



P.O. Box 656

Kalamunda

W.A. 6926

<http://nrpg.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KalamundaNRPG>

<https://www.facebook.com/nrpg.bushcare>

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

6 Nov 2023

TO: City of Kalamunda enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION ON THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA NATURE FUND PROPOSAL

As the initial proponent for the Nature Fund Proposal, NRPG appreciates the opportunity to support and make comment. Our initiative to the City of Kalamunda is detailed in the letter to CEO and Councillors on 14 July 2022 attached.

We welcome the City's carriage of this Proposal for public comment, and support the need to significantly increase funding for environmental projects and issues in the City, and our comments are:

Defining and inspiring voluntary funding for Environmental projects and issues:

To inspire people to donate voluntarily, it is necessary to remind ratepayers of the amazing environmental surrounds of Kalamunda, and to provide a vision and justification for why their money is important to make a difference to address the threats and stresses to it. Explaining this in brief, engaging and graphical ways is likely to generate most interest, since most people will not take much time to consider this. (Many ratepayers are likely to ask why this cannot be addressed by their land rates).

It would also be useful to refer to other successes with this type of fund, such as those referred to in NRPG's letter attached.

We propose the donation amount be nominated by the ratepayer, but suggest a starting amount and how much of a difference it will make if say X% of the ratepayers donate \$Y amount each? CoK may want to research how other Councils referenced in the attached, have done this and achieved amazing results.

Auditing of Nature Funds to ensure transparency:

Further, it is important that those donating are comfortable and reassured that their money will be used as intended, and that the benefits and outcomes are real. Therefore details of how and when the funds will be spent, and how they are audited (to ensure transparency), will be needed. This will help to instill a sense of confidence and satisfaction when the project or issue reaches either milestones and or completion.

Further points made in the attached letter may also be useful.

Sincerely,

Steve Gates

President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group Inc. admin@nrpg.org.au



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Nature Reserves Preservation Group, Inc.

City of Kalamunda
2 Railway Rd
Kalamunda, 6076

14 July 2022

TO: All Kalamunda City Councillors (by email)
CC: Rhonda Hardy, CEO Rhonda.Hardy@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
Brett Jackson, Director Asset Services Brett.Jackson@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
Vicki Laurie, Chair, Kalamunda Community Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (KESAC) (by email)

SUBJECT: CITY OF KALAMUNDA 'NATURE FUND' PROPOSAL

Dear Councillors,

It is well established by the City of Kalamunda that the community values our Environment and its protection very highly in priority, and it is one of the main reasons for choosing to live here.

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG) acknowledges the City of Kalamunda's provision in past budgets for some of the environmental initiatives we have requested and appreciate the City's continued support. Some of these include:

- Environmental Resources in Staff, Contractors and funding
- Significant Tree and Vegetation Register
- Weed Control By-Laws update and public information/awareness
- Cat Control By-Laws and revised responsible Cat Ownership information
- Erosion Control Works and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD):
- Revision of the City Fire Risk Pamphlet
- Prescribed Burning and 'Fire-Weed cycle' issues

However, in the past the City has been unable to fund some requests due to limited funds, although there has been some success in obtaining grants from external sources.

To help provide more funding, NRPG has suggested the City initiate a 'Nature Fund' which can be funded by a voluntary 'Environmental Levy', and could be included in the Rates notice to City residents, together with a brief description on why it is needed and how it would be used. The dollar donation amount would be optional to the ratepayer. Examples of these initiatives include:

- Ku-Ring-Gai Council (Sydney) "Environmental Levy": <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Environmental-levy> (and survey "Special Rate Variation Community Research Report" attached)
- Brisbane's "Bushland Preservation Levy" <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/clean-and-green/natural-environment-and-water/biodiversity-in-brisbane/protecting-the-natural-environment/bushland-preservation-levy>)

Inclusion of this payment option with the Rates notice would cost the City no more, and give concerned residents a chance to contribute and feel a pride and part in their surrounds. It would require only a 'tick box' and the ratepayer's nominated dollar amount on the notice. Such a levy may, may even be accepted as an 'in kind' contribution when attracting outside funding.

NRPG is aware that the City have expressed concerns that other special interest groups may wish to be similarly included in this way to raise funds for their requests, but it would seem this

should not be an issue, requiring only more contribution tick boxes to effect this. The City Directors have referred NRPNG to put our proposal to Councillors for consideration.

As such, we ask that you consider this initiative, and request your feedback to determine its merits and whether/how to progress it? We would be pleased to meet or discuss if useful.

Kind regards,

Steve Gates
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0400-870-887

<http://nrpg.org.au/>
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<https://www.facebook.com/nrpg.bushcare>

Attachment:
Ku-Ring-Gai Council "Special Rate Variation Community Research Report", Feb 2011