

This report is for the calendar year January to December 2019 inclusive.

Bush Forever and State budget

Unfortunately, there has been no significant shift by Government to complete Bush Forever implementation. The need for a major increase in DBCA recurrent funding to manage the set of Bush Forever sites to be transferred to the Crown was raised repeatedly with Government. This is now 10 years overdue and remains an unacceptable failure of governance.

The UBC's letter to Treasurer Ben Wyatt seeking his support for budget funding 2019 for completing Bush Forever was passed onto Minister for Transport, Planning Lands, Hon Rita Saffioti for response. Our questions to the Treasurer were not answered. UBC wrote also to Minister Dawson seeking his commitment to an increased budget allocation of \$5 million for DBCA Swan Region to manage the conservation estate in Bush Forever sites, Regional Parks and Nature reserves. DBCA did not receive any budget increase 2019 for these areas.

The outstanding case of the need to properly protect and manage the **Anstey Keane Damplands** was used to highlight this issue in discussions with officers and MP's during the year. Also we highlighted the golden opportunity to showcase the Forrestdale Ramsar wetland and to properly manage the Jandakot Regional Park with construction of a new Environmental Centre and DBCA depot at Forrestdale as proposed by the Friends of Forrestdale. UBC recommended that additional recurrent funding for 5 FTE is urgently needed for DBCA to properly manage Jandakot Regional Park.

Tuart Woodlands TEC listing

The Tuart Forests and Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain were finally listed as a *critically endangered* ecological community under the EPBC Act on Friday 28th June 2019 by the Hon. Sussan Ley. She also released the associated Approved Conservation Advice. This is very useful for decision-making and management of Tuart communities and there is a need to raise awareness of it. The UBC held an informal celebration of the Tuart listing.

Initial discussions were held with DBCA Julia Cullity of Urban Nature about awareness raising and holding a Tuart Conference in 2020.

Meetings with Ministers and follow-up communications

- Two meetings on 10th April and 30th July were to be held with Minister Dawson, and two meeting with his policy officers were held. He did not attend on 10th April.
- We attended the community meeting about development proposals by the Department of Communities in Kiara bushland on 11th April at Minister Kelly's electoral office. We then met later (2nd July) with Minister Kelly concerning other sites under threat: Lake Richmond, Blackadder Creek and wetlands, as well as development of a Wetland buffer zone policy.
- Re Perth Airport: UBC and NRPG met with The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP on 29th November at his electoral office concerning 7 issues: refusal to protect indigenous traditional areas Munday Swamp and surrounds under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*; removal of Conservation Precincts; loss of high conservation value BF areas; loss of TECs which are supposed to be protected under the EPBC Act; impact of non-aviation developments; PFAS/PFOS contamination on Airport grounds; tourism values of nature at the Airport; and significant air safety risk in new runway proposal;
- UBC sent follow up letters and communications on various key issues and especially Bush Forever.

NatureLink Perth – a highlight

This initiative was launched by Dr Jane Chambers of Murdoch University at the Wetlands Conference held on 1st February, World Wetlands Day, at Cockburn Wetlands Centre. After a series of meetings with potential stakeholders, a NatureLink Perth Symposium was held 4th July 2019 at Murdoch University. A stakeholder reference group has been established and UBC is represented on this by Mary Gray. First meeting held 6th September, next on 12th November at Murdoch Uni. Terms of reference finalised. Worthwhile leadership by Jane Chambers engages across all relevant sectors. This collaborative approach is

much needed. Bush linkages are not being protected and improved, the Montario Quarter is a classic case of this.

Prescribed Burning Conference

A significant 2 day Prescribed Burning Conference was held at UWA 31st July-1 August organised by Dr Carmen Lawrence. Abstracts are now on the PBC 2019 website. See the winter edition of the Urban Bush Telegraph. Indigenous practices are being ignored, and scientists warn there is a lack of evidence for the target of burning 200,000 ha in SW and for frequent burns. Long unburnt areas are best for flora and fauna species and have the lowest ground fuel loads.

The UBC and local groups strongly oppose burns on the Swan Coastal Plain. The focus needs to be on grassy weed control and arson prevention.

Notably the City of Wanneroo burned another third of the Landsdale Bushland this year 2019, after their first burn in 2018. Local groups are opposed to Wanneroo's plan to burn 20 of their reserves.

DWER forum and discussion papers

Director General Mike Rowe convened another forum with peak conservation groups on 5th March. Key issues were identified especially **land clearing**, mapping of vegetation. DWER issued a series of discussion papers for public comment during 2019 – 2020. This opportunity to engage on Government policy, procedures and practice is appreciated. UBC and member groups made submissions on: **DWER Compliance and Enforcement Policy; Climate Change in WA; Modernising the EP Act; Native vegetation in WA.** Many consultation meetings were held with community folk on these topics.

Also the UBC made a submission on the **EPA Greenhouse Gas emissions draft guidance.** Lack of EPA and Government action on climate change, emissions, and clearing and carbon sequestration is a major issue.

UBC and other peak conservation groups have called for a moratorium on clearing for our South West Region biodiversity hotspot and the Wheatbelt. Clearing Permits should not be issued if at variance to one or more Clearing Principles. Continuing clearing patch by patch, species extinction issues, and climate change in these regions need much more public exposure.

UBC Council meetings and events held 2019: lots of positive information sharing

- 5th March: AGM followed by guest speaker Dr Hugh Finn, Chairman EDO: *The Invisible Harm: Land Clearing and the Welfare of Our Native Fauna.*
- 15th April: Council meeting with guest speaker Dr Jane Chambers: *Introducing the NatureLink Perth initiative.*
- 18th May National Trust Heritage Festival event: *Black Cockatoos and Banksias:* Talks at Ecology Centre by Will Fowler on Banksia woodlands and Christine Groom on Cockatoos, followed by walk in Bold Park with Friends of Bold Park as guides. Morning tea provided at top of Reabold Hill.
- 29th May: Council meeting with guest speaker Dr Terry Houston: *Native Bees and our Bushland.*
- 26-28 June: UBC was a co-sponsor of *Nature City Seminar* by UWA, held at South Perth Community Hall.
- 10th July: Council meeting with guest speaker Margaret Matthews: *How to win the war on weeds.*
- 14th August: Celebration of Tuart Forests and Woodlands listing under EPBC Act. Guest speakers Nina McLaren on *Trigg bushland Tuarts*, and Greg Keighery on *Tuarts and their communities*.
- 15th September: UBC guided walk with Baigup Wetlands Interest Group, leader Penny Lee.
- 23rd September: UBC Special Meeting to seek approval to increase UBC Member group fees to \$60 and to \$50 for Supporters. Both were accepted unanimously. Then Panel of four: Leah Knapp, Shona Hunter, Robyn Murphy, Robyn - presented *Successful Environmental Campaigns*, followed by Q&A.
- 20th October: Guided walk through Anstey-Keane Damplands led by David James of Friends of Forrestdale.
- 26th November: Council meeting with guest speaker Russell Miller on *Ecology of fire.*

Special thank you: to our dedicated UBC Committee members Margaret Owen, Chris Allbeury, Christine Richardson, Sue Conlan, Cathie O'Neill, Kevin McLeod, and helpers Renata Zelinova, Colma Keating, and many others who help with submissions, information and advice, and attend meetings with agencies. It is very much a friendly team effort to continue to provide a voice for the bush, despite the difficulties of not being heard, and to help others. Sincere thanks to you all.

It is the wonderful, collaborative and extensive on-ground bush care work done by UBC member groups which we acknowledge and treasure.

Submissions, site issues and campaigns

The table below is a summary of the key site issues that involved our attention during 2019 in conjunction with our Member groups.

Also attached is a list of the submissions on proposals and Clearing Permits and appeals that were submitted by UBC 2019. The contribution of many members in doing all this work is gratefully acknowledged.

No	Site or issue	Submission or action on	Outcome
1	RPH Shenton redevelopment by Landcorp: Lemnos St linkage	Despite years of consistent community objections and a major local campaign by Bush Not Bricks against development into the linkage, and contrary to SPC advice and to SPP 2.8, SPP 3.7, WAPC approved the subdivision.	<i>The community group tried to get details of basis for the decision, but was unable to. This is a failure in good governance to protect the regionally significant ecological linkage between Underwood Bushland and Shenton Bushland.</i>
2	Anstey Keane Damplands BF 342	Friends of Forrestdale showed worsening hoon/vandalism/rubbish dumping damage to local MP Yaz Mubarakai and WAPC, DPLH staff on site, Friday 8 March. Key message was for immediate acquisition of Lots 171 & 67 Skeet Rd and initial capital works. DBCA on-ground staff are repairing fences every week. UBC and Friends, with help of advice from VCSR and Steve Appleyard (DWER) objected to Swan Region Manager Tim Fisher about Water Corp's proposal for limestone track to be laid above their new pipeline.	<i>Process of WAPC acquisition of last 2 private sites commenced, but slow process. Due to be completed by end of June 2020 including rubbish clean up, restoration, fencing etc.. POSITIVE: The advice taken. Tim Fisher engaged with Water Corp and the track did not get any top dressing brought in, it was simply smoothed. DBCA engaging with WAPC on works to set up the reserve.</i>
3	Perth Airport and Jandakot Airport BF sites: Munday Swamp and surrounds; Conservation Precincts EDO advice New Runway MDP Perth Airport Master Plan 2020 draft Proposal for Biome construction	Application by SWALSC on behalf of Whadjuk traditional custodians to list as protected areas Munday Swamp and surrounds under the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage protection Act 1984</i> (Cth). UBC representation submitted supporting the listing. UBC together with NRP, Wildflower Society, Friends of Lake Joondalup, Friends of Ken Hurt Park sought EDO advice for possible action to achieve conservation of Munday Swamp and former Conservation precincts; as well as for retention and conservation of Jandakot Airport Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B, 2 which are supposed to be <i>protected in perpetuity</i> under an EPBC Act approval. UBC and NRP met with Perth Airport Environment officers who presented significant new survey findings in surveys for new runway MDP with <u>14 vegetation communities present</u> including SCP 23a, SCP 20a, SCP 20b, SCP 15 -new finding of deep seasonal wetlands. DRF <i>Macarthuria keigherii</i> , DRF <i>Conospermum undulatum</i> , 3 x P flora: P3, P2., P4. Also 78.3ha of CCW in 6 x CCW; and 17.8ha in 9x RHW. NRP and UBC drew their attention to high turbulence and air safety risk for new runway location. UBC submission sent. Also NRP sent submission. Copies sent to the federal Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities.	<i>Federal Environment Minister refused the application to list the Munday Swamp and adjoining sites. EDO advised little opportunity for legal challenge. EDO advised that UBC is a third party and therefore cannot apply directly for an injunction to prevent clearing. An extremely complex and biodiverse area of outstanding conservation value! The draft failed to include former conservation precincts ?</i>

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		Strange proposal for a Biome to likely be located conservation value bushland which would be cleared and destroyed.	
4	Scarborough Beach BF site in City of Stirling	UBC sent submission supporting the proposal for the road reserve to be removed and the land transferred to the adjoining A class reserve. Norup-Wilson developers of adjacent block applied for a Clearing Permit in the reserve, ie not on their land. Active campaign by Beach Not Bitumen and Friends of Trigg Beach.	<i>The road reserve was removed and transferred to A class reserve. City of Stirling supported the Clearing. Beach Not Bitumen group met media on site 16 January.</i>
5	Tuart Forests and Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain nomination for TEC listing under EPBC Act.	The time period for the Minister to make a decision was extended for 6 months.	<i>The Environment Minister's decision to list as critically endangered was finally made on June 28th and the Approved Conservation Advice was released. UBC held an informal celebration of the listing at CWLH on 14th August.</i>
6	Proposal for Visitor/Education Centre at Forrestdale Lake	Proposal by Friends of Forrestdale strongly supported by UBC. On-site meeting of Friends of Forrestdale, UBC, DBCA with local MP Yaz Mubarakai held 8 March. Friends of Forrestdale hosted stakeholder meeting held 6 th August, including City of Armadale, DBCA officers, UBC, and Principal from local Community Primary School who was a very enthusiastic supporter.	<i>Yaz was very impressed with the proposal. Support from some officers. Vague support but no real commitment to progress the proposal.</i>
7	Yanchep Rail Extension PER	UBC and QREG submissions sent. UBC opposes the proposal as it includes clearing of Banksia woodlands TEC, and a state listed TEC, and will facilitate linear urban sprawl through TECs.	
8	Vlamingh linkage Mosman Park	The land in the Vlamingh linkage comprises various owners, some freehold , some Crown land. It is still on the Land Asset Sales register and needs to be removed. Transfer of all lands to 'A' class reserve for conservation is needed.	<i>Rezoning from Public Purpose special use to Urban was refused by the WAPC. Transfer to A class reserve for conservation not yet done.</i>
9	Kiara Bushland	Local MP The Hon Dave Kelly stopped further clearing in the former Kiara TAFE site bushland at Lot 1009 Bottlebrush Drive Kiara, and convened a community meeting 11 th April to discuss proposals for development by the Department of Communities and stakeholders. UBC folk attended.	<i>Department of Communities consultants showed no recognition or respect for the history of community action over ~25 years to secure the site for conservation.</i>
10	Farrall Rd BF with CE TEC	Destruction of wetland in Blackadder Creek catchment was detailed in UBC meeting on 10 th April with Minister Dawson's policy officers.	<i>?</i>
11	Water Corp's SDOOL pipeline in 2 BF sites Pt Peron and Lake Richmond.	Proposed clearing of the pipeline route was assessed under CPS 185/8. The proposal is hydrologically upstream of Lake Richmond and threatens 2 x CE TEC's of its thrombolites and sedgeland. UBC including Dr Vic Semeniuk and Friends of Pt Peron had met in 2018 with DG Mike Rowe and staff of DWER to warn of the catastrophic risk..	<i>. AT DWER meeting, expert advice from Dr Vic Semeniuk and Friends group was ignored when the clearing permit was granted September 2019.</i>
12	Underwood Ave Bushland BF 119	Friends focus on greenway between the Swan River and the Indian Ocean with Underwood bush as an essential link. Mapping presented to WESROC Environmental Improvement Committee.	<i>No action on acquisition of Underwood BF 119 by WAPC, despite plenty of funds available in MRIF.</i>
13	Metronet Thornleigh-Cockburn link	UBC submission sent.	
14	CPS 7982/1 Alkimos-Butler District Open	8.8ha clearing in Banksia woodland TEC and critical habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo proposed for oval and infrastructure. Rationale for approval was an offset of	

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	Space, City of Wanneroo.	money to purchase land at Gingin, Regans Ford and Badgingara. UBC submitted Appeal as the proposal is at variance to 5 Clearing Principles. UBC met with Appeals Convenor.	
15	Prescribed burns by City of Wanneroo	QREG, Friends of Landsdale, Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park and UBC all objected to the City of Wanneroo's proposal to burn 20 of its bushland reserves. Rufus Park burnt.	<i>Landsdale reserve is SCP TEC 28a and was burnt this year again despite objections from community and Environment officers.</i>
16	Buckland Hill conservation plan	Conflict between protection and restoration of the regionally significant indeed exceptional ecological linkage from River to Sea, and increasing views of the Leighton Battery heritage site. Active campaign by Friends of Mosman Parks.	<i>Ongoing campaign</i>
17	Main Roads Purpose Permit	UBC submitted there should be <u>no purpose permit for SW Region (<30% vegetation) and Wheatbelt (<10% vegetation)</u> as both regions over-cleared, species rich and classed by DWER as 'constrained regions'.	
18	Doyles sand and limestone mine proposal Lot 1002 Preston Beach Rd. Surrounded by Yalgorup A class National Park	UBC sent submission to EPA on Environmental Scoping Document (ESD). 8 groups objected to the proposal, and to the deficient ESD. Strong campaign by local groups with significant local knowledge. Mining threatens the surrounding high conservation value Banksia Woodlands TEC and Tuart Woodlands TEC, and puts at risk 10 wetlands some of which are Ramsar wetlands in the Yalgorup National Park . Hydrological impacts likely catastrophic. Proposal is very clearly environmentally unacceptable.	<i>Being assessed by EPA.</i>
19	Metronet Yanchep Rail Extension phase 2	UBC sent submission to EPA opposing location and suitability of heavy rail. Site is high conservation value with significant impact on TECs and coastal dune formations.	
20	MRS Amendment on BF 321 adjacent to Heathcote.	Amendment to remove part of Bush Forever site opposed. Should be retained and restored/revegetated.	
21	City of Albany Mountain Bike Trail proposal in Mt Adelaide and Mt Clarence.	UBC submission sent to DOEE Controlled Action. Catastrophic risk of spread of Dieback, and inappropriate location of racing bikes in highly valued War Memorial Heritage site is socially and environmentally unacceptable. Also threatened species at risk of loss from Dieback and off-track bush bashing by bikers.	<i>Should be refused by DOEE. But will it? Should be formally assessed by EPA and refused. But will it?</i>
22	Whiteman Park	Rod Henderson and Donna Faragher MLC, Libby Mettam MLA met community folk at Marshall Rd Bennett Springs to show where the Ellenbrook Metronet rail is proposed through Whiteman Park with a station on Marshall Rd. Also City of Swan proposed rezoning part of Whiteman Park to urban for housing development.	<i>News item about community objection on ABC radio and TV.</i>
23	Scarborough Coastal A class reserve BF	Despite removal of the road reserve and transfer of the land to the adjoining A class Bush Forever reserve, developer Norup-Wilson proposed clearing and dumping of fill in the reserve and this was supported by the City of Stirling. Friends of Trigg Beach campaigned against this.	<i>State Government failed to refuse this unacceptable incursion and Norup-Wilson has proceeded to clear and dump fill in this A class reserve.</i>
24	Forrestdale Lake nature reserve	Fire started by a burnt stolen car. A week later, fire started and burned a large part of Forrestdale Lake reserve.	

SUBMISSIONS 2019	APPEALS 2019
Quinns Rock caravan site Lot 211 Quinns Road Mindarie 20 December 2018	
Butler to Eglinton Rail Extension Stage 1 to EPA 18 Jan 2019	CPS 8448/1 Appeal against clearing permit granted. North Walpole road reserve Shire of Manjimup
Proposal for a place of Worship and Community Purpose at lot 213 Lewis Road Wattle Grove To enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au . 11 March 2019	
Limestone and Sand Quarry Lot 1002 Preston Beach Road, Submission on Environmental Scoping Document. Chairman of EPA requested to withdraw the ESD.	
MRS Amendment 1335/57 BF Omnibus 1 (North) to WAPC 31 May 2019	CPS 8478/1 appeal against clearing permit being granted; Orange Springs Rd Shire of Gingin
MRS Amendment 1334/57 BF Omnibus 2 (Central) to WAPC 31 May 2019	CPS 4924/3 – Nowergup appeal against amended purpose -extension of duration of permit and modification of condition 5 August 2019
MRS Amendment 1336/57 BF Omnibus 3 (South) to WAPC 31 May 2019	CPS 818/14 Appeal against renewal of statewide purpose clearing permit for 12 months 21 June 2019
Thornley-Cockburn link 17 June 2019	CPS 7982/1 Appeal against granting clearing permit for playing fields Butler North district 20 June 2019
To EPA: PER Yanchep Rail Extension Part 2: Eglinton to Yanchep 8 July 2019	CPS 8116.1 Capel: Appeal against clearing permit being granted - 3 parts of Boyanup Road West
EPBC 2019/8480 mountain bike trails. Link Trail proposal by City of Albany. Impact on MNES and habitat, dieback disease risk. 13 August 2019	CPS 8151/1 Appeal against clearing permit being granted. 50 trees: Wandering-Narrogin Road, Cuballing 10 September 2019
EPA Greenhouse Gas emissions 30 August 2019	CPS 8150/1 20 trees. Appeal against clearing permit being granted. Stratherne Road reserve, Cuballing
To Government Select Committee Local Government Act 1995. S 1.3 intentions. 12 September 2019	CPS 6409/3 Appeal against clearing permit being granted. Jindalee Satterley's beach access node area to be increased to 2.82ha.
To DWER on Draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy 18 September 2019	
To Perth Airport on Preliminary Draft Master Plan 2020 14 October 2019	CPS 185/8 SDOOL2: Water Corporation's sepia depression ocean outlet line duplication Pt Peron 5 August 2019

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