

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2018 inclusive.

### **Bush Forever and continuing Government inaction**

The UBC maintained its focus on getting the Bush Forever reserve system fully implemented. Our *Call for Action 2015* still applies. During the year many meetings were held with government officers, Minister Dawson and ministerial staff to promote the completion of Bush Forever as planned. There has been no real progress. Responses to specific calls for action have been vague, or unanswered or referred and passed around to other agencies. The governance failures are the same as those described a year ago at our AGM 2018 and in earlier years.

The list of site issues (see below) concerns many Bush Forever sites and linkages where proper protection is not in place and destructive incursions are still being permitted, on a case by case basis. DBCA has not been allocated the staff and field resources to manage sites to be added to the conservation estate as Regional Parks or other 'A' class reserves. The Anstey-Keane Dampland is a case where focus on damage and action needed has been successfully raised by the Friends of Forrestdale.

Despite these failures, there are many sites that Friends groups are continuing to successfully help manage and promote in conjunction with their land manager. This wonderful contribution to the public good deserves much more recognition.

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

The SAPPR is all about protection of 'Matters of National Environmental Significance' (MNES). The revision of SAPPR proposed to allow clearing of 18,000 ha - which is contrary to both the Approved Conservation Advice for **Banksia Woodlands TEC**, and to the Recovery Plan for **Carnaby's Cockatoo**. The Approved Conservation Advice applies to all levels of government.

After further deliberations over many months, the State Government suddenly suspended the 7 y.o. SAPPR process on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April, and then appointed a 'Review Panel'. UBC and peak groups attended a half day workshop with the Review Panel. The Review Panel's report is now before Government. No decision yet.

### **Tuart Woodlands TEC listing overdue**

The federal Minister for Environment, Hon Melissa Price MP, did not make a decision on the advice of the Independent Scientific Committee for TEC listing of the Tuart Woodland and Forest of the Swan Coastal Plain within the 90 day period as required under the EPBC Act. A late decision can still be made and be valid under the Act. UBC encouraged our members to contact The Minister's office by phone to encourage her action.

### **Meetings with Ministers and follow-up communications**

Quarterly meetings were held with Minister Dawson and/or his policy officers, with the Minister committed to attend every second meeting.

Just two meetings were held with Minister Saffioti's policy officers, without the Minister's attendance. Minister MacTiernan refused to meet with us concerning environmental weeds.

### **Meeting with DOEE staff – a highlight**

DOEE staff on a visit to Perth requested we show them Banksia woodlands, Tuarts, Underwood Avenue Bushland on Monday 16 April so that their new Director Assessments West and 2 others could appreciate and better understand the landscape they are assessing. Seven of us from various groups were able to discuss specific site issues and visit Underwood Avenue, Bold Park, Lemnos Street linkage, and see the Red-tail Black Cockatoos dramatically coming in to their Shenton roost site.

### **Prescribed Burning**

At a UWA Seminar 8 June, research findings were presented by **Kelly Dixon of ANU** on management action for fire. By far the highest mammal and reptile species richness and abundance, and the lowest fire fuel load was in long unburnt sites – which should be treated as assets. This supports the long held UBC position of '**no prescribed burning**' on the Swan Coastal Plain'.

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The City of Wanneroo decided to conduct prescribed burns in 20 bushland reserves for which it has responsibility for biodiversity conservation. There was no consultation with community organisations before this decision made and one third of Landsdale Bushland was burnt un-necessarily. The UBC and local groups strongly oppose burns on the Swan Coastal Plain. UBC met with DFES officers, and they explained that DFES has no jurisdiction to follow up with Wanneroo.

### **DWER cost recovery discussion paper and workshop**

DWER workshop held 13 September was well attended – by mostly commercial interests. UBC attended. DWER is reviewing cost structure and policy. UBC recommended that for the 2 ‘constrained regions’: the south west and the Wheatbelt – the policy be that in general no further clearing will be permitted as both are over-cleared and are highly biodiverse with nearly all now TECs. We look forward to much stronger legal provisions to end clearing of these regions.

### **Perth and Jandakot Airports**

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG) with UBC initiated the seeking of EDO advice on whether there are legal opportunities for challenging Perth Airport’s proposals for clearing former Conservation Precincts and high conservation bushland for non-aviation commercial developments. At Jandakot Airport similar proposals are being made. The quoted cost is \$1,300. Four UBC member groups have generously committed to help fund this advice.

The UBC sent a submission in support of the application for protection of significant traditional areas within the proposed development footprint of the Perth Airport New Runway project under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)*. Munday Swamp and surrounds are recognised as one of the most significant remaining Aboriginal sites in the region, but the Runway project is a significant threat.

**UBC Office at City West Lotteries House:** Major changes to our lease and costs were imposed.

### **UBC Council meetings and events held 2017**

- 6 March: AGM followed by Council meeting with guest speaker Dr John Bailey: *Caught Out: the Role of an Environment Court*.
- 21 March: Committee folk and Kim Sarti met to reflect and enjoy actual birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Zamia Café in Kings Park.
- **UBC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration** held in Kings Park Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10am-12 noon at the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion. We invited those who were at the launch and others involved over the 25 years. A most enjoyable morning by ~80 people was spent socialising and reflecting. Brilliantly organised by Colma Keating.
- 10 May: Council meeting with guest speaker Leanda Mason: *Trapdoor spiders*.
- 12 June: Council meeting with guest speaker A/Prof Trish Fleming: *Quenda and Bandicoots*. Quenda avoid areas frequented by dogs.
- 21 June: Council meeting with guest speakers Andrea Gaynor, Peter Newman, Diana Corbyn: *Never Again*. The book is available for sale.
- 30 June: Guided walk with Bronwen and Greg Keighery, Julia Cullity at Woodman Point Regional Park, Bush Forever site BF 341.
- 8 August: Council meeting with DWER speakers Mike Hammond, Natasha Del Borello: *Securing Gnangara Groundwater and Adapting to Climate Change*.
- 15 September: Guided walk with Don Poynton Friends of North Ocean Reef-Iluka Foreshore
- 13 October: Guided walk with John Hudson, Don Poynton Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland. Alan Lloyd gave a talk before the walk.
- 18 October: Council meeting with guest speaker Margaret Owen and data from Paddy Berry: *Citizen Science and Black Cockatoos*.

**Special thank you:** to all our dedicated UBC Committee members Margaret Owen, Chris Allbeury, Christine Richardson, Cathie O’Neill, Sue Conlan, Kevin McLeod, and helpers Renata Zelinova, Kim Sarti, Colma Keating, Warwick Boardman and many others who help with submissions, information and advice, meetings with agencies. It is very much a team effort to provide a voice for the bush. The generous spirit of co-operation and mutual support is greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to you all.

## Submissions, site issues and campaigns

The table below is a summary of the key site issues that involved our attention during 2018.

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
1	<b>Underwood Ave bushland BF 119</b>	State approvals and extensions have lapsed. UBC recommends acquisition of the whole site with MRIF. The site is critical habitat for Carnaby's and Red-tails, significant <i>Banksia prionotes</i> thicket + lots other significance. <b>Draft decision under EPBC Act was that the proposal not be approved.</b> FUAB requested meeting with new Chancellor Robert French.	<i>UWA still seeking extension of approval time Chancellor declined to meet FUAB.</i>
2	<b>Lot 102 Farrall Rd Midvale BF 309 with CE TEC</b>	Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group and UBC made submission on the <i>Controlled Action</i> under EPBC Act.  EPA under EP Act S40(2)(a) has given proponent Peet Stratton Pty Ltd a notice to provide further impact information on the proposed subdivision of Lot 102 Farrall Rd which includes CE TEC FCT 20c.	<i>Controlled Action declared for EPBC 2017/8066 for Residential development of Lot 102 Farrall Rd Stratton</i>
3	<b>RPH Shenton redevelopment by Landcorp</b>	Clearing Permit application made by Landcorp for the 3.4 ha bushland linkage on west side of the RPH site. More than 1,000 submissions and form letters made. Rally well attended by ~280 on corner Lemnos St/Bedbrook Place Sunday 25 March, 11am organised by <i>Bush Not Bricks</i> . 250 individuals hand wrote messages to Minister Saffioti which were delivered to her office 26 <sup>th</sup> March. Landcorp applied to WAPC for a rezoning and subdivision plan and a special SPC meeting was held to consider this. UBC gave a deputation 19 November to SPC opposing the sub-division plan of stage 2, opposing clearing of understorey and 2 new buildings + road. Also UBC met with David Caddy Chairman WAPC. On 12 December, UBC gave a deputation to the WAPC supporting the SPC advice to not approve the sub-division.	<i>Landcorp withdrew the Clearing Permit application. Then Landcorp applied for a subdivision in a Structure Plan.</i>  <i>1. SPC advised WAPC <u>not to approve the sub-division as the proposal is contrary to SPP 2.8 and SPP 3.7.</u></i> <i>2. Landcorp appealed the advice.</i> <i>3. On 19 December, WAPC advised it had reconsidered the decision of the SPC and resolved to <u>approve the subdivision of Lot 3240 Selby St subject to conditions.</u></i> <i>No details available.</i>
4	<b>Hamilton Hill SHS</b>	Proposed clearing of bushland for new High School. UBC and Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor (CCWC) submissions made on MRS Amendment 1330/57 opposing clearing of this Banksia Woodland TEC and part is Tuart Woodland soon to be CE TEC..	?
5	<b>Lake Karrinyup Golf Course</b>	The LKGC committee proposed cutting down of large mature Tuarts as they claimed the trees shaded greens and that led to a fungus which killed the grass. 6 of the trees proposed to be cut have diameter >800mm and have hollows.	<i>UBC contacted the City of Stirling explaining that this is without foundation and is unacceptable. LKGC has a clearing permit to clear not more than 26 trees: 11 Marri, 11 Tuart, 3 Jarrah.</i>
6	<b>Camboon Primary School Bushland, Noranda</b>	UBC contacted by the School Principal Janice Cuculoska who wants to use the site for learning by the children, and is seeking help to form a volunteer group to help manage the site as City of Bayswater stopped so doing.	<i>M. Owen visited the site 22 Feb. – is good Marri woodland, Black Cockatoo habitat, and excellent for education.</i>
7	<b>Wave Park proposal in BF 331 City of Melville</b>	Proponent has submitted its proposal to EPA for assessment. UBC and SERAG and many submitted it be formally assessed as PER. Migratory bird habitat and TEC present, is Bush Forever site.	<i>EPA decided to not assess the proposal. SERAG, UBC appealed against this failure to formally assess.</i>

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		City of Melville wants to seek conversion of part of the BF Crown reserve to freehold land for construction of the Wave Park. Local groups held demonstration 28 <sup>th</sup> September. <i>Referral under EPBC Act required.</i>	? <i>Minister's decision.</i>
8	<b>Eglinton residential development, south of Yanchep National Park.</b>	Clearing Permit application CPS 2017/7872. Proposal to clear up to 120 ha native vegetation including 42 ha Banksia Woodland TEC. Mitchell Freeway reserve and rail reserve run through the area too. Also declared as a <i>Controlled Action</i> under the EPBC Act.	?
9	<b>Metronet proposals: Yanchep rail extension parts 1 &amp; 2, and others</b>	EPA call for level of assessment in each of 2 sections. Multiple TECs: CE TEC SCP26a, Banksia Woodlands TEC, Tuart Woodland, P flora and PEC's, threatened fauna including Carnaby's habitat, and UWPCA. UBC recommended PER. DOT staff met UBC to brief us on Metronet proposals. UBC objected to the rail extension to Yanchep, through BF and TECs. Linear urban sprawl through TECs is unacceptable.	<i>For part 2 rail extension Eglinton to Yanchep, PER set by EPA.</i>  <i>Staff not willing to consider or adjust proposals to avoid or minimise incursions into BF sites. An example of abuse of process.</i>
10	<b>Clearing of Gnangara pines</b>	Major threat to Carnaby's foraging and roost habitat with clearing of the remaining 6000 ha pines at 1000 ha/year. In 6 years, likely loss of 7000 Carnaby's which is more than half the region's population. UBC wrote to DOEE Compliance seeking their ' <b>Call in</b> ' action under the EPBC Act to <b>stop clearing</b> as it is inconsistent with the approved Recovery Plan for Carnaby's. This is supported by Birdlife Australia and Ron Johnstone of WA Museum. Clearing needs to stop.	<i>State Government paid compensation for the harvesting to be reduced from a projected 2200 ha to 500 ha until 30 June 2019 only. No response from DOEE Compliance.</i>
11	<b>Pt Peron BF 355</b>	The Pt Peron MRS Amendment to rezone to urban was processed..	<i>The WAPC decided to refuse the MRS Amendment as it was inconsistent with SPP 2.8 and the federal government Agreement whereby the land was granted to the State for conservation and recreation purposes. Decision by Minister Saffioti confirmed this. POSITIVE OUTCOME!</i>
12	<b>Town of Mosman Park</b>	Mayor proposed tree policy whereby if a tree is cut down for a view, it can be replaced elsewhere. Friends Group objected as no-one has the right to cut down trees in order to gain a view.	
13	<b>Lake Jualabup bird deaths</b>	Doves, pigeons, magpies, sparrowhawk affected at Wembley and Queens Park bushland. After the Lake was emptied to build a wall, rain filled it the next day and the lake became acid.	<i>Reason for deaths not certain. Due to acid water in Lake? ? Are Councils poisoning doves and pigeons?</i>
14	<b>Pinky's Beach Eco Retreat, Rottnest Island</b>	UBC recommended formal EPA assessment as PER.	
15	<b>Roe 8 &amp;9</b>	The Roe 8 & 9 road reserves need to be removed from MRS and the land transferred to 'A' class reserve for purpose of nature conservation. UBC letters written to City of Cockburn and Minister Saffioti urging action to do this.	?
16	<b>Jandakot Airport BF 388</b>	JAH proposes to rename and change boundaries and clear more than half of the 119 ha Banksia woodland of Conservation Precincts which are supposed to be <b>protected in perpetuity</b> under a Ministerial condition of approval in EPBC 2009/4796. 1.UBC wrote letters to DOEE Compliance and DBCA objecting to JAH proposals as illegal.	

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		<p>2.Friends of Ken Hurst Park, UBC, met with Yaz Mubarakai MLA Jandakot.</p> <p>3.Eddy Wajon (F of Ken Hurst Park) arranged for 4 group reps to attend 4 meetings in Canberra with Minister's officers and shadow Ministers, and senior agency officers. Mary Gray attended for UBC.</p> <p>We explained the hidden details and objected to the JAH proposals and requested their action to ensure no more clearing.</p> <p>We also met with DOEE staff.</p>	<i>Officers at all 4 meetings said we had 'a good case' and that they could not act until JAH produces a draft Master Plan due 2019.</i>
17	<b>Joondalup coastal staircase proposal</b>	Application by City of Joondalup to disturb coastal dune limestone structure and build a staircase.	<i>To be assessed by EPA.</i>
18	<b>MKSEA Kenwick adjacent to Brixton St Wetlands BF 387 and Yule Brook</b>	<p>10<sup>th</sup> May Rally held at Kenwick objecting to clearing Cockatoo habitat and roost and industrial development. Brixton St group of concerned scientists provided a very active voice through the year on MKSEA industrial development risks and impacts.</p> <p>Lack of proper buffer zones. UBC submission to City of Gosnells, DOEE on MKSEA.</p> <p>City of Gosnells TPS 6 Amendments 166 &amp; 169 to rezone 66.9ha and ~188ha respectively from General Rural to Business Development.</p>	<i>EPA is conducting an Environmental Review under S48C(1)(a) of the EP Act on the Scheme Amendments. The Review will be open for public comment.</i>
19	<b>Town of Cambridge</b>	Proposal to allow 10 km of mountain bike tracks to be located in bushland adjacent/associated with Wembley Golf Course. Clearing and edge effects would destroy the small patches of bushland in an area with very little remaining native vegetation.	?
20	<b>Welshpool Rd BF 50</b>	Under threat by development proposal opposite with clearing of Marri.	?
21	<b>Ocean Reef Marina + development in BF 325</b>	UBC deputation made to WAPC on MRS Amendment 1270/41 objecting to rezoning in BF 325 facilitating destruction of significant bushland and linkage from coast to inland.	?
22	<b>Banksia Rd sand mine, Wellard BF 353</b>	New area proposed for sand mine adjacent to BF 353. Objections and call for further EPBC assessment for this extension by Casuarina Wellard Progress Association, City of Kwinana and UBC.	<i>EPBC 2010/5622 Controlled Action for first part.</i>
23	<b>Golden Bay Save Our Dunes</b>	Rally at Parliament House 18 September by local community with many children present who call themselves <b>Golden Bay Save Our Dunes</b> . They want Peet & Co. to save the coastal dunes natural shrubland for their benefit, and not clear it all.	?
24	<b>Faunal extinctions Senate Committee</b>	The Senate Environmental and Communications Committee held an inquiry into Faunal extinctions. UBC made a written submission.	<i>UBC submission accepted by the Senate Committee.</i>
25	<b>Water Corp pipeline adjacent to Lake Richmond</b>	<p>Proposal for treated wastewater P/L adjacent to and hydrologically upstream of Lake Richmond. Water Corp contacted us to meet and brief us on 21 November.</p> <p><i>This is the third case of Water Corp's abused process of consultation with UBC for pipeline proposals in sensitive bushland. Alternatives in all 3 cases could have avoided unacceptable impacts.</i></p>	<p><i>UBC + VCSRG met with Water Corp. But they refused to adjust their proposal according to our expert advice.</i></p> <p><i>EPA failure to apply the principle of avoidance.</i></p>
26	<b>Trigg/Scarborough Coastal road reserve BF 308</b>	<p>Initiated by the City of Stirling, the process to close the coastal road reserve and to transfer it to 'A' class reserve 46248 was/is supported by UBC and Beach Not Bitumen and others.</p> <p><b>At the same time</b> the City supported the developer Norup + Wilson to obtain a <u>Clearing Permit</u> to clear</p>	<p><i>The City of Stirling has supported 2 conflicting proposals. This is highly questionable.</i></p> <p><i>Outcome of Clearing Permit application not yet known.</i></p>

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		and fill a section of the above Bush Forever site, ie land they do not own.	

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