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Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.

Address:

Date: 28 July 2011

TO: Steven McKay
Manager Property and Procurement

SUBJECT: Proposed rationalization of Reserve # 37699 Holly Way West

Dear Steve,

On behalf of NRPNG and as a Kalamunda ratepayer concerned about the environment, I wish to object to the above reserve being declared 'surplus' for the following reasons:

- When viewed in isolation, whilst it may be seen simply as a degraded bush block divorced from any potential wildlife corridor, giving little or no benefit to the Shire and its residents, this block serves as an adjunct to the nearby Mundy regional Park through the reserve K20 on the south side of Alpine Rd at its SW end.
- Viewed from the end of Orange Valley Rd (the upper end of Whistlepipe Gully creekline – itself a significant wildlife corridor) there is almost unbroken canopy cover and significant understorey vegetation through private properties and K20 to reserve 37699.
- The importance of the significant canopy cover should not be undervalued. Whilst many see the understorey vegetation as an important avenue for the passage of native animals such as quenda, the importance of the canopy to bird and insect life tends to be overlooked.
- In the interests of preserving the biodiversity of the environment, any areas of bushland, degraded yet having significant canopy cover, should be preserved and every effort made by the Shire to conserve and rehabilitate such areas.
- Once again, I stress the relevance of such a stance to the Shire's own District Conservation Strategy (cf. Recommendation 25 on backyards as wildlife corridors), Wildlife Corridor Strategy (this IS a 'Strategy' not a 'Plan') and the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

Your previous assurance that ALL submissions, regardless of proximity or otherwise to the target reserve, will be presented to Council, is reassuring to our 80-plus members within the Shire.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this submission would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Fowler
Acting President