



NATURE RESERVES PRESERVATION GROUP

KALAMUNDA WA 6926

www.nrpg.org.au

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Newsletter NRPG Summer 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

The festive season is over, we enter a new year and the thirtieth year for Nature Reserves Preservation Group. The good news is, we are still an effective community voice for the protection of the natural environment within the City of Kalamunda and, for addressing wider environmental issues outside the city. The bad news is – our services are still needed and, we are not yet at the point where the environment is safe and NRPG therefore redundant.

On 20 March, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. As usual, it will be held in the RSL hall on Canning Road. Details will be sent out to members well before that date.

As usual we have made several submissions, including some concerning matters beyond the City boundary. Whilst our main concern has always been with matters involving the natural environment within the City, wider environmental topics are also tackled. Developments within the Perth Airport Estate, always attract attention, since our major water courses are closely linked to the airport wetlands.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to have had a strong environmental staff section, whose members have worked hard in the interests of the natural environment. We continue to work closely with them at all levels and look forward to a time when that section is involved in **every** planning decision made by the City, rather than only those decisions selected by other City departments as needing environmental input.

Submissions to the City have included:

- City of Kalamunda Local Environment Strategy. May 2018.
- Forrestfield North Residential Precinct Local Structure Plan. July 2018.
- Local Development Plan lot 500 Gavour Road (Aged Care). July 2018.
- Cambridge Reserve Landscape Concept Plan. August 2018.
- Perth Airport New Runway Project Major Development Plan (MDP). August 2018.
- Gunbar Way Development Proposal. November 2018.
- Deputation to draft Flood Study at Public Agenda Briefing Forum. November 2018.
- Deputation to council meeting in opposition to sacking of CEO. December 2018.

Members have been present at several council meetings where agenda items appeared relevant (such as the ethical divestment debate, July 2018) and I thank those members for their attendance and support.

Submissions other than to City of Kalamunda:

- Perth Airport New Runway Project Major Development Plan (MDP). August 2018.
- Representation on Munday Swamp Poison Gully. In support of Whadjuk Noongar concerns over the impact of the new runway project on the sites. January 2019.

NRPG continues to be represented on the following:

- Parks of the Darling Range Community Advisory Committee.
- Perth Airport Consultative Environmental Sustainability Group (ACES).
- Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Group (KEAC).
- EMRC Waste Management Community Reference Group (WMCRG).

Membership of the Conservation Council of WA and Urban Bushland Council, ensures we work closely with both, on wider-reaching environmental matters. Through our committee, links with other environmental sustainability groups, give us a wide-ranging and highly effective environmental advocacy network.

Reserve 30314 Wilkins Road. We continue to push for State Government permission to work on the reserve and local residents are preparing to form a Friends group, ready for when permission is granted. The goal is to have it protected as a Class A Reserve. The Schmitt Road blocks saga continues and, with City, community and local member, Matthew Hughes opposed to the sale of the blocks, we may be successful in having them declared Parks and Recreation (P&R) and later, added to the nearby Class A reserve.

Gunbar Way Reserve 28896, one of 21 seen as suitable for “transfer” (read, disposal/sale), in the draft Public Open Space Strategy, now has residents working closely with the City’s Environmental Friends Group Officer, in efforts to restore some of its degraded environmental values. This is as a result of an approach to NRPG for advice and highlights the need for residents to be vigilant and to voice any concerns they may have.

Shortly, NRPG will produce a submission on the draft Environmental Land Use Planning Strategy (ELUPS), out for comment until **28 February**. Members are encouraged to have their say on this important draft, via the City’s website. **Lot 500 Gavour Road ‘Aged or Dependent Persons’ Dwellings’**; I hope to meet with Ross Leighton, on-site, to detail our concerns that Crystal Brook and fringing vegetation be preserved, when construction starts.

NRPG has two growing problems: 1. The shortage of younger members. 2. Reluctance of members to serve on the committee. Both are shared by most volunteer bodies, regardless of their field of activity. Please give some thought to solving both. It is pleasing to see the City willing to make use of its Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) when formulating strategies; a step in the right direction and, one to be applauded. **A reminder. Membership fees become due at the March AGM.** Individual membership fee remains at **\$10**, the Family membership at **\$20**. Cheques made payable to NRPG Inc. and sent to: Treasurer, NRPG PO Box 656 Kalamunda 6926 or, for on-line payments: BSB 036-065 A/C number 238970.

I take this opportunity to thank members for caring for the environment and for being vigilant and involved whenever it comes under threat.

Tony Fowler. President/Chair.