

AGM 2019 President report.

Another twelve months in which it appears NRPG is still needed as an umbrella body for environmental concerns within the City. Residents still contact us out of the blue, with their concerns about potential threats to the natural environment of the City. The main purpose of this annual report, as usual, is to reassure members that your executive committee is still working in your interests and responding to City initiatives on your behalf. Below are listed some of these activities:

Submissions:

6 May 2018. City of Kalamunda **Local Environment Strategy draft.** Based on the “Have Your Say” survey format. NRPG stressed the need for an Integrated Environmental Management approach (**ALL** local government decisions should consider environmental implications, in the same way health and safety implications receive consideration).

2 July 2018. Forrestfield North Residential Precinct **Local Structure Plan.**

14 July 2018. Gavour Road, Lot 500 **Local Development Plan** (Aged Care Ross Leighton).

14 August 2018. Cambridge Reserve Landscape **Concept Plan.** Stress, “Concept Plan” only.

24 August 2018. Perth Airport New Runway Project **Major Development Plan.**

7 November 2018. Gunbar Way, Lot 4 **Development application.** Application to build ten dwellings on the treed block.

14 January 2019. Perth Airport Munday Swamp support submission, related to Perth Airport New Runway Project.

In support of application by Mr Wayne Nannup, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, on behalf of the Whadjuk traditional custodians, part of the Noongar nation of people in the South West of Australia. (Protection of Munday Swamp and Poison Gully registered Heritage Sites).

Feb. 2019. Environmental Land Use Management Planning Strategy (ELUPS). A lengthy submission made on this important document.

Meetings attended:

31 July 2018. City of Kalamunda ethical investment proposal meeting. Audit and Risk Committee. Revised investment of surplus funds motion, narrowly carried.

29 October 2018. Attended Schmitt Road blocks meeting at Bibbulmun northern terminus. Matthew Hughes, MLA Member for Kalamunda, Rhonda Hardy, CEO City of Kalamunda and Cr. John Giardina, Mayor of City of Kalamunda, in attendance. Well-attended, including Friends of Railway Reserve Heritage Trail.

8 November 2018. Parks of the Darling Range Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Attended by Mark Webb, Director General DBCA. Mark advised the Management plan was now a ‘high priority’ but, no timetable. It is competing with election promises and other newly created parks.

Community funding in Regional Parks. CAC advised the grant for this park (\$25K) had been allocated as follows:

Bungendore Park Environment Group. \$850 for brochure production.

Friend of John Forrest National Park. \$21,715 fox and weed control.

Jillara Giants. \$2400 for weed control.

Parks of the Darling Range include four Regional Parks (Wooroloo, Mundy, Banyowla, and Wungong. National Park areas are Lesmurdie Falls, Avon Valley, John Forrest, Walyunga, Greenmount, Gooseberry Hill, Beelu (previously Mundaring N.P.), Korung (formerly Pickering Brook N.P.), Midgegooroo (previously Canning N.P.) and Serpentine.

Kalamunda environmental staff representative highlighted a KEAC recommendation that a regional approach be adopted for fox-eradication activities. The CAC supported this. The success of the work at Upper Lesmurdie Falls was highlighted by DBCA representatives as a great joint achievement. Committee was updated on the Schmitt road reserves (adjacent to 'A-class' Reserve 22576) and NRPG's long-term aims.

30 November 2018. City of Kalamunda 'Thank a Volunteer Day'. Much appreciated.

7 December 2018. Airport Consultative Environment and Sustainability Group (ACES). Topics included:

Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) for PFAS Report by Air Services Australia (ASA), PAPL implementing its PFAS Management Strategy, including use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) to remove PFAS from surface water. Investigation of realignment of Kalamunda Road for Airport North Major Development Plan (MDP). Now expected out for comment in Jan. 2020, Forrestfield Airport Link (FAL) progress, Airport West MDP in preparation.

<p>20 December 2018. City of Kalamunda Special meeting regarding dismissal of CEO. (Resolution OCM 266 of 18 December). NRPG Chair made a deputation. OCM 266 rescinded. CEO retained.</p>

7 January 2019. Meeting, on-site at reserve 28896 Gunbar Way Kalamunda with potential Friends of Gunbar Way Reserve and Mick Davis (City Environmental Friends Group Officer) to see how the reserve may be protected.

28 Feb. 2019. Parks of Darling Range Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Kalamunda environmental staff report included:

- progress on the regional approach to fox control .Officers now liaising with adjacent land managers to coordinate activities.
- Calici virus released early summer 2018 (50% decline in rabbit population suggested from monitoring).
- City undertaking survey of drainage infrastructure, to lessen impacts of stormwater on Mundy Regional Park (City's support of the Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls/DBCA project).
- City comment was submitted on Proposal with DPLH to close Reserve 29529 (set aside for 'public recreation') and amalgamate with adjoining landowners. Planning permission for construction of a 'fire access trail' within Reserve R28735 (lots 8228 and 9090 Kalamatta Way Gooseberry Hill). Previously investigated (and declined) by

DBCA for inclusion in Gooseberry Hill National Park, Parks and Environment would like to continue the move for this inclusion. The CAC will consider if it can help.

Now acting as chair of this committee, I will be representing them at a Chairs meeting with **Minister Dawson on 27 March**. Formed to establish a Management Plan for the Parks of the Darling Range, after 20 years there is still no Management Plan. It is managed under the totally inappropriate Forest Management Plan (2014-2023). Minister Dawson is fully aware of this, having been made fully aware of our concern at the last CAC Chairs meeting in December 2017.

7 March 2019. ACES (Airport Consultative Environment and Sustainability Group). Update on PFAS report (due out in March), New Terminal MDP due late 2019, Airport North still early 2020, together with Airport West MDP. FAL now clear of aviation operating surfaces. PAP environment staff now concentrating on 'sustainability' topics and environmental education programmes to schools. Next Master Plan (including an Environmental Strategy) expected to focus on these topics.

12 March 2019. City of Kalamunda Public Briefing Agenda Forum. Gavour Road Local Development Plan item. NRPG asked questions, made a statement and made contact with Ross Leighton (owner of Lot 500).

Behind the Scenes:

Wilkins Road Reserve 30314.

Since **May 2018**, NRPG has been working to gain official permission to work on the reserve. We are now awaiting a decision on a Section 91 Licence being granted to NRPG, through the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH).

July 2018. Following NRPG request for clarification, confirmation was received from the Environment and Public Affairs Committee, that "no further action is anticipated" on the Pember petition No. 034. NRPG spent a lot of time and energy countering this doomed ploy.

Schmitt Road blocks. NRPG keeping in touch with local member and City on the topic and will keep members up to date.

Gunbar Way Reserve 28896. NRPG available for advice and help.

Future submissions and problems:

Closing April 1 2019. Local Environment Strategy draft.

Note that this follows the "have your say" submission opportunity. (May 2018). This process, whereby the community is asked what is expected of a strategy, before a final draft is put out for public submissions, is seen by NRPG as a logical move in the right direction, if it becomes clear that community expectations have been fulfilled.

Before the 2020 AGM, there will be a requirement to have an amended draft constitution approved by the members. This will require a special General Meeting to be called and the constitution (rules) approved. This is a requirement under the Association Act 2015 (passed, 1 July 2016) and **must be completed by 1 July 2019**. The purpose of that Special General Meeting, will be: 1). To ratify the new constitution and,

2). To increase membership fees. Static for the last ten years (unlike costs). The amount of the increase to be decided by the Executive Committee.

Conclusion:

NRPG is still needed 30 years after its foundation. The residents of the City are increasingly concerned over the loss of vegetation and environmental biodiversity assets within their City.

The revitalised Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Group (KEAC) is having more input into environmental matters and, as such, acts as a conduit for the concerns of City residents to be relayed to staff and council. In this way, the City may be seen to be honouring its pledge to deliver ‘community consultation’, provided it is clear to residents that their views have been heard and acted upon. I leave the Chair (not the committee) feeling optimistic that we can help the City regain its green credentials. When they do environmental good, we will, as always, acknowledge that work with a ‘bouquet’ however, when we see potential environmental harm in the offing, a ‘brickbat’ may be expected. It has always been thus!

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the committee for their support and work during the year and, as I have said many times before, although the letters, submissions etc. may be signed by or pp. the Chair, they are on behalf of the committee. The wider membership too, deserves thanks. Without their constant vigilance, NRPG would often remain unaware of environmental issues within the City. Keep up the good work.

Thank you.

Tony Fowler.