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13 June, 2016

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**TO: Shire of Kalamunda**

**SUBJECT: Draft Perth Hills Trail Loop Concept Design Report – Submission**

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group of Kalamunda (NRPG) makes the following comment on the draft report:

We support the appreciation of our unique natural environment through allowing access to the area, however along with providing access to this comes the responsibility which must be taken to permanently fund maintenance to protect and preserve the areas.

There is no specific mention in the main body of the report of environmental protection by:

- containing the spread of pathogens such as Dieback,
- restriction of animals which may harm wildlife or vegetation, or spread weeds through fecal matter such as horse manure, which occurs in some areas such as Gooseberry Hill, regardless of the fact that horses are not permitted these areas.
- control of other pathogens from pets, such as cats. This issue is illustrated by the recent death of several young kangaroos in Gooseberry Hill last Summer. The Kalamunda Shire Environment Department believes this may be caused by a parasite from cats (toxoplasmosis).

Management, monitoring and control of these issues and also weed control, has been abysmally lacking in the past. Without long-term dedicated funding, this failure will continue and a large part of the burden will remain on the Friends Groups, (which have limited abilities), and the Environment will continue to degrade.

An example of the lack of funding is that the NPRG and Friends Groups have repeatedly requested State agencies such as DOLA, DEC, DPAW to control weeds,

but have been advised that while funding is available to Rangers and other crews for fire access tracks maintenance, there is little-to-none available for weed control. Instead, Friends Groups have been advised to apply for limited funds from the State for assistance. This burden cannot continue and is destined to fail as a means of addressing environmental problems because they are simply too big and or protracted, for most volunteer groups to bear.

No indications are given on the maps as to where Dieback exists, so that the risks of its spread it can be understood.

Further, waste management of the trails and facilities is important.

#### 4. Consultation:

It is also important to consult with environmental groups and agencies such as:

- The Wildflower Society
- WA Naturalists Club
- NRPG
- Friends Groups in the affected Shires
- EPA
- Indigenous representatives.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Gates  
PP

Tony Fowler,  
President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group