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mail@cambridge.wa.gov.au

Town of Cambridge
PO Box 15
Floreat WA 6014

Town of Cambridge Local Planning Strategy: Draft for Preliminary Community Consultation

The Urban Bushland Council (UBC) is the peak community association for the recognition and conservation of urban bushland and its biodiversity. We would appreciate that our comments on the Town's natural assets be considered. Our website www.bushlandperth.org.au has an extraordinary amount of information on urban bushland, wetlands, Bush Forever sites and resources. We recommend it to you.

The UBC supports the proposed Planning Principle for Natural Asset Management within the Town of Cambridge (point 48):

'The Town will encourage the preservation and protection of its natural assets and ensure that future land use and development does not compromise the environmental integrity of these assets'.

However, the Potential Future Development of two areas at the Wembley Golf Course to be considered for additional residential development (smaller detached dwellings, town houses/villas and apartments), ('subject to further investigation') is clearly in contradiction to this statement. The native bushland at this site is well recognised as a significant ecological corridor and linkage area for retention between Bush Forever sites, and for native fauna.

The Strategy notes that the two sites, if progressed, could yield 450 - 600 new dwellings. The likely loss of the two areas of natural bushland is completely unacceptable and the UBC is strongly opposed to this proposal. The Town of Cambridge already has only 25% native vegetation remaining which is less than the minimum 30%, and indeed much of the remainder is in the one large Bush Forever Area of Bold Park.

The citizens, not only of the Town of Cambridge, but also the wider community, do not support the clearing of any more bushland. Australia has one of the highest losses of native species anywhere in the world. The natural areas in the Town of Cambridge support two species of black cockatoos in danger of extinction: Carnaby's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, both of which forage in the golf course area. The golf course too, is part of the corridor through from the roosting sites to foraging areas beyond, before the cockatoos return to roost for the night.

Both are iconic species, loved by the community. Cockatoo numbers are decreasing due to loss of habitat. The Town of Cambridge, like others, has a responsibility to ensure retention and maintenance of all remaining habitat and habitat linkages.

State government policy (Statement of Planning Policy 2.8) states that:

'Proposals or decision-making should — (v) Proactively seek to safeguard, enhance and establish ecological linkages between Bush Forever areas; and between Bush Forever areas and those areas identified for protection through the implementation of the specific policy measures in this section.'

In addition, the **Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain** is now a *Threatened Ecological Community* (TEC) listed as '*endangered*' under the EPBC Act, and the Approved Conservation Advice is to **protect the ecological community to prevent further loss of extent and condition**. Thus there must not be any more clearing of patches of Banksia Woodlands in Cambridge.

Furthermore, the **Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain** is likely to be listed within the next two months by the federal Minister for Environment as a TEC in the category of '*Critically Endangered*'.

CONCLUSION

The Town of Cambridge is fortunate to have three Bush Forever sites within its boundaries, as well as wetlands of conservation significance, and remnants of Banksia Woodlands and Tuart Woodlands. The UBC supports the Town's planning principle to preserve and protect its natural areas.

It is therefore strongly recommended that the Town in its Local Planning Strategy identifies and protects all the natural areas and assets of native vegetation that remain at the Wembley Golf Course, adjacent to it, and elsewhere; and that there is no further clearing or native vegetation destruction proposed or permitted within the Town of Cambridge.

Yours sincerely

Chairperson, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc.

PO Box 326 West Perth WA 6872

ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

www.bushlandperth.org.au