

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2017 inclusive.

Pre-election actions

Before the state election in March, the UBC conducted our 'Neighbourhood Nature' campaign, ably coordinated by Colma Keating. Our key issues were: *Complete the implementation of Bush Forever; End clearing of Banksia woodlands; Protect wetlands and their buffer zones; Invest in scientific survey, staff, expertise, and management in DPAW, DER, DOP, state agencies, LGA's.* Briefings of each of the major political parties were requested and were held for Labor and the Greens. Talk back radio and letters to editors and personal visits to MP's were encouraged.

The massive **Roe 8 campaign** by local groups will be remembered as outstanding with thousands of community folk repeatedly demonstrating peacefully, but so powerfully. The Barnett government's decision to allow Main Roads to start bulldozing shortly before the election - when Labor committed to stop Roe 8, invoked a strong reaction in the community and the Liberals were voted out with a huge swing against them.

As a result of other effective local campaigns, the proposed MRA roads through two Bush Forever sites in Scarborough coastal dunes were stopped by the incoming Labor government, as were the 'houses in wetlands' in Bayswater, and the elderly citizens proposal in Wilkins Rd Kalamunda, in Darling Range Regional Park. These were much appreciated positive moves.

Bush Forever and 'governance failures' continue

After the UBC met with Minister Rita Saffioti's policy officers soon after the election, we presented them with a list of 16 'Roe 8' issues in Bush Forever sites. They are mostly yet to be resolved. Two unacceptable proposals by the Water Corporation have been approved by Minister Dawson when good alternatives with avoidance were ignored.

The WAPC has failed to *complete* implementation of **Bush Forever** as planned and has failed to ensure *protection* of all Bush Forever sites. A bank of sites remains under WAPC ownership. They should have been (and still must be) ceded to the Crown as A class reserves for conservation and allocated to a suitable conservation land manager. There is also concern that Metronet will assume priority and be located in some Bush Forever sites.

Bush Forever was/is planned to be the 'CAR' reserve system for the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region – to meet the reserve system requirements under the CALM Act. In seeking leadership by DBCA for securing all sites for conservation, the UBC requested DPAW (DBCA) to initiate an 'Inter-agency Working Group' to facilitate the securing and management of all Bush Forever sites.

Attitude of infrastructure agencies

The complete lack of respect by 3 government infrastructure agencies for environmental attributes and government policies for Bush Forever, ecological linkages, wetlands, local bushland, and for associated community group and UBC advice – continues and is unacceptable. Landcorp, Water Corporation, Main Roads, and some local government authorities are the most notable offenders. UBC submissions and advice at meetings has been completely ignored by Landcorp at the RPH redevelopment site, and similarly the Water Corporation in two proposals. The list of issues below gives these and other cases.

Banksia woodlands TEC

DPAW held a very well attended (240 people) Banksia Woodlands Research workshop 16 June. While the listing of Banksia woodlands as a TEC and the Approved Conservation Advice should be invoking an end to its clearing and increased protection and restoration of ecological linkages in the PMR, awareness is lacking at state and local levels, and the bulldozers are still active.

In proposed revision of the **Strategic Assessment Perth–Peel (SAPPR)**, it is disturbing to be told that 18,000ha of clearing will be allowed. Most of this is likely to be Banksia woodlands.

The lack of definitive legal protection for all TECs, both state and federally listed, remains a governance failure in our biodiversity hotspot.

Tuart Forests and Woodlands TEC nomination under EPBC Act

UBC supported this proposed listing at critically endangered level, and met with DOEE officers.

Loss of Black Cockatoo habitat

The Great Cocky Count for 2017 revealed that Carnaby's population continues to decline at 5-11% per annum. This is a major threat to viability of Carnaby's on the Swan Coastal Plain. Land clearing of Banksia woodland habitat is an ongoing major threat, as is the continuing clearing of the Gngangara pine plantations.

Engaging with Ministers and agencies

UBC met with Environment Minister Hon Stephen Dawson once. Quarterly meetings were requested and agreed, but not started until 2018. We also met once with Hon Dave Kelly, Minister for Water, and once with policy officers in Minister Saffioti's office.

During the year, UBC representatives met with many officers from agencies, supported groups with local campaigns, and attended lots of local events, meetings and seminars. There was lots of 'networking'.

Website revision project

The UBC is pleased to have received a grant from Lotterywest to completely update and revise our website with addition of new facilities. It is being very well managed by Christine Richardson and she will present a report to you on this.

UBC Council meetings and events held 2017

- 8 February: Council meeting with well attended launch of Friends of Brixton St Wetlands book by Subas Dhakal who gave a very moving talk.
- 7 March: AGM followed by Council meeting with guest speaker Ron Johnstone *'Black Cockatoos in the south west of WA- changing status and foraging ecology'*.
- 29 May: Council meeting with speaker Kate Brown: *'Return of the Australian Hollyhock and other restoration stories from Penguin Island'*.
- 1 July: With Northern Suburbs branch of Wildflower Society, guided walk led by Dave Pike at Landsdale Bushland reserve (with SCP TEC 20a)
- 10 July: Council meeting with guest speaker Dr Mark Brundrett *'Soil factors lead to Plant Diversity Hotspots in WA'*.
- 19 August: Guided walk led by Sara Saberi and Sian Mawson at Queens Park Bushland BF 283. Well attended.
- 9 September: Guided walk led by David Pike in Koondoola Bushland. Well attended.
- 28 September: Council meeting with guest speaker Dr Ray Froend *'The Hidden threat to Banksia woodlands – groundwater decline'*.
- 7 October: Guided walk led by Sue Conlan in the river to coast 'Vlamingh link' Mosman Park, well attended by ~25 from local community.
- 23 November: UBC Round Table discussion, facilitated by Colma Keating, with 10 selected guests to advise the UBC on effective future actions.

Team effort of Executive Committee and others

Special thanks are due to our dedicated and hard-working executive committee: Secretary Margaret Owen, Treasurer Christine Allbeury, Web Project Manager Christine Richardson, Facebook co-ordinator Sara Saberi, events co-ordinator Cathie O'Neill and Sue Conlan. There are many more dedicated helpers: Editor and compiler of the *Urban Bush Telegraph*, Renata Zelinova; technician Kim Sarti, events facilitator Colma Keating, and others who contribute submissions and attend agency meetings with us. The generous spirit of co-operation and mutual support you have all given to each other, to the UBC, and to me personally is wonderful: sincere thanks to all.

Submissions, site issues and campaigns

The table below is a summary of the key site issues that involved our attention during 2017.

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
1	Underwood Ave bushland BF 119	<p>State Ministerial approval of UWA housing development valid for 5 years, lapsed July 2015. After a gap until 27 September 2016, an extension until September 2017 of approval was granted under S46A(1) of the EP Act. UBC recommends acquisition of the whole site with MRIF. The site is critical habitat for Carnaby's and Red-tails + lots other significance.</p> <p>Draft decision under EPBC Act was that the proposal not be approved.</p> <p>FUAB had multiple meetings with Ministers, MP's, OEPA, UWA.</p>	<p><i>Letter from WAPC Chairman acknowledged that state government approval had lapsed, and that Commonwealth approval under EPBC Act never achieved.</i></p> <p>Questionable extension approved but this has again lapsed.</p>
2	York-Merredin roadside clearing	<p>UBC submission against clearing ~600 trees in highly cleared landscape, and made appeal against granting of clearing permit.</p> <p>UBC site visit with Dr John Salmon was on ABC TV, extensive facebook publicity, met with Main Roads, alternatives presented.</p>	<p><i>All UBC advice ignored. Roadside of 'Cathedral trees' cleared.</i></p> <p>Governance failure under clearing regulations</p>
3	Farrall Rd BF 309 wetland and bushland with CE TEC	<p>Note BF 309 and surrounds sold by Dept Housing to developer Peet Ltd in ~ 2016.</p> <p>Watercourse cleared despite advice from Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group to avoid it.</p> <p>DOEE notified of need for referral of further clearing of Critically Endangered (CE) TEC under EPBC Act. Only 6 patches remain. Also hydrological impacts, and some Banksia woodlands TEC.</p> <p>UBC submission to EPA for formal assessment as PER.</p>	<p><i>Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group's advice to City of Swan ignored and watercourse cleared.</i></p> <p>EPA and DER failed to assess and stop clearing of CE TEC</p>
4	Shenton RPH redevelopment by Landcorp	<p>Landcorp proposal has high rise and new roads in regionally significant ecological bushland linkage between 2 x BF sites.</p> <p>Local campaigning and publicity and petitions with thousands of signatures continued all 2017 to seek protection and restoration of the linkage, and all buildings removed from linkage.</p> <p>Landcorp applied for a clearing permit for clearing in the linkage. UBC submission done. Clearing is at variance with 5 or 6 clearing principles and therefore a Clearing Permit should not be granted.</p> <p>UBC reps met with Clearing Regulation Division of DWER; James Windenbar, Abbey Crawford.</p>	<p>Landcorp totally ignored consistent scientific and community advice to retain and restore the linkage.</p> <p><i>Declared not a Controlled Action under EPBC Act despite 80 submissions to DOEE</i></p>
5	Bayswater wetland	<p>Clearing of wetland stopped late 2016. Environment House kept up contact with City of Bayswater to ensure appropriate protection</p>	<p><i>Progressing</i></p>
6	Ocean Reef Marina + development in BF 325	<p>Marina proposal formally assessed by EPA as PER. UBC submission on Negotiated Planning Outcome for BF 325.</p> <p>Rezoning proposal by WAPC includes some of BF site. UBC submission on proposed WAPC Amendment 1270-41</p>	<p>?</p> <p>?</p>
7	Balannup wastewater pressure main through Anstey-Keane Damplands, BF 342	<p>UBC Appealed against EPA Report 1592 which recommended approval of the wastewater main through BF 342. Team of 6 experts met Appeals Convenor to no avail.</p> <p><i>The principles of avoidance and prevention could easily have been applied</i></p>	<p>Appeals and our scientific advice dismissed by Minister Dawson and proposal approved.</p>
8	Holmes St Southern River Huntingdale BF 125	<p>Proposed extension of Garden St by City of Gosnells in regional road reserve adjacent to BF 125.</p> <p>UBC submission to DOEE on CA.</p> <p>Outcome under EPBC Act not yet determined.</p>	<p><i>'Controlled Action under EPBC Act for 8 x MNES, including a CE TEC Claypan Wetlands on SCP. EPA failed to assess.</i></p>

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
9	Wave Park proposal in BF 331 City of Melville	On Swan River foreshore Tomkins Park near Alfred Cove. Much local opposition. SERAG referred the proposal to EPA, but not processed as no proposal put forward as yet.	?
10	Bedbrook Place linkage		<i>Linkage destroyed on Dr O'Neil's lot adjacent to Cancer Council</i>
11	Shenton RPH redevelopment by Landcorp	State Minister with WAPC could apply to change the proposal under Planning Act so that linkage retained. Submissions and petitions to Parliament made to call for retention of the linkage.	<i>Petitions etc ignored. No change to destructive proposal.</i>
12	Roe 8 proposal through Beeliar wetlands BF 244	Government approval and clearing started before election despite Labor commitment to stop the road. Thousands demonstrated daily peacefully on site and Forrest Place until election.	<i>Extensive clearing and wood chipping on site. Voter backlash with major Labor win and Roe 8 stopped.</i>
13	Mangles Bay Marina/Pt Peron in BF 355	EPA/State Environment Minister approved the proposal. DOEE approval under EPBC Act. WAPC proposed MRS rezoning from P&R to urban. UBC submission and deputation opposing the proposal.	<i>Outcome of proposed MRS Amendment not decided by Minister for Planning at end of 2017.</i>
14	Perth Airport BF	Proposal to clear for Factory Direct Outlet. UBC submission.	<i>Submission ignored, area cleared.</i>
15	Groundwater Replenishment Scheme pipeline by Water Corp through BF 299 &407	In Water Corp's consultation meetings (2016 and 13 March 2017) with UBC, we recommended relocating the pipeline to the west side of Lake Joondalup to avoid impacts in 3 x BFA and ASS risk to the Lake. UBC Appeal against pipeline location. UBC with specialists scientist Vic Semeniuk met Appeals Convenor.	<i>UBC, scientific and community advice ignored by Water Corp and EPA. Minister Dawson approved the pipeline as proposed</i>
16	Scarborough MRA roads in BF 308 & 310	MRA road proposal through coastal dunes in 2 x BF sites. Active local campaign by group: 'Beach Not Bitumen'. Labor pledged to stop the roads pre-election.	<i>Campaign successful. Planning Minister Saffioti stopped the proposal.</i>
17	MKSEA industrial zoning around Brixton St Wetlands BF 387	City of Gosnells held community workshop on industrial development impacts. Dewatering, hydrological impacts likely to be significant. Proposed clearing of a Carnaby's roost site.	
18	Wilkins Rd reserve in Shire of Kalamunda	Is part of Darling Range Regional Park. Elderly citizens facility proposed by Shire. Pre-election commitment by Labor to stop this proposal.	<i>Proposal stopped. Minister Saffioti intervened to request the Shire seeks alternative sites.</i>
19	Hammond Park High School clearing by Ministry of Education	UBC appealed against granting clearing permit CPS 7617/1 Controlled Action under EPBC Act for MNES Carnaby's Cockatoo, FRTBC, and Banksia woodlands TEC	<i>?outcome not known</i>
20	Joondalup coastal staircase	Submission against construction and disturbance of coastal dune limestone structure	<i>? not known</i>
21	Gnangara Pines clearing	Continued clearing of pines under State Agreement Act is an urgent problem as no replacement planting has been done. Loss of mega roost sites and foraging habitat is inconsistent with Carnaby's Recovery Plan. Likely loss of ~ 4000 Carnaby's. Should be called in under EPBC Act with 'Stop the clock'. Issue discussed with Birdlife WA – they could take legal action.	<i>No action taken by Birdlife No action to stop clearing taken by state or federal government by end 2017.</i>
22	Lake Karrinyup Golf Club's mature Tuarts	Golf Club proposed to cut down large Tuarts because they cast shadow over the greens. UBC letter objecting to this sent to City of Stirling.	<i>? Outcome not known. Cr David Lagan advised UBC he supported retention of Tuarts.</i>