



Appeals Convenor
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Dear Appeals Convenor

CPS 9339/1

Karnup Road, Serpentine and Bishop Road, Mundijong. Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.
Public appeal; due 17 June 2022

This submission from the Urban Bushland Council WA Inc (UBC) is to seek further refinement of the proposal for clearing 'for road upgrades and sealing of the road shoulder/widening to make the road safer.' Therefore, the UBC is appealing the granting of the clearing permit for the two roads.

We acknowledge that on the two roads, there are no threatened or priority species and the habitat is degraded, however as seen from the photographs within the referral documents, the trees are significant. We also appreciate that *'Only those plants/trees that are too close to the road upgrade and table drain will be removed. The Shire will prioritise pruning to removal when possible.'*

The trees are significant as both individuals and ecological linkages:

1. Individuals.

Providing habitat for numerous insect, reptile, bird and mammal species, seed source for future generations, aesthetic value, contributing to reducing the 'heat island effect' and carbon storage, thus also contributing to reducing climate change impact.

Local examples of the value of individual trees as habitat include:

- Research highlighted by Neville Passmore (PerthNRM) about a single jarrah tree. "There is a very strong case for protecting existing native trees in urban areas. A study of one old jarrah tree in Kings Park revealed a level of visitation that is almost incredible. **This one mature jarrah tree supports 83 species** of native animals, birds, reptiles and insects. Not a tree but a condominium."

EXTRACT <https://www.perthnrm.com/blog/2017/07/31/neville-passmore-supporting-pollinators/>

- Experience of local urban landcare group Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association who saved and translocated 44 geckos from a single deteriorating Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) to nearby trees.

EXTRACT <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/UBTWinter-2019.pdf>

2. Key components of local ecological linkages.

Providing 'living stepping stones' for native fauna.

Advantages:

- More ecologically effective and environmentally sustainable planning and development (Brooker *et al.* 2008);
- Increased migration rates, leading to: maintaining (or increasing) species richness, increased population sizes, a mitigation of inbreeding depression, and facilitating recolonisation following local extinctions (Levins 1970, Hanski 1990, Fischer and Lindenmayer 2007);
- Increased foraging and home range areas (Lambeck 1999);
- Providing cover for escape from predators between patches (Catling *et al.* 2000, Pope *et al.* 2005);
- Providing a mix of habitats at different successional stages (Catling *et al.* 2000, Pope *et al.* 2005);
- Providing alternative refuge from major disturbances (Dunlop and Brown 2008, Pope *et al.* 2005, Diamond 1975, Fischer and Lindenmayer 2007); and
- Providing greenbelts to limit the effects of urbanisation on species and ecological communities (Mason *et al.* 2006, Brooker *et al.* 2008).

EXTRACT: Molloy, S, Wood, J, Hall, S, Wallrodt, S and Whisson G 2009, *South West Regional Ecological Linkages Technical Report*, Western Australian Local Government Association and Department of Environment and Conservation. https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Policy-Advice-and-Advocacy/Environment/Biodiversity/SWREL_LowRes.pdf?lang=en-AU

The trees referred to in application

Trees along Bishop Road (photo 1 supporting information) look to have been planted and form a lovely avenue. Trees along both Bishop Road and Karnup Road form a green corridor between cleared fields.

In the 'Application for a clearing permit', Part 4 lists the individual trees to be removed at:

Karnup Road as:

- *Corymbia calophylla*,
- *Nuytsia floribunda* and
- *Casuarina obesa*

Bishop Road as:

- *Corymbia calophylla* and
- *Melaleuca raphiophylla*.

Nuytsia floribunda (Kaan-ya / Western Australian Christmas Tree)

WA Christmas Trees are significant to Aboriginal people. '*No living Bibbulmun ever sheltered or rested beneath the shade of the tree of souls; no flower or bud or leaf of the tree was ever touched by child or adult; no game that took shelter beneath it was ever disturbed.*' (Bates 1938 Quoted from website 'Anthropology from the Shed').

This site quotes Joobaitch from the Guilford area who related to Daisy Bates that his 'Kaan-ya' must be free to rest on the kaan-ya tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) before it journeys through the sea to Kyurannup (the home of my dead people).

This is such a significant species, it should not be destroyed.

Corymbia calophylla (Marri).

As is well known, amongst other values, Marri is an important foraging tree for black cockatoos. With the declining population of black cockatoo species, they need all the food that is available, so the UBC supports any adjustment that can be made to protect these habitat trees (on both roads).

Melaleuca raphiophylla (Yowarl / Swamp Paperbark).

For local Noongars, the Yowarl is a significant plant species. The bark of this melaleuca is thin and papery and can be used for a variety of purposes. Long strips of the bark for example, can be used as roofing for mia-mias (shelters) and smaller pieces can be used to carry water or to hold food. Yowarl bark is frequently used in Noongar cooking. Meat dishes, such as kweeyar (frogs), djildjit (fish) or yonga (kangaroo), are often wrapped in the bark of the Yowarl before being placed on hot coals or in an earth oven. The bark of the Yowarl can also be used as a torch. After tightly rolling long pieces of bark, one end can be set alight and the high oil content of the bark keeps the torch smouldering. Melaleuca leaves are also used by Noongar people for medicinal purposes. The leaves are either sucked, chewed, or crushed and inhaled to treat head colds and flu.

SOURCE: <https://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/10301-Plants-and-People-Forth-Edition-2020web.pdf>

Casuarina obesa (Goollelal / Swamp Sheoak)

This Sheoak grows along waterways and in swamps. Goollelal is one of the more upright Sheoaks and has relatively short branches that become more rounded with age. It is an ideal windbreak. This evergreen tree has a strong tolerance of both salinity and wet soils, and can improve soil quality by lowering saline in below water tables.

KARNUP ROAD

From the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's *'Hypergrowth Road Network Implementation Plan'* we note that that Karnup Road has had 44 crashes for the period 2015 – 2019, including two fatal. The proposed treatment is *'Pavement widening and seal shoulder, Roadside hazard removal and line marking and signage installation.'* (p7)

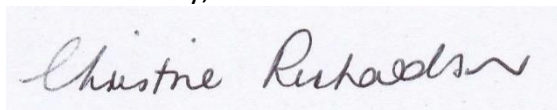
BISHOP ROAD

Bishop Road is classified as a Local Distributor Road with a posted speed limit of 50 k/h. (Cardno June 2020, *Transport Impact Assessment Mundijong Structure Plan*). We note that the route of Local Distributor Roads in built up areas *'should discourage through traffic so that the cell formed by the grid of higher order distributor road, only carries traffic belonging to, or serving the area. Local Distributors should accommodate buses, but discourage trucks.'* (Main Roads Western Australian Road Hierarchy).

The land on both roads, according to the 'SLIP' map on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation page relating to CPS 9339/1, is classified as 'Environmentally Sensitive Area.'

Environmentally Sensitive Areas are defined as 'areas that have a significant environmental value...' (Mainroads Factsheet - *Guide to Completing the Environmental and Heritage Checklist in the Application Form to Undertake Works Within the Road Reserve*, March 2022). Because of this classification the UBC requests that trees along both roads are protected.

Yours faithfully,



Christine Richardson
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