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**Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.**

25 May 2012

**TO: Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority, Government of Western Australia**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED CLEARING OF HARTFIELD PARK VEGETATION FOR ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Dear Sir,

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group in Kalamunda refers this proposal to the EPA for your consideration and advice.

The Shire's Bushland Reserve Advisory Group and the Nature Reserves Preservation Group became concerned twenty years ago when the Shire proposed to clear areas in Hartfield Park for additional playing fields and car parks. Using the botanical survey works that both groups had initiated, the proposed additional developments were suitably redirected to nearby Pioneer Park and additional clearing of valuable vegetation was not allowed. This work was followed by the preparation of a draft and final Hartfield Park management plans (see attachments).

The completed Shire of Kalamunda (1997) Hartfield Park Management Plan recognised the values of vegetation in this area particularly for threatened ecological communities and priority species. The Shire's (1995) District conservation strategy and EMRC (1998) Wildlife corridor strategy encouraged our hopes for the better future protection of these valuable areas.

The foothills' area and its remnant vegetation are now also recognised as habitat regularly used by the area's mixed flock of Carnaby and Baudins Black Cockatoo.

The Hartfield Park reserve has multiple natural and cultural heritage values and has never been just an active recreation facility. It is recognised as the place that Joobytych lived; and passed on Perth indigenous mythology to Daisy Bates (1992); and also by DIA (2005) as an area of Aboriginal lost land and as the Welshpool or Cannington Mamba Aboriginal Reserve. It also includes the Shire's (2002) Federation Garden' contemporary water serpent sculpture and an Aboriginal scarred tree with heritage listing.

The vegetation clearing proposed in Hartfield Park appears inconsistent with:

1. Local Government and the Shire's (1997) Hartfield Park Management Plan
2. The State Government's obligation and intention to protect State priority species and threatened ecological communities
3. The Federal Government's concern for issues of national significance including listed species, and threatened ecological communities.
4. A sensitivity required in areas of known cultural heritage

The Nature Reserve Preservation Group has been dismayed at the cumulative clearance of rare species, priority species and threatened ecological communities in the last twenty years in High Wycombe, Maida Vale, Forrestfield, Wattle Grove, Lesmurdie and other areas of Kalamunda.

We are now concerned that significant clearing is being proposed on Shire Reserves where we had seen these values were being recognised in management plans. In the Shire's nearby Maida Vale Reserve a skate park (Ridge Hill Rd) was placed on the highest value natural land which had rare plant species, and then a couple of years later a tourist information bay was further placed on this same area (Kalamunda Rd), both developments poorly conceived, not planned, inconsistent with environmental policies and laws, and their own management plans.

As can be seen, the Shire has not been implementing its leading Wildlife Corridor Strategy in its town planning scheme and its wildlife' corridors, wetland and waterway buffers are being systematically cleared. We were very disappointed last year with vegetation bulldozing along the Poison Gully bush forever site and our Shires identified regional and district wildlife corridor.

Accordingly, we seek the EPA's assistance in advocating for better outcomes for protection of these areas of high value Kalamunda scarp and foothills vegetation, in Hartfield Park, and your advocacy directly to the Shire of Kalamunda.

NRPG seeks encouragement for better vegetation protection, wildlife habitat and formal wildlife corridor and creek line protection in already designated parks, and in new parks, improved State waterway buffer policies and outcomes, and possibly all much better integrated in a new foothills regional park. These issues are of State and National significance.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Fowler  
Acting President  
Nature Reserves Preservation Group

Attmtns:

1. Hartfield Park Management Plan excerpts: Cover page, Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Table 1
2. NRPG letter to DEC, 8 Feb 2007

# MANAGEMENT

## *Hartfield Park Management Plan*

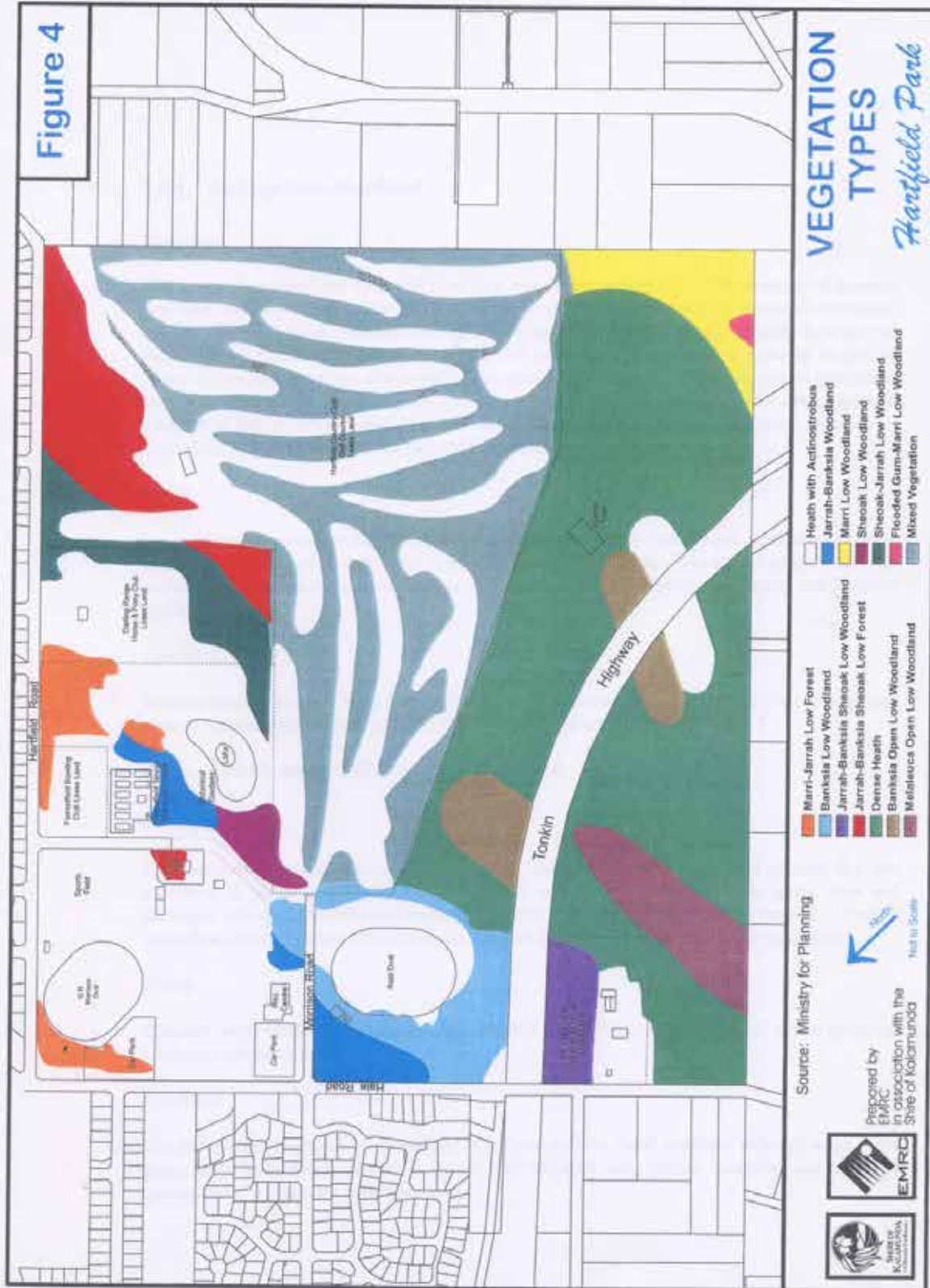
*Shire of Kalamunda*

May 1997

Prepared by  
EMRC Environmental Services  
in association with the  
SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA



Figure 4



**VEGETATION TYPES**  
*Hartfield Park*

- Heath with Actinostrobus
- Jarrah-Banksia Woodland
- Mari Low Woodland
- Sheoak Low Woodland
- Sheoak-Jarraah Low Woodland
- Flooded Gum-Mari Low Woodland
- Mixed Vegetation
- Mari-Jarraah Low Forest
- Banksia Low Woodland
- Jarraah-Banksia Sheoak Low Woodland
- Jarraah-Banksia Sheoak Low Forest
- Dense Heath
- Banksia Open Low Woodland
- Melleuca Open Low Woodland

Source: Ministry for Planning

Prepared by:  
EMRC  
in association with the  
State of Kalbar




North to South

The most recent information associated with the System Six Update in Hartfield Park has identified three floristic community types with regional conservation status. Table 1 provides a synthesis of the System Six Update findings with reference to the site vegetation types identified in the management plan.

Table 1: Floristic Community Types and Corresponding Vegetation Types

Floristic Community Type <sup>1</sup>	Vegetation Type <sup>2</sup>	Reservation Status <sup>3</sup>	Conservation Status
Marri Woodlands (Type 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marri Low Woodland</li> </ul>	Present in one Conservation Reserve	Vulnerable
<i>Banksia attenuata</i> Woodlands (Type 20a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marri-Jarrah Low Forrest</li> <li>• Banksia Low Woodland</li> <li>• Jarrah-Banksia Sheoak Low Woodland</li> <li>• Jarrah-Banksia - Sheoak Low Forest</li> <li>• Sheoak- Jarrah Low Woodland</li> <li>• Sheoak Low Woodland</li> </ul>	Not present in any Conservation Reserve	Endangered
Central <i>Banksia attenuata</i> - <i>Banksia menziesii</i> woodlands (Type 23a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banksia Woodland</li> <li>• Banksia Open Low Woodland</li> </ul>	Present in two or more Conservation Reserves	Low Risk
Northern <i>Pericalymma ellipticum</i> dense low shrublands (Type S2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense Heath</li> <li>• Melaleuca Open Low Woodland</li> <li>• Heath with Actinostrobos</li> </ul>	Yet to be assessed.	To be determined

(Source: Keighery 1996)

1. From Gibson et al (1994) and the System Six Update Programme (DEP 1994-1996)
2. As mapped in this report
3. Conservation Reserves refer to National Parks or Nature Reserves.

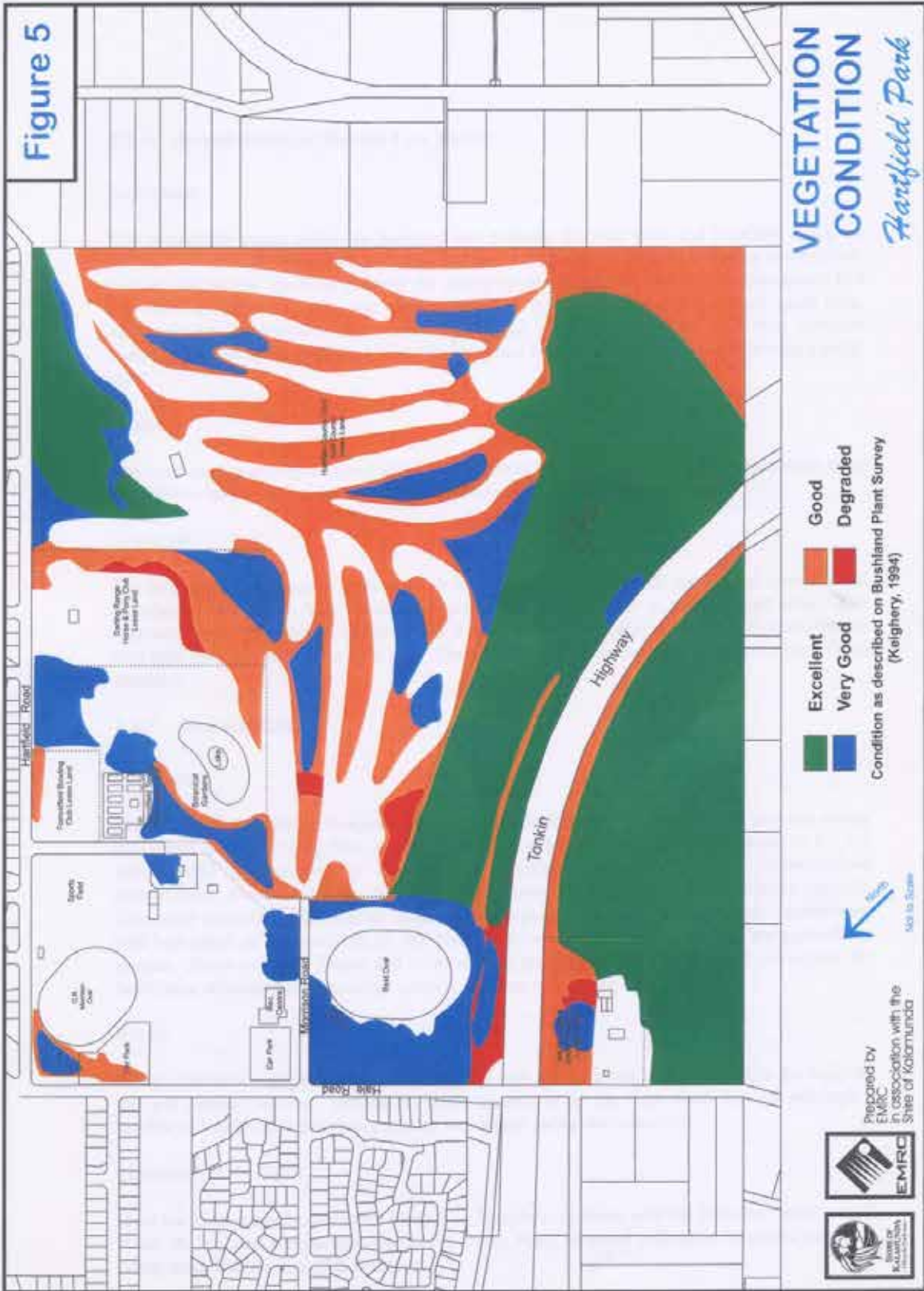
Floristic community type 20a and all of type 3 are confined to the eastern side of the plain with the recent floristic work confirming the recognition of the area as containing threatened and poorly reserved communities. Types 23a and 'S2' have not been assessed adequately at this time, however type 23a is confined to the Perth Metropolitan Area and the occurrence of type 'S2' in Hartfield Park is the most southern known occurrence of this community type.

All current regional information on the flora and vegetation of Hartfield Park clearly identifies the vegetation as having outstanding conservation value (Keighery, 1996).

The DEP and CALM are particularly concerned with the 20a - "*Banksia attenuata*" woodlands over species rich dense shrublands which is currently unreserved with an endangered conservation status.

The following section details the findings of surveys undertaken to date noting key vegetation associations and their condition. Species lists from the 1992 survey by Armstrong and the 1995 DEP survey are provided in Appendix 1.

Figure 5



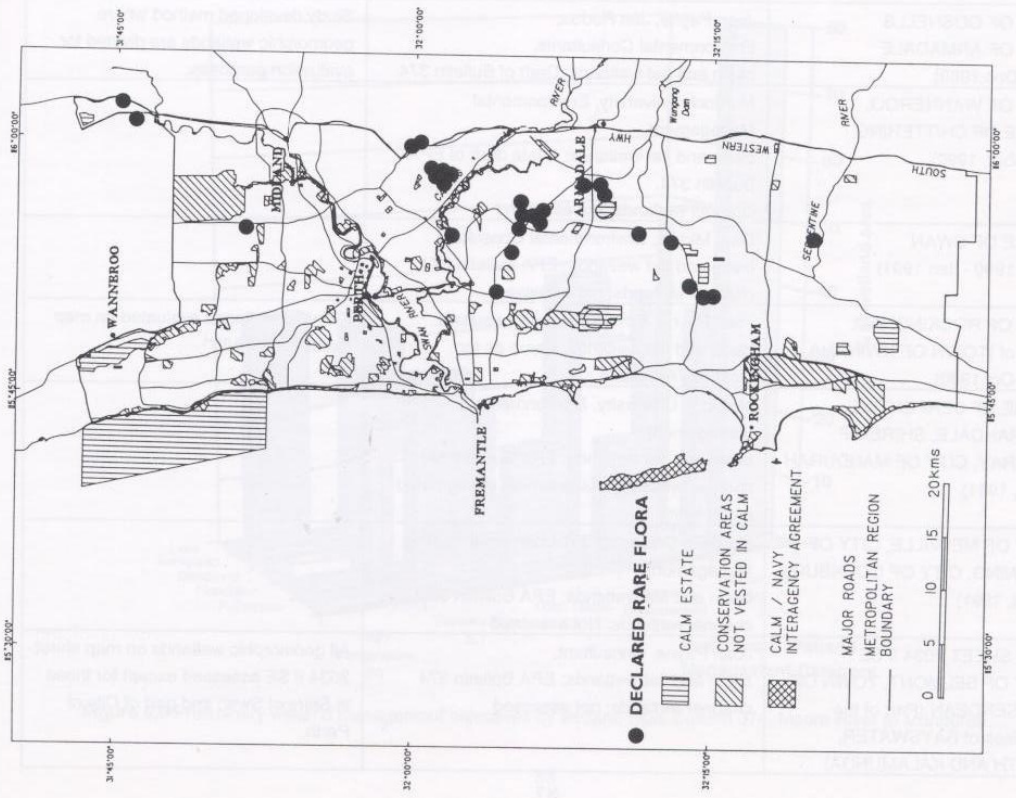


Figure 5.8a Distribution of Declared Rare Flora populations in the Perth Metropolitan Area (Kelly *et al.*, 1993)

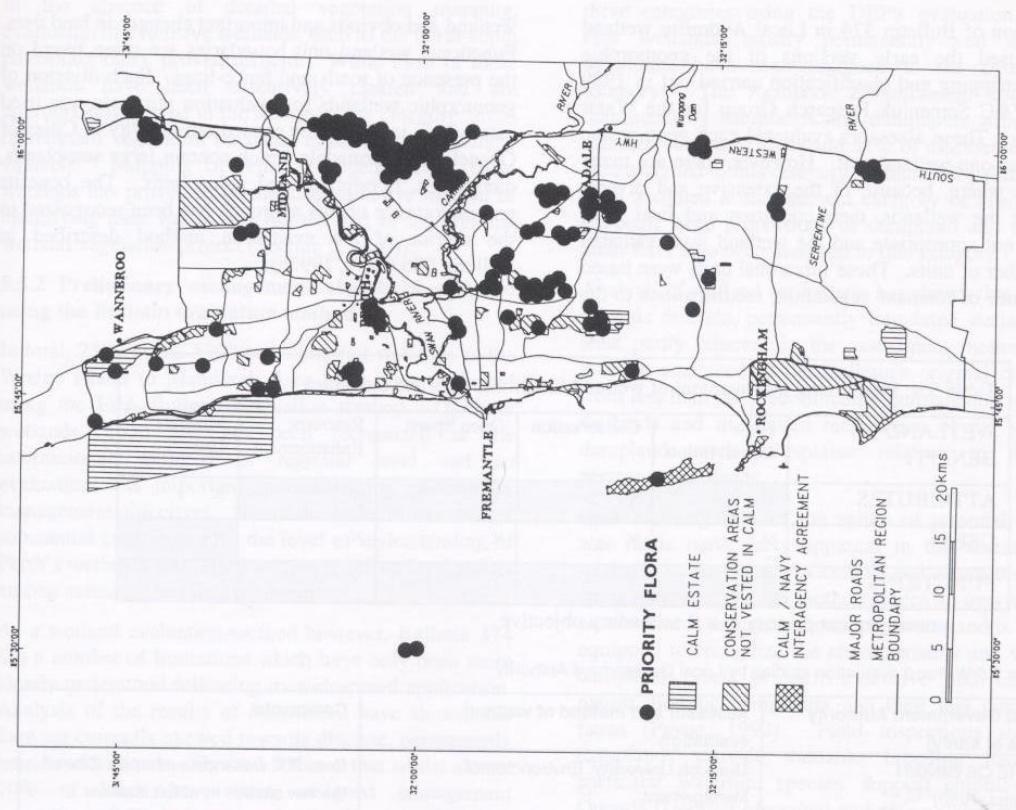


Figure 5.8b Distribution of Priority Flora populations in the Perth Metropolitan Area (Kelly *et al.*, 1993).

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**Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.**

**TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

**8 February 2007**

**ATTN: MARK GARKAKLIS  
SWAN REGION OFFICE,  
7 TURNER AVE,  
BENTLEY WA 6102**

**RE: PROPOSED CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION AT HARTFIELD  
PARK, KALAMUNDA**

Dear Mark,

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG) of Kalamunda has learned of a proposed Sporting Development Plan for Morrison Oval at Hartfield Park, Kalamunda. The proposal would require the removal of some native vegetation. We have been in contact with Kalamunda Shire who have given assurance that no clearing will take place without approval from the DEC.

We would appreciate it if the DEC can advise the NRPG of any application for clearing at this site.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve Gates  
President NRPG