

From the office of the Shire President

3 May 2013



**shire of
kalamunda**

Mr Tony Fowler
President
Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.
PO Box 656
KALAMUNDA WA 6926

Dear Tony

I thank you for your letter of 19 April 2013 regarding the upcoming Community Poll and in particular some of the comments around the Shire's environmental focus. The Council has recently adopted a new strategic plan which has a priority area which gives equal attention to environmental issues as it does other aspects of sustainability for the Shire.

The Local Planning Scheme is supportive of various and sustainable land use across the Shire. The Scheme contains strong environmental values in all areas where natural environmental exist.

The Shire would like NRPNG to further consider the implications for the environment under the mooted amalgamation of the Shire of Mundaring, the City of Swan and the Shire of Kalamunda rather than a Shire of Kalamunda and Shire of Mundaring amalgamation. The sustainability of a Shire of Kalamunda and Shire of Mundaring merger is simply not feasible and this is why it was not recommended in both the Robson report and the report by the G20, a group of metropolitan local government authorities.

If the community of Kalamunda does not form a strong voice against amalgamation then the State will see this as a mandate for the recommendations in the Robson Report and the environmental issues relevant to the Hills will be managed from a huge centralise bureaucracy in Midland. I would strongly encourage your members to consider this as the alternative to what is currently in place.

In terms of the NRPNG request for a commitment to give the environment its highest priority I believe that the Council and the Shire will deliver on this in a balanced and sustainable manner through its new adopted long term plans.