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Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.

Date: July 25 2011

TO: Steven McKay
Manager Property and Procurement

**SUBJECT: Proposed rationalisation of Reserve # 27721 Wordsworth Avenue,
Gooseberry Hill**

Dear Steve,

On behalf of NRPG and as an individual ratepayer, I object to the above reserve being declared 'Surplus' on the following grounds:

- It fails to fit the criteria of providing very limited community benefit, and negatively impacting nearby residents.
- In contrast, it provides great community benefit for nearby residents [who, with the aid of the Shire have expended many hours of voluntary work in rehabilitating what was initially a degraded natural area]
- For the greater benefit, it serves as a linkage in a wildlife corridor stretching from the natural bushland to the east of Huntley St, through gardens and Reserve 27721 to the Railway Reserve, the Quenda Creek Nature Reserve, Kadina Brook wildlife corridor and on to the Helena River.
- The value of such 'backyard' linkages was stressed in the Shire's District Conservation Strategy (1995). Recommendation 25. 'The community be encouraged to develop their backyards as wildlife corridors...in areas which link reserves.' The Wildlife Corridor Strategy (1988) spends sections 2, 3 and 4 on the character and importance of corridors and the Kalamunda Local Biodiversity Strategy (2008), likewise, emphasises the importance of ecological linkages and corridors.
- The local residents formed a Friends Group, registering with the Reserves coordinator, rehabilitated the major part of the reserve and established a community garden on the most degraded section. The Shire contributed significantly to the rehabilitation. The resulting natural vegetation (a haven for quenda and other wildlife) is a credit to the Friends group.

This reserve should never have been designated as 'Surplus' and been placed on the list of reserves proposed for 'rationalisation'. It should remain undeveloped and should continue serving its current purpose.

I would be extremely concerned if submissions such as ours should be discounted on the grounds that we are not close to the reserve, since our primary objective is to 'Promote the preservation and restoration of nature reserves within the Shire of Kalamunda'. A response from you confirming that distance from a reserve under consideration does not diminish the value of the submission. This is of particular interest to our 80-plus members who are scattered throughout the Shire.

Tony Fowler
Acting President.

Sincerely,

Tony Fowler
Acting President