarrah nut in Shenton Park.

Apart from a period of around one month over December 2014 when the Goshawks were nesting, the Red-tails flew east into Underwood Avenue Bushland every morning to eat Jarrah seeds.

Recently the Red-tails' presence in the bushland has diminished, probably because the Cape Lilac trees in the suburbs are carrying berries and they feed on these.

During April 2015, there has been a significant increase in the number of Carnaby's Cockatoos in the western suburbs compared with previous years. There are two roosting sites for Carnaby's in the area and by combining numbers we have established that there are between 500 and 600 birds from the beginning of April to mid April - the time of writing.

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Editorial

Environment Minister Albert Jacob has refused to meet with the UBC. He is claiming that implementation of Bush Forever is not his responsibility, even though the UBC request was to discuss the process of transfer to the conservation estate of management of some 70 Bush Forever Areas by DPAW. In follow up correspondence, he suggested we could meet with Minister Day on Bush Forever, but he too has declined to meet with us.

On radio 6PR (Sunday 19 April), Minister Jacob stated that he was very much in favour of clearing and development in the Bush Forever site (325) at Ocean Reef - as it is in his electorate. He has handed over his Ministerial decision-making responsibilities concerning this development because of his conflict of interest. Surely advocating clearing and development in a Bush Forever site is contrary to the government's Bush Forever policy. The intent and purpose of these areas is that they be set aside for conservation. It seems that Minister Jacob is not committed to Bush Forever - the world class conservation reserve system which is to protect at least 10% of each vegetation community in our global biodiversity hotspot.

Minister Jacob has, however, said he is '*absolutely*' committed to protection of our endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo, and that fauna habitat *will be protected* in the new Biodiversity Conservation Act. But he does not know how much Banksia woodland habitat is being cleared each year in the Perth region. We keep being told that the Strategic Assessment (SAPPR) will deal with everything. But will it?



The Cape Peron Coastal Park community consultation in Rockingham, held on 6th May, was a huge success. Thanks again everyone for coming and to those of you who helped spread the word. This image is just half of the crowd, as you can tell by the message supporters are spelling out ("**Cape Peron Coastal Park - Let's make it happen**").

We need your help now - please write a quick email to the Editor of the West Australian, in response to the article in the paper on Thursday 7th May. Even if you only have time for a one liner thanking them for raising the issue or write an a letter to be published. See Article: Battle lines drawn over Point Peron future

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/27692728/alternative-plan-for-point-peron-development/>

Hopefully this will show them it is a polarising issue and they will continue to cover it.

Email: letters@wanews.com.au

(Note- you must include your full name, address and phone number)

At the time of writing we are being smothered in smoke and ash in our suburbs, in a dubious program called 'research' which we are told will prescribe burn 6 ha patches in Kings Park and Bold Park. The huge lingering pall of smoke indicates the patches might be much bigger. Why not simply study the areas burnt by arson in recent years? This about face in practices by BGPA is highly questionable. Their 'no prescribed burn' policy of many years standing was based on scientific study of the pattern of fires in Kings Park, followed by an independent review a few years ago.

The UBC does not support prescribed burns, sometimes dubbed ecological burns, on the Swan Coastal Plain. The issues to be addressed are arson and the control of grassy weeds such as veld grass.

TOWARDS

PERTH AND PEEL @ 3.5MILLION

The Western Australian Planning Commission released a suite of draft strategic documents on the future land use options to accommodate 3.5 million people by 2050. It is critical to get involved in the consultative process and seek the protection of environmental assets in Perth and Peel.

The draft documents are available online at www.planning.wa.gov.au/3.5million.asp

All submissions must be received by 5pm on Friday 31 July 2015.

POINT PERON

- URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

Tweet @wanew #PointPeron #wapol

If you could then (please) send a separate email each to Mark McGowan, your local member (if it is someone else) and also to Paul Papalia (see below);

Mark McGowan

This absolute shocker of a development is not getting the publicity it deserves. This is partly because Labor are completely silent on the issue, some are saying McGowan is being "complicit in his silence"?

Rockingham is in Mark McGowan's electorate, which is a very safe Labor seat. He has been the local member since about 1996, before that he was a Councillor for 2 years, so he has been involved with the development of the area for some time. His only public statement has been that he will go with whatever the EPA decide, which is exactly what all of the Liberals and pundits are saying? Is that what we can expect from McGowan if he becomes Premier?

Email Mark McGowan leader@loop.wa.gov.au

Twitter @MarkMcGowanMP #PointPeron #wapol

Paul Papalia

Paul is the Shadow Minister for Tourism and Member for Warnbro (near Rockingham). He tells us that people are not contacting him about the issue, so please flick an email over to him too.

Email paul.papalia@mp.wa.gov.au

Twitter @papsMLA #wapol #tourismwa #PointPeron

Table 1: Counts of Carnaby's cockatoos in the Western Suburbs of the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Date	Total Perry Lakes	Total Nedlands	TOTAL Western Suburbs
2 April 2015	174	380	554
3 April 2015	266	235	501
6 April 2015	328	227	555
8 April 2015	445	-	-
11 April 2015	420	~200	~620
13 April 2015	305	173	478
14 April 2015	346	283	629

The average number of Carnaby's Cockatoos roosting at the Perry Lakes site to mid April 2015 is around 300. This compares with the average in April 2014 of 200. It is suggested that the increasing numbers are due to the fact that foraging habitat has been lost as a result of extensive fires this last summer, current prescribed burning, as well as continued clearing. The Great Cocky Count Report 2014 stated that:

'On the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos are restricted to relatively few roost sites, many of which are associated with pines. Protection of these sites and associated feeding habitat is needed to arrest the decline of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos and ensure species persistence in this region.' (page ii)

In an interview on 6PR on 19 April 2015 the Minister for Environment, Albert Jacob, said he was *'absolutely committed to saving the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo.'* However then he added *'there are still 40,000 around.'* But the 2014 Great Cocky Count states that *'The minimum population count for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos in the Greater Perth-Peel Region was 7154.'*

The threat of the housing development by UWA in Underwood Avenue Bushland remains. The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland have had meetings with the



Large numbers of Carnaby's cockatoos at Perry Lakes before roosting.

Vice-chancellor of the University, Paul Johnson, and with other UWA officers. The UWA Senate considered Underwood at its meeting on 4th March 2015, but what was decided, if anything, is unknown to the Friends. The Vice-chancellor has stated that the University intends referring the housing proposal to the federal government in the near future.

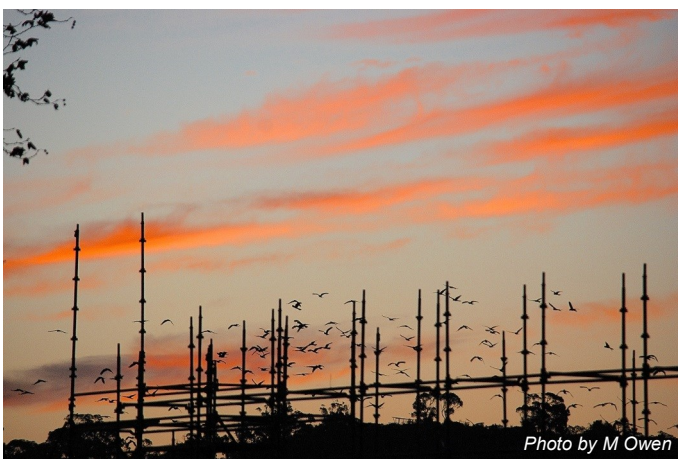
Critical habitat for Carnaby's cockatoos is defined by the Department of Parks and Wildlife as foraging habitat within a 6 km radius of a major Carnaby's roost site. According to the Recovery Plan for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo, potential roosting places are all large trees above 8 metres within a 1 km radius of a core area of a major roost site.

Underwood Avenue Bushland is critical habitat. Further, Red-tails have been seen and photographed mating in the bushland, as well as at their roost site (while a fierce storm raged). The fire of January 2014 created additional tree hollows and both species of black cockatoo spend time investigating, preparing and sitting in hollows in the bushland.

Julie Bishop, the federal member for the electorate of Curtin, has met the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland and the UBC on a few occasions, and she has made suggestions on ways to protect the bushland. An early suggestion was that UWA be given land to develop a branch of the University in the Pilbara in exchange for the Underwood bushland of Lot 4. This suggestion was put to the Premier. However, he replied that Pilbara development and Underwood were separate issues.

More recently Ms Bishop suggested that UWA be given under-used and cleared federal government land at Irwin Barracks, Shenton Park, on Stubbs Terrace next to the railway line. But the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence advised Ms Bishop in November 2014 that *'there is no available land on which to swap with the Underwood Avenue bushland due to the future growth of the barracks.'*

Many concerned citizens have written to Julie Bishop and to the University of Western Australia calling on them to protect the bushland from development. Indeed



The flock of Carnaby's cockatoos flying from the East Lake of Perry Lakes to the roost site.

(Continued from page 3)

35 eminent scientists signed a letter to Ms Bishop expressing ‘*our concern and dismay at the intended destruction of important bushland in the development proposed by the University of Western Australia for endowment land bordering Underwood Avenue in Shenton Park.*’ A copy went to the Vice-chancellor.

The University has the opportunity to save this beautiful and highly significant bushland.

Birdlife Western Australia expressed it so well: ‘*The retention of the bushland and the critical habitat it provides for two nationally threatened black cockatoos offers a gift of immeasurable value for future generations of West Australians. It would be a legacy and an act of philanthropy fitting for a prestigious and world-renowned university.*’



Photo by M. Owen

A great deal of valuable research is done in Underwood Avenue Bushland. However no research is done on how Carnaby's cockatoos and red-tails use the bushland.

CONSERVATION PRECINCTS REMOVED FROM PERTH AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

By Kevin McLean

The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Mr Warren Truss, approved the *2014 Perth Airport Master Plan* in January of this year, which means two very large Conservation Precincts, totalling about 310 hectares, have now been removed from the *Master Plan*. These were the only areas set aside specifically for conservation at the airport and they had been included in each of the three previous *Master Plans* approved since the airport was privatised in the late 1999's. Whatever weasel words the Commonwealth government tries to use to attempt to justify this decision, it is extremely bad news for these remnant natural areas at the Perth Airport and for people who care at all about our natural heritage,

There can be only one reason for the removal of the Conservation Precincts from the *2014 Perth Airport Master Plan* and that is make it easier for the airport leaseholder to open the areas up for development. It is not enough for Commonwealth Government to have already approved the clearing of enormous areas of high quality, rare and essentially irreplaceable habitat for commercial developments at the Perth Airport, and to have funded enormous road developments into the airport, but now it sees fit to deny the public's right to have a reasonable proportion of this very large site allocated for the protection of natural heritage.

It must be stressed Perth Airport is on Commonwealth land and that land is therefore supposed to be used for the long term public good. Any number of environmental reports have indicated that Perth Airport has outstanding and rare environmental values and in all of the three previous approved *Perth Airport Master Plan* documents released since the airport was privatised the Conservation Precincts were presented as a reasonable compromise between development and conservation. Why has the

present Commonwealth Government now decided it is a fair thing for the Conservation Precincts to be abolished?

This is a disgraceful state of affairs and claims that the EPBC Act alone will provide sufficient protection for the natural areas at the airport are rubbish. It is very clear that it is the intention of the leaseholder, with the apparent blessing of the Commonwealth Government, to clear and develop virtually all the natural areas at the airport and to employ so-called “offsets” to make this appear environmentally acceptable.

The problem is that there are no ecologically equivalent areas in the vicinity of Perth Airport and that offsetting results in a net environmental loss anyway. The eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain, especially south of the Swan River, is very heavily cleared and poorly conserved. The natural remnants at Perth Airport, despite years of clearing and the devastating impacts of such monstrosities the Gateway Project, still contain ecologically viable habitat areas with very large numbers of native flora and fauna species that will be severely depleted in the region if this destruction continues.

The natural bushland and wetland areas at Perth Airport are not generally accessible to the public and they have not had the benefit of much public recognition but to visit these areas is to see beautiful natural heritage that many would think was now absent so close to the city. These areas deserve formal and permanent protection and they should not be simply handed over to the leaseholder to derive income from industrial and commercial sub-leasing arrangements. Please let it be known – especially among your electorate politicians - that you think the Conservation Precincts at Perth Airport should be reinstated and that clearing for non-aviation purposes at the airport should cease.

WANTED

A Comprehensive Integrated Management Plan for bush reserves along the upper reaches of the Swan River

Many Bush Forever (BF) Areas have more than one owner. Management arrangements and communication protocols between local and state level authorities are not always well defined or clearly understood by everyone involved.

An example of this is when community group AshfieldCAN was unable to find out who had authorized additional drainage channels in the wetlands at Ashfield Flats. Seeking clarification about management arrangements of this Bush Forever site (No 214) became complicated. A mosquito control contractor had excavated the ditches (now filled in) but it was unclear whether the Town of Bassendean (manager of the other part of the reserve), the Swan River Trust (the land lies beside the river), the WA Planning Commission (owner of wetland section), the Department of Planning (manager of that section), the Department of Environment Regulation (relevant because of possible acid sulfate soils) or any other relevant authority (perhaps Department of Health or Department of Parks and Wildlife?) had been consulted or participated in the decision making process. No one seemed to know. Due to issues such as these that were affecting the Ashfield Flats and the river, the AshfieldCAN called a public meeting on March 30th.

Approximately 60 people, mostly local Ashfield and Bassendean residents, attended the meeting, indicating a high level of local concern. Also present were representatives of the Bassendean Preservation Group and two other riverside Friends groups, the Mayors and Environment Officers from the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater and City of Belmont, local MP Dave Kelly and the Shadow Minister for the Environment, Chris Tallentire.

AshfieldCAN president, Lucy Bromell, emphasized at the beginning of the meeting that the Ashfield Flats are a high use area with a wide range of different values for people who visit to exercise, walk their dogs, fish, picnic, watch birds or simply enjoy the riverside ambience. High on the list of local concerns is riverbank erosion accelerated by boat wash and trampling with loss of river margin trees as a consequence. A washout near the boardwalk threatens that structure along with associated Samphire vegetation. Declining vegetation health in the wetlands had been noticed for some time before the new drains were created.

Lucy emphasized the need for a comprehensive integrat-

ed management plan with clear lines of communication between all the authorities responsible for different aspects of the health and maintenance of the area. She argued persuasively for a bigger perspective on the management of the river and its associated reserves, asking: “What do we need to get our river right?”

A panel of representatives of the Department of Planning, Swan River Trust and Town of Bassendean explained their roles and presented their cases. It was clear all authorities are currently *financially constrained* when it comes to environmental priorities. Questions and comments from the audience followed and strong support for integrated management of both sides of the river from the Windan Bridge to the Guilford Bridge was evident, perhaps along the lines of the Canning River Regional Park, although the Swan River Trust representative pointed out that all the same organizations would still be involved. What one would hope for was that a comprehensive plan would include formalized communication protocols and defined responsibilities within the larger whole. As to whether the relevant Bush Forever sites BF 314 (Swan River Foreshore Mt Lawley/Maylands), BF 313 (Swan River Salt Marshes (Baywater/Maylands and Belmont), BF 214 (Ashfield Flats), or BF 491 (Swan River Backwater, South Guilford) have yet been audited as planned under the Bush Forever plan, or how soon they might be transferred to the conservation estate, no one present could say on the night. The matter is currently being followed up.

The Department of Planning representative did emphasize, however, that as managers of the WAPC land estate, they were prepared to work with local authorities and other organizations to assist them to get sites “to a certain level for a long term management plan”. He said they just “needed to find an appropriate end-of-line manager” prepared to take on the responsibilities. It was not completely clear from the discussion whether long term plans need to be in place before a BF site is vested in an appropriate end-of-line manager or whether the plan would be developed after the transfer of responsibility, but the assurance that the Department of Planning was aware of the need to find appropriate managers for bush and riverside reserves was encouraging.

Report by Penny Lee who attended the public meeting on behalf of Baigup Wetland Interest Group, Baigup being part of BF Site 313.

***Carpobrotus* Confusion and Hybridisation along our Coastline.**

To avoid risk of planting the introduced *Carpobrotus edulis* in coastal restoration projects rather than the native pigface *Carpobrotus virescens*, increased diligence is required of propagators when collecting seeds and vegetative materials as has been demonstrated through a study undertaken by the Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare. For more information or to request a report on *Carpobrotus* identification prepared by Greg Keighery, Senior Principal Research Scientist at DPAW, please contact Alex Johnston, Coastcare Coordinator with Perth Region NRM: cco@cottesloe.wa.gov.au

A threat to our bushland reserves in Kalamunda

Tim Colegate

In the Shire of Kalamunda, there is currently an attempt underway to rezone a 10 Ha bushland reserve to urban zoning, with the intention to construct an Integrated Aged Care Facility - a significant urban development. The loss of bushland and black cockatoo habitat is always a concern. But of particular concern here is that the bushland is classified as a Parks and Recreation reserve in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), so it should never have been put forward for development.

The community and the Shire of Kalamunda have generally been supportive of keeping our bush reserves intact to retain “a home in the forest”, the motto of the Shire. However, a lack of leadership by the Shire and state planning authorities in producing a strategic plan to facilitate required aged care facilities have resulted in this ad-hoc and ill-informed proposal that creates an unnecessary conflict between those advocating for such facilities and those wishing to preserve our reserves.

The bushland in question, Crown Reserve 30314, Wilkins Rd Kalamunda, is part of an important wildlife “green corridor” that lies along the ridgeline between Kalamunda National Park in Gooseberry Hill and Korung National Park in Pickering Brook. This reserve is black cockatoo habitat with numerous Jarrah and Marri trees, and a local resident who has walked this area for many years has identified more than 200 species of wildflower. This reserve is rich in bird assemblages; these are an important factor with bird conservation where groups of different species of birds feed in close proximity. The reserve does contain dieback, but the authorities have not addressed the impact of dieback spreading via soil disturbance and groundwater movement into the adjacent Middle Helena Water Catchment.

So what went wrong? Why is this high-conservation value reserve being put up for development? The reasoning is still unclear. Twenty years ago, the residents and the Shire of Kalamunda fought against WA Government plans to develop the area for housing. In recognition of its ecological values, the bushland was gazetted as a reserve in the Darling Range Regional Park (DRRP). As explained in 1996 by Mr John Day, then Member for Darling Range, the park would ensure the area’s environmental values were protected and preserved. Shire officers recommended that “any use of the land [Reserve 30314] for other than Regional Reserve should not be supported”. However, contrary to all the evidence of reservation and intended inclusion in the DRRP, the Department of Parks and Wildlife do not recognise the status of this reserve in what is now the Parks of the Darling Range.

There has also been a considerable lack of due diligence on the suitability of the land for use as an aged care facility. The proposed site has a 500 metre long boundary adjoining other bushland reserves on the downslope eastern side, which presents a significant bushfire risk. How-

ever, there has been a failure to recognise and properly assess the risk to elderly residents of the proposed facility. Under the Draft State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning for Bushfire Risk Management, this vulnerable land use that contains areas of extreme bushfire risk should not be supported. We await to see how the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) will view this proposal in light of the draft policy update. Meanwhile, the Shire has thus far only taken a limited interest in assessing the bushfire risk and its ability to deal with any evacuations.

It is worrying that the Shire of Kalamunda, supported by the WA Government, perceives that our bushland reserves are not environmental and community assets, but land awaiting development as required. The lesson here is that zoning in the MRS is insufficient protection; maybe better awareness via signage and maps on the Shire website to highlight our reserves and parks would help? The fight is on-going, and the proposed rezoning is currently being assessed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (comments due 13 May) and by the WAPC and the Shire (submissions have closed, but comments can be sent direct). See www.SaveWilkinsReserve.com for more details.



Ten hectares reserve proposed for land use change from Parks and Recreation to Urban in the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

A Waste Transfer Station adjacent to the Yalgorup National Park questioned

The almost 13,000 hectare Yalgorup National Park, south of Mandurah is situated between Old Coast Road Highway and the Indian Ocean. It contains ten elongated lakes, tuart trees and the ancient thrombolites.

How then, in 1994, could the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia Water Authority, and the City of Mandurah, gain approval to alter the boundaries of the Yalgorup National Park and Tims Thicket Reserve to make way for a Septage Treatment Facility, Limestone Quarry and Inert Fill Site?

Strict and binding management conditions were put into place to protect the surrounding environment. Among

these conditions were requirement to permit only **inert waste** and that each load should be visually inspected.

Over the years there have been breaches of several of these conditions, revealed by photos of poisonous paint drums, oil drums, car batteries, washing machines which have been taken at the Inert Fill site. Local environmentalists and residents have been able to take these photos by entering the facility through a break in the fencing (another breach). The required testing of water in adjacent bores has revealed some questionable results which have not been investigated further.

To add 'insult to injury' in January this year a single line in the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) 'Monday Notices' and some serious detective work reveals that permission is being sought to construct an entire Waste Transfer Station on this site excised from the sensitive Yalgorup National Park.

Peel Preservation Group rounded off their submission by

saying '*Peel Preservation Group feels that the existing Waste Facility at Tim's Thicket is problematic and should never have been permitted to be situated on land excised from Yalgorup National Park. To allow the proposed Waste Transfer Station to be built adjacent, only compounds the potential problems.*'

Are we the only ones who have difficulty with the very minimalistic information and lack of easily accessible information on DER's Licence and Approvals advertisements?

Is there a parallel with the Oakford Bio-Organics debacle? Are operators abiding by environmental conditions as required and are they being monitored?

When a new project is approved (often against the wishes of the community and those concerned with the environment), some [hopefully] strict conditions to that approval may be put in place, but without rigid enforcement the 'conditions' are of little value.

Lancelin Save our Back Beach Campaign - The Next Phase

By Tommy Cameron

Unfortunately the Shire of Gingin voted the first stage of the process for the Lancelin Tourist Park through. This was not unexpected as many of us had been told for weeks, even months, that the Councillors would vote for its approval. They had made up their minds before even seeing all the evidence and research required to make an informed decision. It was as if they had been conditioned by Tourism WA into a decision. The evidence was strongly against this proposal with following being just being a few of the reasons.

First, in the public submission process 68% of submissions said NO to this proposal. This is a strong against vote but apparently this doesn't matter in the Shire of Gingin and they tried to manipulate the data to those with postal addresses within the town. Unfortunately there are many people who live in Lancelin but have maintained a postal address within Perth. It also begs the question why are ratepayers' submissions treated differently? We all pay the same rates therefore should all have equal rights.

There have been numerous mistakes pointed out to the Shire with regards to the Environmental Report and Coastal Management Plan. There have been no clear answers back from the Shire or the Councillors. These mistakes are obvious and should have been addressed before any decision was made.

There is a letter from the EPA and statements within their own Environmental Report that an EPA Level 1 flora and fauna survey be undertaken before any development was to go ahead. Why wasn't this carried out to see if this site was suitable before the council made any decision? Why has this been rushed through?

The EPA in its letter even has concerns with the coastal setback of the proposal in regards to the State Coastal Planning Policies 2.6. Magically while every other local government along the WA coast has real concerns about

the effects of coastal erosion and inundation (an example is the Peron Naturaliste Partnership Report for local councils from Rockingham to Busselton where they state a 200m wide strip along the coast is under threat), the Shire of Gingin wants to develop threatened areas. It's backward and short-sighted thinking in the hope of helping a select few. It is the future generations who will have to foot the bill.

Lastly, there are numerous other problems, as clearly stated in the Damara report 2012 which says "*Development on the south side of the Edward Island cusplate foreland is not advised because of dune instability and potential modification to the landform.*"

The Shire's response is that they can manage this but have failed with massive beach erosion issues in Seabird where houses are under threat and even within Lancelin at Grace Darling Park, where the park that was established is now eroding, with gazebos washed away and much of the parkland disappearing. Doesn't fill anyone with hope they can look after any other developments along the coast.

There is a simple solution to all this. Redevelop the existing caravan park that is already there. Make it more attractive and able to cater for more tourists and let's see what happens. This is a much cheaper option that could be up and running a lot sooner. The Shire could then gain some real economic data from this site and be able to make a much more informed decision as what the town really needs. This could all be done with less environmental damage as the amenities and infrastructure are already there. It's an easy answer that everyone would agree with.

There is a long way to go in this fight but we keep on in the hope common sense prevails.

www.facebook.com/lancelinsaveourbackbeach

Group News Group News Group News

Star Swamp Bushland's 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the gazettal of Star Swamp Bushland Reserve as a Class-A Reserve. It is also the 30th anniversary of the Friends of Star Swamp Bushland and a celebration will be held later in the year.

Star Swamp Bushland Reserve was the first piece of urban bushland in WA to be saved by community action, not just a few months of lobbying, but more than a decade of concerted effort by a dedicated group of people, with petitions, lobbying of all levels of government and government departments, scientific surveys of flora and fauna, public meetings and so on. Bit by bit the area of the reserve was increased until the entire 96 hectares of bushland we know today was finally proclaimed an A Class reserve on 31 March 1985.

Friends of Mosman Park Bushland



Pictured above is Roe Point in Mosman Park. A tidal area that still has a small amount of diversity left but is suffering from buffalo lawn invasion. At the edge of the tidal area grows native celery, native couch, samphire, *Atriplex hypoleuca*, *Suaeda australis*, *Juncus kraussii* and *Ficinia nodosa*. The buffalo lawn's vigour is suffocating especially the native celery. We have been hand weeding with pruning saws to give the native celery some respite and have increased the number of plants. An unsustainable activity, as the buffalo grows back fast!

This season we are planting a barrier of sedges about 2 metres away with the idea they will slow the buffalo and a space in between will allow recruitment of native celery up to the plantings. The fantastic aspect is that young St Hildas girls will help us. They have already been weeding the site with us and cleaning up litter from the river washing on the beach here. Imagine if you had known about this at their age! The girls are very enthusiastic and great to work with!

Sue Conlan

For more information about the Friends Group go to <http://mosmanparkbushland.org/> - Community Planting Day at Mosman Beach will be held on 28 June at 9am.

Baigup Wetland Interest Group

Our first 2015 work day at the end of February went well with large piles of weedy vines and annuals pulled from revegetated areas along the northern margin of the Secondary Lake. Following early April rains, weeds will be rampant again by May 3rd, our next work day, and the weather should be ideal for a bit of out door exercise. We expect our June 28 work day to involve planting as well as weeding.

If driving, volunteers on the day are advised to park in A.P. Hinds Reserve in the rowing club carpark at the end of Milne Street in Bayswater. Walk under Garrett Road Bridge to the crossroads in the centre of the reserve where you will be pointed in the direction of the work area: 8.50 for a 9am start, finishing with morning tea provided at 11am. Bring gardening gloves, sturdy footwear, trowels, weather protection, water bottle and a sense of humour.

Our group is currently waiting with interested anticipation the completion of a new management plan for Baigup wetland commissioned by the City of Bayswater. High on the list of matters requiring expert attention are water quality issues, Baigup being a site characterised by extensive areas of saline and potential acid sulphate soils. Visitors to Baigup will have noticed that a raised sealed walkway/cycle path runs right through the reserve interfering dramatically with natural interchanges between tidal river water and fresh water entering via seeps, small creeks and drains on the landward side. The path was established in 1986 on the access track constructed to run a major gas pipeline through the wetland at that time.

Today, with the river far more saline than in the past – a salt water wedge now extends up the river as far as the Guilford Bridge seriously compromising riverside vegetation such as *Melaleuca raphiophylla* – we have two distinct ecologies on either side of the path. Two constructed fresh water lakes with connecting, mostly fresh water, channels and vegetation can be seen on the landward side while typical salt marsh sedge plains and samphire flats occur on the river side.



Volunteers removing weedy vines at Baigup wetlands.

Group News Group News Group News

In terms of human interference, the site as a whole also has a serious legacy of weed infestation dating back to its market garden days from the late 19th century through to the mid 20th century. That said, it also remains a haven for several species of frog (though total numbers seem to have declined over the last 15 years), Western Glossy Swamp Skinks, Moyitj (the original Wadjuk name for what is otherwise called the Native Water Rat) and nearly 80 species of birds officially recorded over the last three years.

So the rehabilitation and maintenance challenge is a worthwhile one that, with limited resources devoted to the environment by all relevant authorities, will continue to require imagination and ingenuity for a long time to come.

Baigup wetland is part of Bush Forever Site 313 which extends on both sides of the Swan River from Garrett Road Bridge downstream to the end of Maylands Peninsula.

For more information about the planned activities please contact Penny Lee, Coordinator, Baigup Wetland Interest Group: baigup@iinet.net.au

Penny Lee

Friends of Trigg Bushland Too much conservation?

The Trigg Bushland Reserve draft Management Plan released for public comment in spring 2014, among other issues reviewed the many separate reserves that make up Trigg Bushland. Among them, Millington Reserve and Langton Reserve were to be changed from 'Recreation' and 'Recreation and Parking' to 'Conservation, Dune Protection, Education and Passive Recreation'. Guess what - Stirling decided that enough land had 'already be set aside for conservation' and voted to keep both reserves as Recreation - and that all-important Parking! Right in the middle of a Bush Forever site with significant flora - many old-growth tuarts. Only Councillors Boothman, Caddy, Jenkinson, Proud and Sargent voted against. Way to go, Stirling.

Adapted from the Friends of Trigg Bushland Newsletter

Friends of Hollywood Reserve

On the 24th May, there will be a City of Nedlands' Natural Area Friends Group Appreciation Event held in Hollywood Reserve. This will be held from 9 am to 12 Noon. Please meet us on the Lawn Area adjacent to the Office of the Australian War Graves. The City will be catering and therefore please RSVP to Vicki on 9273 3500.

We will be taken on a bush tucker walk by a Noongar Guide. There will be bush tucker treats and face painting activities for children.

Patricia Hewson

Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
49 Safety Bay Road
Peron
Opposite Lake Richmond

naragabup

in conjunction with

Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise and Turtle Oblong Rescue & Rehabilitation Network

will be celebrating

World Turtle Day

Saturday 23rd May

10am—3pm

Entry \$5 per person (including members)

Learn all about our endangered Marine Turtles, Western Swamp Tortoises and Oblong Turtles

- Sausage sizzle
- Informative turtle talks including video footage
- Interactive displays
- Free raffle
- Wiggly reptiles display
- Turtle games
- Turtle colouring sheets
- Turtle mosaic-making

No live turtles will be on display

New Cockatoo Kids Club in the City of Cockburn

Native ARC & Millennium Kids have partnered with the City of Cockburn to start a new Cockatoo Kids Club in Cockburn, after identifying the positive benefits of the existing Canning Cockatoo Kids Club.

The environmental club is for children between 6 and 15 years, who enjoy getting outdoors, making new friends sharing ideas on how to care for the environment. The aim is to provide children with outdoor opportunities, to learn about their local environment and the important connections between people, plants and animals. The Canning Club currently has 65 proud Cockatoo KIDS Club members, with a total of 119 children participating in Club activities since its inception in January 2012. The Cockburn Club looks forward to having new members register and to nurture young environmental stewards.

For more information please email City of Cockburn Environment & Waste Education Officer, Claire Dunn or call (08) 9411 3556

SUPPORT THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL

Join or renew your membership

Groups:

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$45 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$35 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive copies of the "Urban Bush Telegraph"

Groups and supporters are reminded that annual membership fees include one printed copy of the *Urban Bush Telegraph* (currently published quarterly). Additional printed copies can be ordered at a cost of \$5.00 per copy per annum.

Send your name, address and cheque or postal order to: Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

Urban Bushland Council's activities

Tuesday 14th May 10.30 am-12.30 am

Guided walk with UBC member group Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare Inc.

See their extensive restoration of coastal bushland, lunch at café or BYO. Meet at West Coast Drive near Castle St, North Beach

Wednesday 10th June at 9.45 am for 10 am-12 noon: Greenways Roundtable

At Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

Sunday 14th June at 10 am:

Fungi walk with UBC member group Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland. Leader: Kirsten Tullis

Meet near top of Della Road Noranda. BYO morning tea.

Thursday 18th June at 3 pm

Briefing by Simon Taylor DPC and his team on the Strategic Assessment Perth-Peel Region.

Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

For information visit <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/events>

UBC PUBLICATIONS

Perth's Bush Forever Report Card

Proceedings of a conference (December 2012)

Available through the UBC website:

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/publications>

Perth's Banksia Woodlands - Precious and Under Threat

Proceedings of a symposium (2011)

Available from the UBC for \$20 plus \$3 postage.

Endangered Black Cockatoos in Western Australia

Proceedings of a symposium .

Available through the UBC website:

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/resources/publications>

Burning Issues—proceedings of a workshop about fire management in urban bushland. (2002)

Available from the UBC free.

Building Partnerships between Community Groups and Local Government for Our Bushland—proceedings of a seminar (2000)

Available from the UBC free.

Managing our Bushland- proceedings of a conference about the protection and management of urban bushland (1998)

Out of print; available in libraries.

Burning our Bushland- proceedings of a conference about fire and urban bushland (1995)

Out of print; available in libraries.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Copy deadline - 10h July 2015

PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL

CALENDAR

\$10 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

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Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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