

27 January 2026

CEO Shire of Dardanup

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**Shire of Dardanup Local Planning Scheme No 9: Scheme Amendment Report No 1.**

'Amending Lot 564 Garvey Road, Dardanup West from 'Rural' to 'Rural Residential.'

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Scheme Amendment.

The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc is the peak community organisation for urban bushland recognition and protection and is an association of more than 100 community conservation groups and more than 100 individual supporters.

The Urban Bushland Council's concern with this Scheme Amendment is the potential loss of mature Marri trees along Garvey Road. Carnaby's Cockatoo Recovery Plan states that decision makers should 'seek to fully protect Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat'. (5 Guide for Decision Makers)

**Carnaby's Black Cockatoo** is listed as a Threatened Species at the level of 'endangered'.

Of the 2025 Great Cocky Count (6 April 2025), the figure of 15,786 White-tailed Black-Cockatoos recorded (with 6, 298 individual recorded on the Swan Coastal plain), *'was the lowest recorded total number of white tails since 2015, as well as the lowest recorded count for the Perth-Peel Coastal Plain....since 2015. (Birdlife WA Cocky Notes Issue 38: Spring 2025.)*

*'...the low numbers recorded this year, [2025] particularly for the White-tailed Black-cockatoos, is concerning.'*

*'The lower numbers are likely in part a direct measure of real population decline, following both a widely acknowledged poor breeding season (so fewer birds joining the population) and an unknown amount of adult mortality due to starvation, as evidenced by Carnaby's admitted to Perth Zoo in poor bod condition between July and October.'* (p2 ibid)

This analysis has also been reported by Professor Kris Warren and team, School of Veterinary Medicine, Murdoch University:

*'The lower numbers are likely in part a direct measure of real population decline, following both a widely acknowledged poor breeding season, and an unknown amount of adult mortality due to starvation, as evidenced by Carnaby's admitted to Perth Zoo in poor body condition between July and October.'*

Professor Warren's Research on Carnaby's Cockatoo shows *'a marked decline in population numbers. The result corresponds with the decline in foraging food, water, and roosting sources, as well as the increase in urbanisation'*. (Long May They Grace Our Skies: Black Cockatoo Research and Conservation. Talk at Naturalists Club 30 September 2025.)

**Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo** is listed as a Threatened Species at the level of 'Vulnerable'.

FRTBCs have declined in range by 30% as a result of habitat loss, and have suffered a marked decline in population numbers since the 1950s; (Johnstone et al. 2013).

Well known threatening process *'are exacerbated by the rapidly increasing urban and industrial development in the Perth and Peel regions and the south-west of Western Australia'*. (DEC 2012).

The Australian 'Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water's' 'Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Plan' (2008) describes 'Habitat critical to survival' and states that 'Important populations of FRTBC comprises areas currently occupied by the cockatoos; of natural vegetation in which the cockatoos nest, feed and roost; and of natural vegetation through which the cockatoos can move from one occupied area to another.

Both Carnaby's and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo feed on Marri seed and Marri pollen is reported to be highly nutritious. And of course, the line of Marri trees is a significant avenue enabling movement through the landscape for birds and other fauna.

#### **UBC supports residents of Garvey Road**

The eight residents of Garvey Road who signed the petition (20 December 2025) have suggested an alternative to the current proposed Amendment such that development could proceed differently and where the Garvey Road Marri trees (as well as a significant Christmas tree), could be protected. [The UBC can see that that proposal would have an impact on the wetland traversing the south-west corner.] We encourage the Shire to reconsider the Amendment to the Local Planning Scheme. Trees along Garvey Road are an invaluable asset to the Shire as habitat and for the health of the community.

#### **UBC concern about the water table**

The UBC also has concerns about wetlands on lot 564 and the issues of drainage.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

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