

NRPG MEETING MINUTES 20th August 2019

Attendance: T Warden, M Fowler, T Fowler S Gates

Apologies: M Syme, K Goss, J Wallis, K Outten

Visitors:

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting 16th July, 2019 (No Quorum): Moved: T Fowler
Seconded: M Fowler Carried (to be ratified at next Quorum meeting)

Business Arising:

Correspondence Out:

- Followup email to Minister S Ley re Perth & Jandakot airport bushland preservation (delivery receipt received, but no 'read' receipt confirmation yet) **ACTION: Steve copy to Opposition and Greens and CCWA**

Correspondence In:

- Questions in Parliament related to Jandakot Airport clearing from Eddy Wajon to Sen Louise Pratt 12 Aug 2019
- Resignation from committee from Catherine Hall
- New Landcare funding opportunities
- Info re Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's Significant Tree Register

Reports:

V. President:

- No feedback yet from our submission of the new Constitution
- Mary and Tony met with Kalamunda CEO Rhonda Hardy to introduce each other
- Mary attended Conservation Council mid year Conference (See report from Steve)
- Toni Warden meeting w M Hughes, K Goss & I Jones re Aged Care to discuss potential cooperative understanding with environmental concerns. M Hughes has some proposals for developed areas which may be suited for aged care. State govt report still being finalised, but also possible model like SavePerthHills (SPH) Bill may work. **ACTION: Toni will followup with Alison Xamon on SPH.**

Treasurer's Report:

Acct #1: \$1,668.01

Acct #2: \$268.15

73 members

TONY F Report - on continuing NRPG related activities:

- ACES (Airport Consultative Environment and Sustainability) Group:
- Meeting with Mary Gray and Perth airport (Melissa O'Toole) 29 July re new runway project: Have done additional flora and fauna survey including wetlands impacts and updates to reflect current EPBC and State Listings.
- Perth Airport Masterplan public display ongoing now (Tues & Thurs) at Perth Airport
- Parks of the Darling Range Parks Community Advisory Committee (DRPCAC) meeting 15 Aug, attended by the D.G. of DBCA Mark Webb. 27 foxes trapped in Perth hills. City of Kalamunda (CoK) now supporting schools in setting up education in flora and fauna and adopting a site. CoK use of Glyphosate will continue until regulations change because most other methods

are more toxic, excluding steam etc. Serpentine Jarrahdale has Significant Tree Register (Tony sent to Ctee). DRPCAC initiative to try to get a Management Plan done for Parks of the Darling Range councils, which may cost approx. \$250k, and needs councils to agree to fund it.

- Wilkins Road s. 91 licence application: awaiting 'License' to allow a Friends Group to be formed and work done on it.

KEAC: Kevin Goss report (addendum to this agenda)

Conservation Council of WA: Steve to report on Half Year Conference

Volunteer hours

Toornaart Creek ???	Crumpet Creek 0	Poison Gully ??	Old Yorna Rd 0

General Business

- Replacement of Catherine Hall as committee member – **ACTION: Steve email members. Toni put up on FB. Mary put on website.**
- Community & members engagement: ACTION: Toni suggested NRPG needs to engage more: such as Engagement Meeting to brainstorm widely publicised to maximise draw. Consider joining up with other organisations for presentations etc. ACTION TO RATIFY NEXT MTG: Contact members & community to brainstorm session & partner with other orgs.
- Climate change action – does NRPG get involved? – only continue to pass on email info and via FB, Website.
- Draft State Planning Policy 3.6: Infrastructure Contributions – comments due Mon 2 Sept Does not affect NRPG substantially so will not make submission.
- Perth Airport Draft Master Plan 2020 – comments due by Fri 18 Oct. **ACTION: Tony to draft.**
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's has a Significant Tree Register – for reference: <http://www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/what-we-do/environment-health-and-waste/environment/significant-tree-registry/>
- Concern over Infill clearing ie. Recreation Rd area raised. ELUPS allowance for Tree Preservation Policy on Private Land may address this but only applies to developments at this point.
- Constitution pro bono advice: ACTION: Tony will try to get advice to confirm NRPG operating conditions.

Next meeting: 17th September 2019

ADDENDUM 1: KEAC REPORT FROM KEVIN GOSS

KEAC had its last substantive meeting for this 2-year term on 1 August, after what I think was a productive year.

Local Environment Strategy

- Passed unanimously by Council without controversy, and now goes to KEAC-supervised graphic design for public release
- In the actions there are a couple of things to note -
 - KEAC to provide a discussion paper on application of 'environment in all policies' approach to policy development
 - Develop an LES reporting portal to provide an annual environmental snapshot
 - There will be an implementation plan and KEAC expects to be updated on progress

Environment and Land Use Planning Strategy

- No doubt Steve will update you on this getting through Council unanimously
- Some but not all of KEAC's advice was incorporated, and we were pleased to see it get through
- KEAC resolved to form a working group to work with City planning staff on options and opportunities for engagement, particularly on the contentious policies

Urban Forest Strategy

- A KEAC working group has done excellent work on principles, with some good comparative analysis on how other local governments handle policy and regulatory aspects
- The working group emphasised importance of good baseline and trend data for vegetative cover, and education/public information to bring the community along
- KEAC itself was concerned whether there are the City resources to see this through and the group will meet with staff to discuss
- The Council-agreed time frame is to June 2020

Local Biodiversity Strategy

- The strategy review and rewrite stalled because a suitable contractor to do much of the work could not be found; that work will go back to tender
- I'm confident there is strong commitment and the strategy will be encompassing, re-assessing the ecological value of double the number of reserves and including wildlife corridors

While there is inevitably compromise and these strategies don't progress as quickly as we would like, KEAC has a trusted relationship with City staff in 'parks and environment' and in 'planning services'. KEAC was advised by our sibling committee at Mundaring to commit to the long game, nurturing these relationships, staying within our terms of reference and seeing scheme amendment (the next 5-year Local Planning Scheme) as the ultimate goal.

ADDENDUM2: CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WA

MID-YEAR GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE 20 JUL 2019

Summary by S Gates

INTRO & TREASURER'S REPORT (by Piers Verstegen):

CCWA finances in solid position and operating in positive cash flow. Some generous donors have contributed also.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (by Piers Verstegen):

WA govt has just been announced fracking implementation plan will proceed:

- There are some protections including Landowners' right of refusal and EPA Assessment requirement
- Disappointed that fracking moratorium has been lifted before the protections are implemented, and which will take years to legislate.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) legislation has been passed but some concern that Coca Cola will administer it, so it will need to be properly rolled out and monitored.

WA Plan for Parks has been announced – see below.

UPDATE ON WA CLIMATE POLICY AND CLEAN STATE CAMPAIGN

WA govt is developing a Climate Action Policy (after the Barnett govt disbanded the Climate department), and this is due out for comment late this year.

WA's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions have risen by 30% in the last couple years, due mainly to NW WA gas developments. At a time when WA must cut emissions to meet Climate commitments, this is in completely the wrong direction, and must be curtailed and/or offset.

The WA EPA's scientifically based recommendations earlier this year was that the NW WA gas companies (Chevron, Woodside) be held to commitments for offsetting GHG emissions for their projects, which an independent report by Reputex (commissioned by CCWA) indicated would only cost those companies about 2% of their profits, and generate many jobs and conservation work in WA.

However the adverse reaction by the WA NW gas companies caused the WA govt to require that the EPA publicly re-consult on their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Assessment criteria. This period ends 2 Sep and all members and public are urged to make submissions. The CCWA website has further info and assistance.

PLAN FOR OUR PARKS (by Peter Sharp, Exec Dir Parks & Visitor Svcs at DBCA):

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parks/plan-for-our-parks>

As part of the McGowan govt commitment for a "Liveable Environment" plan, (<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/our-priorities-sharing-prosperity/liveable-environment>) the WA govt initiative to formally add 5 million Ha (to the 23 million Ha existing) Conservation Estate (CE), has been announced and is underway per election commitment.

The land was purchased decades ago but only the parts which were more popular, and less controversial regarding mining potential, were put into the CE, largely in the SW WA. See map attached.

Further marine parks planned to be added mostly around the WA south coast.

DBCA invites Public to visit website and make suggestions or comments on any other sites or values to be considered. Submissions welcomed by early Sept 2019.

PROTECT NINGALOO AGAINST OIL AND GAS THREAT - CAMPAIGN:

<https://www.protectningaloo.org.au/>

Jeremy Taiger gave an update on Subsea7 proposal to build a pipeline fabrication facility on the SW end of the Exmouth Gulf with railway line. The fabricated pipeline is planned to be dragged across the Ningaloo seabed in the Exmouth Gulf. This is considered a significant threat to the biodiversity productivity of the Gulf due to the soft-bottom environment.

See website above for info and actions that the Public can take.

CCWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES TO BE FILLED:

The CCWA is calling for Expressions of Interest to fill 2 vacant positions on the Committee.

LOTTERIES WEST GRANTS:

LW is looking for conservation projects to fund.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND POLICY IN WA: (By Mike Rowe, Director General Dept of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER))

DWER wants to engage effectively with all stakeholders, including CCWA.

Water and environmental matters have been combined under DWER which serves the EPA.

DWER currently developing (and consulting with Public) :

- WA Climate Policy
- Amending the Environmental Protection Act of 1986
- Native vegetation protection – landclearing, mapping, monitoring
- Waste reduction
 - Targeting 75% waste reduction by 2030 (WARR 2030)
 - Containers for Change (CDS) starts 2 June 2020.

Vegetation ‘offsets’ are being assessed and will report to WA Environment Minister.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT: (Tim Macknay, Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defenders Office – EDO):

The EDO is Involved with amending the EPA 1986

Citizen opportunities:

- Anyone can refer to the EPA for assessments.
- Lobbying and protest can complement the EPA assessment process
- Conservation and Carbon Covenants can be placed on private land
- Challenges to Ministerial or other decisions can be made. Unfortunately WA only allows legal Appeals on if ‘procedures’ are not followed, and not based on whether a decision has ‘merit’. This severely limits environmental protection, and even in the recent Yeelirrie Uranium mine court case, this ‘procedural’ challenge did not prevail. (NSW does however have independent Merit review processes) Until WA legislation is changed we will continue to have inadequate protection.
- One opportunity may be to introduce legislation to give ‘the Environment’ legal Rights to be protected, such as the precedent of the Whanganui River in New Zealand.

CLIMATE POLICY IN A RESOURCE STATE: (By Piers Verstegen, Director, CCWA)

WA and Australia are the only developed nation with increasing carbon pollution.

States and Territories greenhouse gas emission trends, 2005-2016

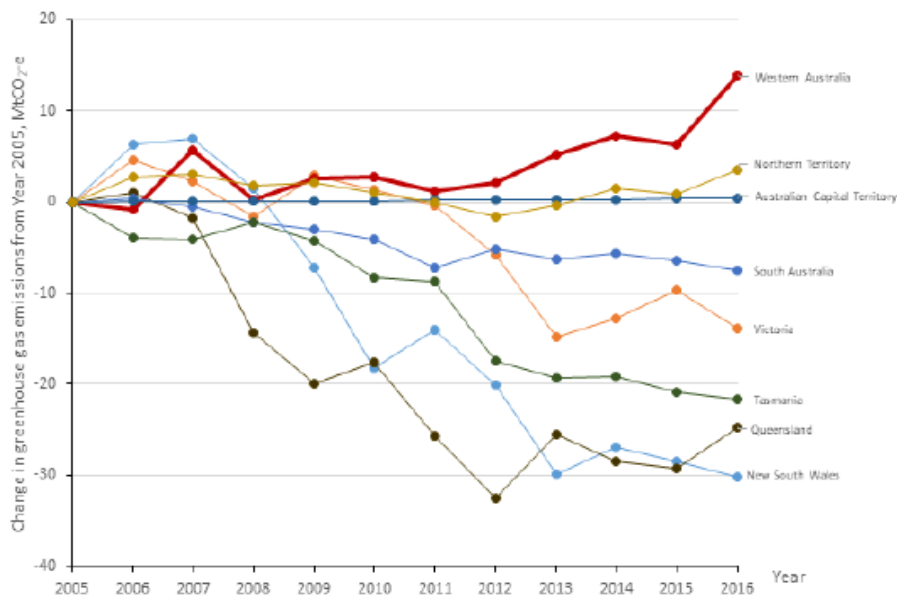
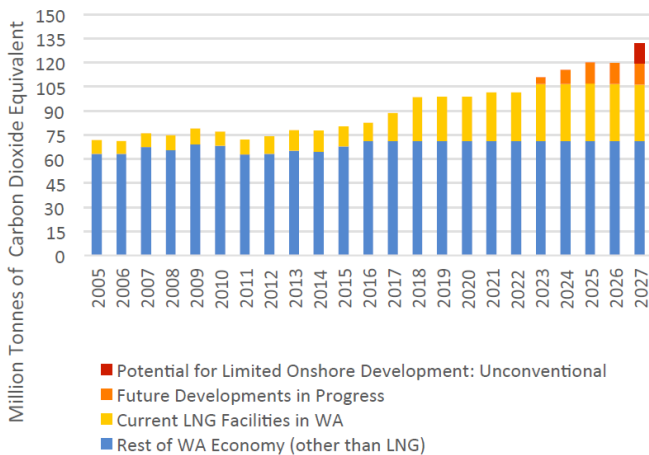


Figure 2: WA's past, projected and potential GHG emissions (Reputex 2019, emissions from Ichthys, Prelude and Crux not included)



Chevron & Woodside are responsible recent increase of 30% in emissions due to NW LNG developments, and they pay no tax or royalties.

State govt is deferring responsibility to federal govt to meet Australia's Paris Agreement emissions reduction target, which not adequate at this point for a safe climate future. Other states will not want to cut their emissions while WA increases, and CCWA is pushing for legal obligation to WA to address its own emissions.

This has been allowed to happen because EPA policy only allows it to advise what is 'reasonable and practical' – which is flawed as they should advise on scientific basis.

The LNG industry has options to address increasing emissions by offsetting 100% by several methods, per Reputex Energy report:

- Renewable Energy
- Vegetation – avoiding clearing, reforestation, rangeand regeneration, changes in agriculture and livestock practices

The Reputex report shows that the cost to offset would be only 2% of the industry profits.
(https://www.reputex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/REPUTEX-REPORT_Cost-and-availability-of-offsetting-LNG-emissions-in-Western-Australia_1118.pdf)

LNG industry claims that gas displaces coal to reduce global emissions is not correct
<https://www.cleanstate.org.au/media-release/csiro-confirms-lng-increases-pollution-finds-no-evidence-to-support-gas-industry-claims/>

There has been much pushback and misinformation from the gas industry and media.

The EPA has asked for submissions on the proposed Greenhouse Gas Assessment Guidelines, which are important to ensure that they:

- reflect the Science
- prevent new or expanded fossil fuel production (Including gas)
- require net zero emissions for existing polluters
- apply to all polluters and account for all pollution
- apply a 'mitigation hierarchy' and require certified pollution offsets that benefit WA

At the moment WA is facing a poor future due to:

- Browse Basin expansion (Woodside)
- Gas fracking
- WA govt ignoring EPA advice on emissions offsets
- Climate policy promised needs to be robust
- Climate litigation (Ref report "Trends in Climate Change Litigation"
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/global-trends-in-climate-change-litigation-2019-snapshot/>)

NATURE CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING CLIMATE (By Suzanne Prober, Scientist, CSIRO Land and Water, and Dr Nick Dunlop, CCWA Citizen Science Program):

Not recorded.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING LANDHOLDERS: (Christie Kingston, Goomalling Farmers for Climate Action):

Southern WA has experienced significant reduction in rainfall – 20% in Goomalling.

Cropping and vineyards are having to move Southward.

Regenerative agriculture being pursued as an option with RegenWA <https://www.regenwa.com/> who are identifying, implementing and sharing innovative land management practices that other farmers can adopt.

COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY IN CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY:

Extinction Rebellion (ER): <https://ausrebellion.earth/>

"The science is clear: It is understood that we are facing an unprecedented global emergency. We are in a life or death situation of our own making. We must act now."

Over the past decades the global environment has continued to degrade to crisis point, with governments failing to address it. All efforts to date to stop the insanity of the present trajectory have not worked and are destroying our future.

People Power is the only option to address this, by raising the profile of the urgency of change needed around the world.

ER's demands are: <https://rebellion.earth/the-truth/demands/>

- Govts must tell the truth about the dire an existential threat to our planet and us
- Govts must act now to address the issues
- Governing must include a Citizens Assembly (similar to some nations) to enact changes needed

ER is a rapidly growing peaceful global movement, with chapters in WA.

Tending the Tracks Alliance: <https://www.facebook.com/tendingthetracksalliance/>

Aim is to engage with 4WD orgs to protect our natural areas.

A number of clubs (4WD assn, Track Care WA, 4WDClub) and CCWA are Partners working to:

- Give back and protect our environment
- Educate for improved cultural and environmental awareness
- Lobby for mandatory Code of Conduct acceptance at point of sale of 4WDs

Lock the Gate Alliance (Frack-free WA): <https://www.lockthegate.org.au/>

The WA govt has lifted the gas fracking moratorium on all fracking in WA, and now WA's Midwest and Kimberley are 'ground zero' for kickoff of fracking.

Kerry Stokes owns most of WA media and Channel 7, and also owns Beach Energy, so there is much pro-fracking media influence. However, most people (of all political persuasions) want fracking banned.

Landowners and Traditional owners have Veto rights, but gas companies get around this by purchasing land.

There is still time to stop fracking in WA but it will need concerted effort.

Angela Rossen Art , WA Artist – 'Feed your soul with Nature': www.angelarossen.com

Angela engages mostly with children/schools to bring art and environmental science together by organising field trips to see and record Nature on land and in water. She then workshops with them painting murals, documenting their observations while learning about conservation and diversity.

She also holds workshops for adults.