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

16 Jan 2025

**TO:** [enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au)

**SUBJECT: Submission on Development Proposal – water extraction – Lot 6 (60) Repatriation Road and Lot 12 (30) Foti Road, Pickering Brook**

The Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG) objects to this proposal, primarily questioning the compatibility and sustainability of the proposed extraction of water, and the impacts on surrounding areas of our native forests which are under extreme stress, and on agricultural activities.

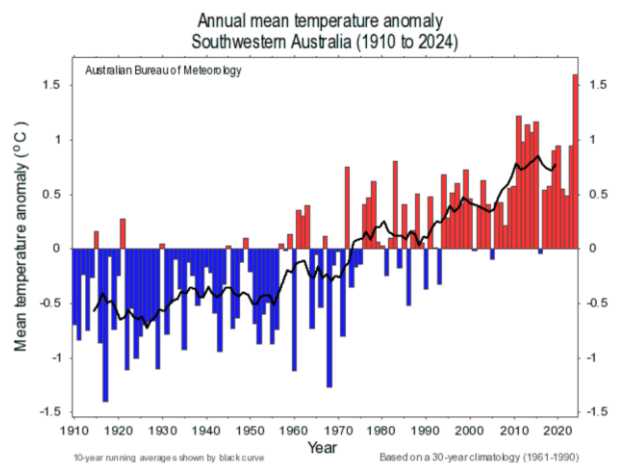
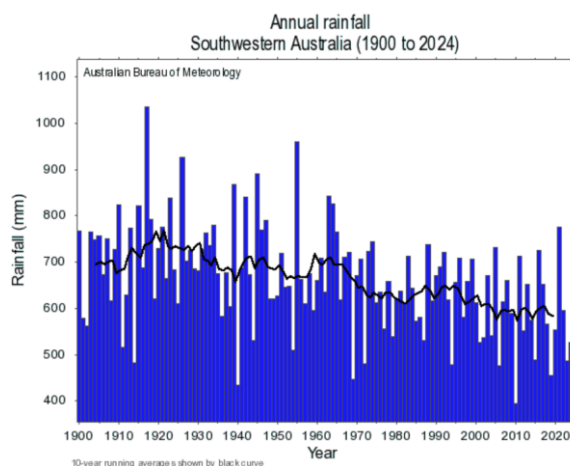
**Incompatible Land use - Precedent of rejected similar proposal in Shire of Jarrahdale, 2023:**

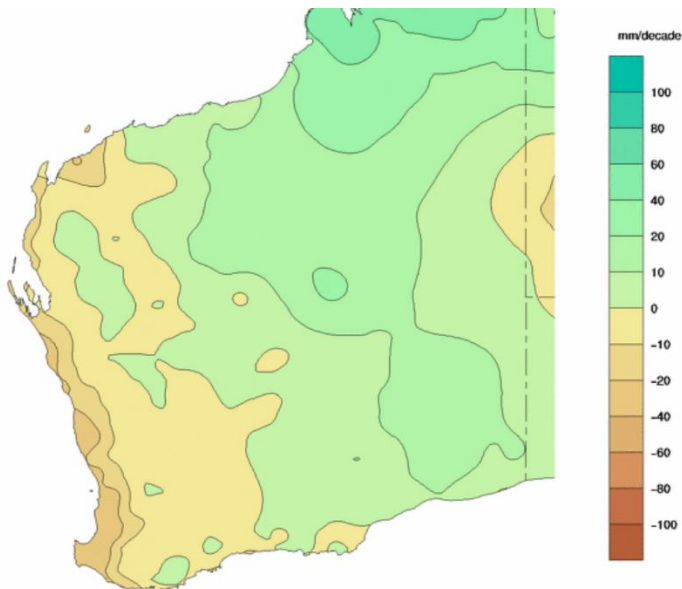
NRPG highlights that a similar “Water Abstraction Proposal” at 13/14 Nettleton Road, Karrakup in 2023 to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, was refused approval by the Shire on several grounds including that it did not fit the definition of a rural activity. It has since been rejected by the State Administrative Tribunal “...being inconsistent with the applicable planning framework including the relevant zoning objectives, as well as a number of State planning policies.” [News Story - State Administrative Tribunal dismisses proposal for groundwater extraction » Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale](#)

**Insufficient information:**

This development proposal lacks sufficient information to make an informed decision on the sustainable water extraction limits for this area. It is of particular importance in the face of significantly reduced rainfall and increasing temperatures over the last several decades, resulting from climate change and land-clearing, and which is expected to continue into the future, as our weather patterns continue to be displaced southward due to the effects of global warming.

NRPG asserts that no proposal can be considered until after review of a detailed hydrology report, accounting for impacts of climate change, which has not been provided.





Commonwealth of Australia 2023, Bureau of Meteorology

Ref: BOM Australia

Dataset: AGCD v2

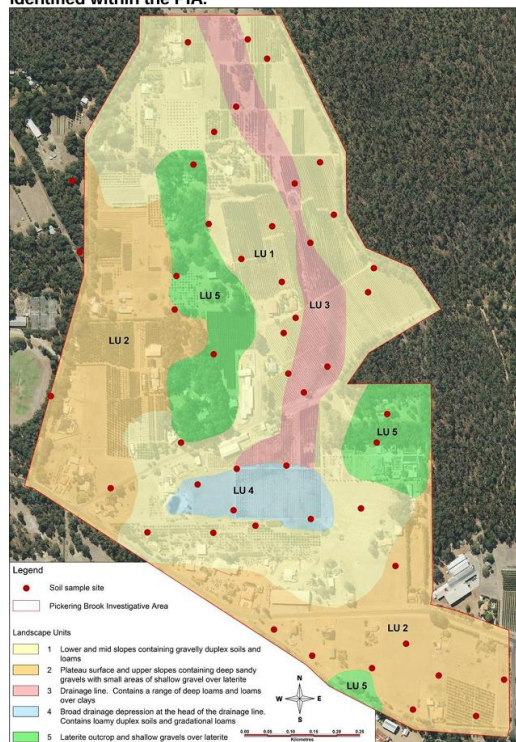
Issued: 26/05/2023

Figure 2: The location of the map units and soil description sites that were identified within the PIA.

**Sustainability of existing water licences and water table/aquifer drawdown:**

This proposal also raises a question as to whether other existing water licenses in the surrounding area are still sustainable, given that they may have been granted many decades ago, before rainfall reductions and climate change impacts were as well known and understood.

The proposal states that the water level in the bore will be monitored to guide/limit the amount of water extracted, however the fact that the water would be drawn from a relatively low elevation location, means that higher surrounding elevations are likely to incur ground water levels dropping without it showing on the bore monitoring. (Ref: [Soil survey of the Pickerng Brook Planning Investigation Area Phase 1](#)) NRPG contends that significantly increased, ongoing monitoring of surrounding areas would be required for the ‘life’ of the project.



**Commercial water extraction competing against agricultural activities and native forests:**

This water extraction would likely rob surrounding agricultural areas and native vegetation of an adequate water table required for survival of native trees and forest. Last summer (2024) the entire southwest of Western Australia had massive die-offs of native trees (as much as hundreds of years old) and vegetation, due to drop in localised water tables, from reduced rainfall. It seems there are better options than to take water unnecessarily from this sensitive area.

Sincerely,

Steve Gates,  
President