

Planning and Development Act 2005
Section 57 Amendment (Minor)
Form 57

Submission
Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1236/57

**Bush Forever Definition Clause Insertion and Removal of Clause 16 (1a)(a)
for New Similar Clause Insertion 16 (1a)(a) and (ba) in the Metropolitan Region
Scheme Text**

OFFICE USE ONLY

To: mrs@planning.wa.gov.au
Secretary
Western Australian Planning Commission
Locked Bag 2506
PERTH WA 6001

Name**Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG)**
Inc.....
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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Submission (Please attach additional pages if required. It is preferred that any additional information be loose rather than bound)
See attachment below.

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To be signed by person(s) making the submission

Signature A.J.Fowler Hard copy
signed..... Date 17/1/13.....

Note: Submissions MUST be received by the advertised closing date, being close of business (5pm) on 18 January 2013. Late submissions will NOT be considered.

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Date: January 17 2013

TO: mrs@planning.wa.gov.au

CC: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Subject: Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1236/57 Submission

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG Inc.) is an environmental umbrella group of residents of the Shire of Kalamunda. As acting President of NRPG, I make the following submission on their behalf and request it be listed under the NRPG name.

Our members recently attended a forum on the progress of Bush Forever, organised by the Urban Bushland Council. At that forum, the above amendment came up for discussion. Having previously heard an historic account of the genesis of Bush Forever, its various manifestations and its current status, the above text amendment gave cause for concern.

Despite legislation designed to protect Bush Forever areas, we still find them under constant threat. Areas once containing pristine natural bushland have been allowed to degrade to a degree where they are deemed no longer worthy of protection. Clearing permits are granted for such Bush Forever sites with the odd 'offset' in compensation for the cleared vegetation.

The failure of 'owners' (who should, realistically be considered 'custodians') of Bush Forever sites to preserve and maintain the natural vegetation on their sites has led to the degradation of many sites through illegal dumping, other inappropriate activities

and weed invasion. Such owners may be private individuals, businesses, local governments or state or federal agencies. Some government utilities are failing to respect a site's Bush Forever status leading, invariably, to degradation of the valuable natural assets forming the original basis for its designation.

A clearing permit (CPS 41001/1) granted for a section of Bush Forever site Hartfield Park involved the use of another Bush Forever site (BF 45 Poison Gully West) as an offset. This offset, like Hartfield Park, has been permitted to degrade to a degree where it is now deemed a suitable candidate for rehabilitation. The Minister, over-riding a recommendation by the Office of Appeals Convenor that the clearing not be carried out, confirmed this particular permit.

In the above example, the local government authority should have been required, under effective legislation, to manage the bushland efficiently. All Bush Forever sites, regardless of owner status, should be protected effectively through legislation requiring the owner to manage the site to retain its natural conservation and biodiversity values.

The clearing of remnant native vegetation within Bush Forever sites should be prohibited. Where proposed developments within such sites would require clearing of remnant native vegetation, such development proposals should be rejected.

Clause 16(1a)(ba), permitting government authorities to clear and develop within their Bush Forever sites following WAPC approval, should be deleted. It contradicts both the spirit and intent expressed in the 'Strategic Planning Context', appears to conflict with numerous policies and strategies and is totally alien to the original concept of Bush Forever.

NRPG objects to the above amendment in its present form. It fails to provide the required statutory protection of Bush Forever areas containing some of the richest and best biodiversity in the world, fails to impose a management duty on owners to retain conservation and biodiversity values and, whilst defining Bush Forever areas (clause 28A) fails to state their purpose.

A hard copy of this email will be following.

Regards,

Tony Fowler
Acting president NRPG