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## **Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.**

Shire of Kalamunda  
2 Railway Rd  
Kalamunda, 6076

12 March 2009

**TO:** James Trail  
**CC:** all Kalamunda Shire Councillors, Mahesh Singh, Giles Glasson

**SUBJECT: NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION IN ROACH ROAD RESERVE**

Dear James,

The NRPG has learned of the proposal to transfer ownership of Roach Road reserve to a private party or parties.

Our understanding of the situation is that the proponents of 15 Hummerston Road, would like to purchase the entire road reserve in order to put in an access driveway, and have offered to install a walkway to allow the community members to continue to access Jorgensen Park, through the reserve which has been used for this purpose for many years.

We also understand that their neighbours, would like to purchase an area along their boundary with the reserve in order to preserve the vegetation.

The NRPG accepts the need for the proponents to access their property, however we question whether there is a need for the proponents to purchase the entire road reserve when adequate access can be achieved with only the purchase of the relatively minor road as presently exists.

The NRPG's is also concerned in regard to the transfer of ownership to private hands, after which there will be no control over preservation of the native vegetation of this area, which is in effect a wildlife corridor. While the present residents may have intentions to minimize vegetation destruction, there is nothing to stop future owners from clearing as they like.

We believe that the area of land transferred into private hands should be kept to an absolute minimum, with the remainder to be preserved as a reserve.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasise that the Shire's Wildlife Corridor Strategy and Tree Preservation Policy (TPP) and the Kalamunda Biodiversity Strategy should be implemented to protect this area to the greatest extent possible. The NRPG has called for these policies to be more enforceable than they are as 'guidelines', in order to be effective. Please demonstrate that they are.

The NRPG has also made comment that the TPP is a weak document as protection for not only trees but the very important understorey. If the TPP is allowed on the many small properties such as this reserve, they could be completely cleared in a short time, defeating the purpose.

We would like the Shire's assurance that this decision will not be rushed into in the Full Council meeting on 16th March, and that whether the reserve remains as a road reserve, or if some or all of the reserve is sold to private owners, the vegetation will be preserved to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Steve Gates  
President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group Inc.