

31 July 2019

Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis: re-adoption

Submission by the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland: 86 Dalglish Street Wembley 6014. Phone 08 93811287

Thankyou to the Environment and Communications References Committee and the Australian Senate for the opportunity to 'briefly update or add new information' to the submission sent 9 September 2018, by the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland.

1.) Tuart Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain listing as a Threatened Ecological Community at the level of critically endangered.

Thankyou to the new Minister for Environment Sussan Ley for accepting and listing the Threatened Species Committee's recommendation. Of concern is that the Western Australian state government agencies, on a case by case basis, will probably find exceptions to allow further clearing of Tuart communities.

Recommendation:

We recommend that federal government officers come to Perth and regional areas to advise the state government. The fact that Tuart communities are critically endangered is highly concerning.

From the point of view of Underwood Avenue Bushland on Lot 4 Shenton Park, a vigorous Tuart forest with new Tuarts growing from seed lies across the elevated dune of the bushland, with some Tuart trees extending onto the lower areas.

The Tuarts in Underwood Bushland are noisily visited by the flock of Carnaby's Cockatoos seeking moth and beetle larvae within the branches, so we consider that Tuart trees are part of the critical food resources of these listed species.

Tuart trees too contain or have the potential to provide hollows for nesting of species, such as Carnaby's Cockatoos and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

From the high points of mighty Tuart trees Carnaby's Cockatoos and Forest Red-tail Black Cockatoos can see right through to the Perth hills to the east and the coast to the west.

Additionally, a pair of Brown Goshawks nest in an Underwood Bushland Tuart, nearly annually.

2.) 2019 Birdlife Great Cocky Count results for Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos

837 Forest Red-tailed Black cockatoos were counted at their roost site adjacent to Underwood Avenue Bushland – at UWA Sports Park, Brockway Road, Shenton Park. That count makes that roost site the largest in the 2019 Great Cocky Count.

Of the two main Carnaby's Cockatoos roost sites in the western suburbs – near Underwood Avenue Bushland and at Hollywood/Nedlands, the numbers counted were 283 and 353 respectively, making a total of 636 Carnaby's in the western suburbs. All these birds require the existing bushlands to be protected.

Underwood Avenue Bushland is threatened by the University of Western Australia's development plans and by its complete lack of management – weeds, foxes and feral bees.

3.) Connections/Greenways/corridors

Many Local Governments, particularly in the metropolitan area, are doing great work in greening their suburbs by plantings along roads and in parks and reserves and by promoting verge improvements to householders – 'nature strip gardening.'

The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland is active in promoting and working with local governments and friends groups to identify, protect and enhance potential linkages.

With effective verge and connectivity enhancement, threatened species have a great chance of survival into the future.

Linkages are part of the state government's Bush Forever policy as well as State Planning Policy 2.8 and the Capital City Planning Framework but there is no associated statutory protection. Linkages are being fragmented and lost through developments that are deemed by state government decision makers as essential.

4.) Climate Change

Global climate change will continue to be a major threat to the future of the planet. At a talk given by Professor Emeritus Don Bradshaw 'No Sense of Place?' on 1 August 2019, the professor said that it is far too late to keep temperature increase down by 2 degrees. He also stated that 65% of animals in the world are domestic and only 3% are native animals.

Thankyou once again

Margaret Owen
Chair Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland Inc