

## From *Save Kiara Bushland* - Update July 2010

Dear Kiara Bushland Supporter/s

You may have seen our May update where we brought news, that in April, Kiara Bushland (the former Kiara TAFE Site on the corner of Morley and Bottlebrush Drives) was zoned to Urban. This is despite a long community call since 1996 for the area to remain as bushland for the benefit of the community and environment. Our community group, *Save Kiara Bushland*, has been lobbying some politicians as well as State and Federal government departments in the hope that the vision for a 'managed bushland park' will come true for Kiara Bushland.



Our last hope is that the area can be acquired through an environmental offset scheme. Recently the Commonwealth government approved the proposal to redevelop Jandakot Airport, which means 162 hectares of bush of the same type as Kiara Bushland will be lost. As part of the approval, Jandakot Airport Holdings must set aside 1600 hectares of bush for conservation. This is how we hope Kiara Bushland can be saved.

Although the Department of Housing and Works, which owns the land, has said it will set aside 30% of the area as public open space, many people in the community feel the bush is too valuable and all should be kept. Locally there is very little bush left, which makes this patch so important. Bush is a great place to relax and enjoy some local nature, and it is a fabulous educational resource for children and adults. As well as being in good condition, Kiara Bushland can be improved with weeding and proper management and with pathways added so people can enjoy it. We would be setting up a friends group to help, and already have some very willing people looking forward to doing this.

Many times the community has come out strongly to keep the bush, yet government has ignored these requests. In the last round in July 2007, there was a public submission period where Kiara Bushland was the subject of a minor Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) amendment to rezone it from Public Purposes to Urban. There were 86 submissions to the MRS amendment in 2007, with 73 in support of keeping the bush, 1 for urbanisation, and 12 neutral/non-objections or comments mostly from government departments. The WA Planning Commission not only ignored the community, but they ignored the advice of the Hearings Committee who recommended the majority of the area be set aside and added to Bush Forever. Coincidentally, the Bush Forever MRS amendment is before State Parliament.

Some of the things *Save Kiara Bushland* has been doing are, starting from the most recent:

- A leaflet drop to local homes (which is attached). Unfortunately, many people don't know the news because the Eastern Reporter is no longer delivered locally. There have been a series of articles about Kiara Bushland in recent weeks.
- A letter to Stephen Smith, Federal Member for Perth calling for him to set aside the area via an offset. It would help if others would contact him (see details below).
- Contact with the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) regarding the offset, and contact with Department of Environment and Conservation.
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - meeting in the bush with Martin Whitely, Member for Bassendean. We are very pleased to report that Martin is supporting us. He is working to see that the recommendation is upheld of the WAPC Hearings Committee that the majority of the site be set aside in Bush Forever. He supports the offset idea and for Kiara Bushland to be made accessible to the public for passive recreation as a managed bushland park.
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June - meeting in the bush with Alison Xamon, Greens MLC for the East Metropolitan Region. Alison has been working hard to secure Kiara Bushland, including asking Questions in Parliament. See her website, which includes items about the bushland - <http://alisonxamon.org.au/>

- Letters/requests to meet with Environment Minister Donna Faragher, Allysa Hayden (MLC for the East Metropolitan Region), and Housing Minister Bill Marmion (he has written back to say he is happy for the development to go ahead).
- Contributing to articles and letters in the Eastern Reporter.
- We are also working closely with the Urban Bushland Council.

There is much more to tell, however we'd like to keep this as short as possible. If you are interested in learning more, helping us, or letting us know you would like to join an active friends group to help look after Kiara Bushland if we are successful please contact us:

### THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Contact Stephen Smith and State Environment Minister Donna Faragher to ask them to save Kiara Bushland through an environmental offset scheme. Kiara Bushland is in Stephen's electorate and also in Donna's as, like Alison and Allysa, she is an Upper House Member for the East Metropolitan Region.

The Hon Stephen Smith, Member for Perth  
Minister for Foreign Affairs; Minister for Trade; Deputy Leader of the House  
PO Box 901, Inglewood WA 6932  
Tel: (08) 9272 3411 Fax: (08) 9272 3477 E-mail: [Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au)

The Hon Donna Faragher MLC  
Minister for the Environment; Youth  
10th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street, West Perth 6005  
Tel: 9213 7250 Fax: 9213 7255 E-mail: [Minister.Faragher@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Faragher@dpc.wa.gov.au)

- Write a letter to the Eastern Reporter:  
169 Main St, Osborne Park 6017 or fax 9231 5201 or e-mail [esr@communitynews.com.au](mailto:esr@communitynews.com.au) or join on-line at <http://www.inmycommunity.com.au/Members/CreateAccount.aspx>  
Please include your full name, address and phone number.
- Visit our Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=120542594638091&ref=mf>
- Be a Carnaby's Cockatoo recorder – go to the WA Museum website for details and a form, or get a form from us <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/cockatoocare/index.asp> These delightful black and white cockatoos are endangered, and often visit Kiara Bushland. We are helping to record any sightings here and nearby.

If you have any suggestions for us, please let us know. You may like to pass this information on to others. The more people who help with the campaign means a better chance for winning Kiara Bushland.

Thank you, and looking forward to hearing from you

Kirsten Tullis  
*Save Kiara Bushland*

### CONTACTS FOR SAVE KIARA BUSHLAND

Linda & Craig Atkins - Ph: 9279 9321 or [lc\\_atkins@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lc_atkins@yahoo.com.au)

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If you would prefer not to receive more updates, please let us know.