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**Nature Reserves Preservation Group
of Kalamunda, Inc.**

8 July 2022

TO: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
CC: All Councillors

SUBJECT: Submission - Kalamunda Rd closure to upgrade Rail bridge

The NRPG has concerns about the proposal to replace the rail bridge on Kalamunda Road, and reconstruction of the Kalamunda-Abernethy Intersection 'to provide additional lanes and increased loading capacity' for anticipated traffic into Perth Airport North Major Development Proposal precinct. There is also another Main Roads WA (MRWA) project planned to upgrade the Kalamunda Rd/Great Eastern Highway bypass intersection, and this will add pressure to widen the entire length of Kalamunda Rd.

Our concerns are primarily for the potential destruction of adjacent bushland, given the widening of the bridge implies future widening of Kalamunda Rd. This will likely require clearing along the south side Kalamunda Rd through Perth Airport and Guildford Cemetery. These areas are high-conservation value 'Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Plain', of which only a small percentage remains. They are "Bush Forever Sites" and include vegetation that are "Threatened Ecological Communities" (TEC's) and "Matters of National Environmental Significance" (MNES), protected under the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Refer to the map below (North upward):

- Guildford Cemetery Bush Forever site (blue outline).
- Perth Airport Banksia Woodland which we understand Perth Airport intends to preserve (red outline), along with a wildlife corridor to be reconstructed running from the South-east corner to "Munday Swamp" (Southward)
- Perth Airport North MDP which we understand will be developed (Yellow outline approximately)



We cannot allow further destruction of these areas.

We are engaging with MRWA to make the above points and ask if are ways to avoid widening Kalamunda road between Airport North eastern entry and Great Eastern Highway bypass by reducing peak commuter and other

traffic, thereby avoiding the clearing of natural areas and potentially reducing infrastructure costs. These include:

- Increasing/encouraging more bus and train travel (ie. with discounts, or free, as incentives), particularly considering the new Forrestfield-Airport link will start soon. If public transport is made cheaper than driving it would be a strong case for commuters to 'unload' the existing infrastructure to allow those who need to drive, to do so, and result in reduced infrastructure costs.
- Reduce peak traffic by encouraging/coordinating: working from home, carpooling or staggering work times and days in the week, in order to 'flatten the peak'.

Sincerely,

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