

**NEW SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS**  
**Draft Marri Woodland Management Plan**  
**Advertising Date: 9 September 2024 - 7 October 2024**

Submitter	No	Submitter Comments	Officer Comment	Officer Recommendation
IN24/23780	1.	<p>This submission on the Draft Marri Woodlands Management Plan is made through the lens of what I have seen being done, and failed to be done, to protect the Marri Woodlands areas of Brickwood Reserve over the time my partner Ms J. Eileen Davis and I have been friends for Brickwood Reserve over the past 10 plus years.</p> <p>The biggest relentless, ongoing threat to maintenance of the biodiversity in our care in general, and Brickwood Reserve's Marri Woodland areas in particular, is the State Planning level State Administrative Tribunal review process bias towards granting land clearing approvals to various developer applications, often in contest with local government decisions.</p> <p>The net long term outcome of that acquiescence to requests to clear land for various developments over time has been a Perth Metro area with 16 % tree canopy as widely reported in the local media making Perth into Australia's tree deficit capital. This comment is similar to one made in relation to my Draft Banksia Woodlands management plan submission.</p> <p>Following is an overview of the litany of multiple failures by multiple State agencies to protect the Threatened Ecological Communities of Brickwood Reserve when Anglicare proposed the Graceford Homes for the Aged complex on land excised from Brickwood Reserve for that purpose. That complex was built with a wastewater treatment system that reticulated the treated wastewater onto and into the ground where vegetation was planted to help absorb/intercept the nutrients from the ground. A complaint from myself and partner (and other people probably) to the DWER on the putrid permanent water body below the reticulated sewage area at the west end of Graceford resulted in Graceford's owners replacing the old treated sewage reticulated system. That system had nutrient release issues that promoted weed growth where the nutrient rich seepage ran to the north margin of Turner Rd and then westwards along</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	No action required.

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		<p>the roadside drain and then past the drainline going past Turner Cottage.</p> <p>To cut a long story short the upgraded system has not addressed the legacy of nutrients absorbed by the soil on the north margins of Turner Rd to the west of Graceford. So whatever monitoring was done there failed to result in DWER addressing either the State Planners who gave permission to Anglicare to build Graceford AND/OR directly addressing Anglicare to deal with its wastewater discharge into the greater community's Brickwood Reserve natural areas to the west and south of Graceford along north drainline on Turner Rd.</p> <p>The impact of sloppy State Planning and DWER oversight of what was approved in getting Graceford built is a legacy of wastewater nutrients that is driving the naturally adapted to low nutrient native TEC Marri-Kingia Woodlands on north side of Turner Rd, west of Graceford, to be succeeded by weed dominated plant communities. To further add insult to injury the regular weed control done on that weedy margin simply results in the dead weeds releasing their nutrients to carry on the degradation merrily down the stream/drainline. It's a very sad open secret that this sloppily managed poo-water nutrient discharge impact is happening right under our noses if you know how to look for those impacts.</p> <p>The ironic thing is that right now the Public Transport Authority is seeking to create a 20 year funding plan with the Shire for this same Graceford poo-water damaged area as part of an environmental offset it wants to create to compensate for SCP3a (Marri Kingia woodland) to be destroyed as part of the Byford Rail extension. This waste water mismanagement and non monitoring issue could be a very embarrassing sh_t fight exercise to address, or it could be a brilliant opportunity in leadership in intergovernmental agency cooperation and partnership with the Shire to</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	

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		<p>redress the legacy of environmental harm from poor commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship as a real and verified on ground practice to create a template of how to do things better in the future for this and any other natural reserve areas in the care of this and other Shires and relevant State government agencies.</p> <p>Some imagination will be required by all the key players to identify various remediation actions and costs to restore the PTA selected site west of Graceford. The team work and imagination and "can and must do" attitude would create a workable template for how the other 11 Marri Woodlands identified in the Draft Plan might benefit from preventing similar failures being created from the human built infrastructure and humans in conflict with the interests and protection of the nature built infrastructure in the first place as well as dealing with those that need to be reversed.</p> <p>The failure to grapple with and do sustainable State and Local Government Planning and development AND monitoring to verify that environmental capital is being maintained or improved is now totally unacceptable in our climate damaged world. Remnant native. areas are not only libraries of living information, they are biodiverse rich, living carbon stores (sequestration systems) among a raft of other ecosystem services providers that have quantifiable dollar values that our government agencies and local governments need to get their heads around. People don't just want houses and stuff, they are also wanting a liveable, nature friendly city to live in and pass onto future generations.</p> <p>One key thing that could be done differently for our Marri Woodlands and other areas is having a nature services and service provider inventory that goes beyond an inventory of species, and extends to illustrative examples provided by those natural assemblages of service providers.</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	



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		<p>it down to 2mm over summer, so the grass roots hold the soil together, while grazing keeps the grass down. With erosion control on the fire access tracks I do for private bushland owners I incorporate leaf litter on the edges of the erosion control trenches where I follow the Quenda example and throw dirt harvested from run off into the trenches onto the leaf litter to incorporate the biomass into the body of the erosion control bunds. So there are workable, sustainable (verifiably fire safety compliant) ways of doing fire access that do not need a tractor or a bulldozer.</p> <p>Another key thing that needs doing is to use the Halliwell Method, or similar, to financially quantify the ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, so that the dollar values of that nature built infrastructure (environmental capital) can be baselined so that the Shire can develop a KPI to track key indicators such as vegetated area, carbon sequestration and other measures to show what is disappearing or returning on its watch over time. That would constitute adult accounting or adult economic stewardship that puts a dollar value on our life support systems that we're embedded in, instead of the pretend (juvenile) economics we are supposed to be operating in where environment is simply an externality that we're not really obliged to look after in our own interests. The more responsible approach has been taken on by other Shires and Cities in the greater Perth Metro area. The Shire needs to hunt down and consult with those leaders in other jurisdictions to see that they can join them in doing the sustainable environmental stewardship to make our part of the Perth city more liveable.</p> <p>The overview of Fig 6 ,(page 37 of the Draft Marri Woodlands MGT Plan) shows the Byford Glades as a desolate, hard faced, heat island wonderland bisected by a skinny green corridor centred on a drain line from Old Mead Street and Brickwood Reserve. There is a very stark</p>	<p>Valuation of trees and other vegetation is included in the Biodiversity Strategy and the Urban and Rural Forest Strategy.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	

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		<p>contrast in Fig 6 between the grey hard faced Glades and the trotting Complex area. The work being done now by Satterly on the west margin of Warrington Rd repeats that tree deficit desolation right to the western edge of Brickwood Reserve and is a harbinger of the same old obese houses on anorexic blocks sausage factory urban heat island design of much of the rest of the Glades being pushed onwards south to Cardup and Cardup Reserve and past other Marri Woodlands remnants in our care.</p> <p>If the Shire as a key land manager does not sell (or speak for) the nature services provided by the nature in its care the default view of the general public will be that it doesn't need to be cared for and so they are less likely to care themselves. The paid people in the Shire need to develop their in house expertise on the nature services and the values of nature as our neighbour among us in our urban environments, whether for assisting in fire suppression, natural shade and air conditioning and so on. Sustainable environmental stewardship is not something that is fair to outsource to a volunteers based organisation such as S/J Landcare while the Shire abrogates it's responsibility to maintain and build its environmental stewardship credentials as an integral part of the core business of every one in that organisation. That risks making S/J Landcare into an environmental band aiding organisation to repair the gaping environmental deficits created by the Shire and State as they carry on gutting the environmental capital of where we live as part of urban sprawl and infill. If these nature services are not done by nature and the space we give to nature, it will need to be done and paid for by us; or else we'll live in a more dangerous (heat stress etc) environment and more air conditioning costs to deal with low green space heat island issues. Recent National State of the Environment Reports have featured the fact that there are now more heat stress deaths than all other natural disasters</p>	Acknowledged.	

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		<p>deaths put together with the very young and the elderly featuring the most strongly in that mortality data. So instead of cutting back environment care, it should be increased and sold as money well spent to do all your paid jobs properly, ie sustainably.</p> <p>The Shire does not need to carry the load for selling or doing the right things by the environment on its own shoulders. It can look to and learn from positive environmental stewardship leaders in other jurisdictions in the Perth Metro and elsewhere AND build the case for sustainable environmental stewardship to be shared with relevant State level agencies to do their work for a sustainable, affordable and liveable city. It can also work with other local governments via WALGA to create a more unified voice for sustainability to push back against the State and reshape it's agencies decisions when they go against sustainability interests.</p> <p>Just being resigned to handing a degrading second rate environment on to the next generation and hiding behind the "it's the fault of State Level Planning failures" that's giving us our heat island killer city is not good enough. Look for the leaders who have positive runs on the board that we can learn from and do positive actions that make a difference on sustainable development.</p> <p>In the end success in sustainable environmental stewardship of Marri Woodlands remnants is built on learnings from failures as well as successes AND then do the actions to get more of the latter and less of the failures. There is no shortage of State government multi-agency and local government failures such as detailed earlier for the Brickwood Reserve. Now is definitely the time to learn from and act from those failures rather than being resigned to on-going degradation and the fantasy of being able to plant our way out of the environmental deficits created by the Perth urban sprawl and infill program. We need to better</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	

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		<p>protect those nature Marri Woodlands that we still have as well as plant up more degraded sites with more Marri Woodlands species mix (in appropriate soil conditions). Flattening mature trees Woodlands and replanting elsewhere creates at least a 30 year time lag to start to recreate the ecosystem services of what has been removed. It also sends an inappropriate message that people and the natural environment we depend on cannot co-exist to mutual benefits in our urban contexts. They can and they must co-exist and thrive for each other's mutual long term benefits.</p>		
IN24/23878	2.	<p>Please find my submission below:</p> <p>Firstly, it is a very sad state of affairs that there is only 60.77ha of nature reserves pertaining to the Marri Woodland's out of the Shire's 90 500ha. There really needs to be a massive increase in the number of reserves.</p> <p>It is incredibly distressing to see the number of displaced animals (I have video footage) form the huge amount of development that is occurring in this shire. SAT seems to be granting approval for masses of land clearing in this shire and developers seem to have an open slather. Simply blaming the State Government is not the way forward and the Shire of SJ could have a real opportunity to lead change in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.</p> <p>In relation to the reserves and this draft plan with associated action plans; Rainforest Reserve, 1.3 - the black cockatoos utilise this reserve and it is an important one where I have seen them feed and use it as a highly valued rest stop, particularly when they have young ones.</p> <p>Brickwood Reserve, 2- this draft plan has failed to mention/acknowledge the impact on the Graceford Homes for the Aged complex's old wastewater treatment system, resulting in discharge of nutrients into the</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Management Plan will be amended to recognise cockatoo use of Rainforest Reserve.</p>	<p>The Draft Marri Woodland Management Plan will be amended to recognise cockatoo usage of Rainforest Reserve, and the impact of nutrients on Brickwood Reserve.</p>



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		<p>Brickwood Reserve's soil leading to degradation and increasing in weeds. This in turn has affected and will continue to affect the TEC Marri woodlands which are low nutrient natives.</p> <p>The Shire of SJ need to collaborate with leaders in other LGAs to what is being done to maintain Marri Woodlands and increase our tree canopies. Particularly after last summer's high mortality rate of our flora due to the long dry and subsequent heat stress, we cannot afford to lose any more trees in this Shire.</p> <p>The Shire of SJ also need to not accept any support from Alcoa.</p> <p>Developers need to retain more of our native canopy and not bulldoze everything to then plant non-native species.</p> <p>Green corridors need to remain to ensure wildlife can move freely and safely across the landscape.</p> <p>The development planned and currently occurring is placing extensive pressure on our wildlife and treed areas, along with marching towards these reserves where we will end up with fragmented areas and these reserves facing increased threats and pressures and possible pollution.</p> <p>Significant buffer zones need to be created.</p> <p>More work needs to be done with landholders to retain Marris, those with horses are not fans of the because of the nuts and impact/injury to their horses.</p> <p>Shire staff need extensive education in regard to supporting more and existing reserves, management of these and to listen to those that understand and have deep knowledge of soil types, best practice planting</p>	<p>Management Plan will be amended to acknowledge the impact of nutrients from Graceford.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	

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		<p>and management techniques, along with holding the developers to more account eg when they are submitting details of plantings, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable environmental stewardship should not be left to an organisation such as SJ Landcare Inc which is a volunteers-based organisation, while the Shire rescinds responsibility of maintenance. The Shire needs to develop and lead its environmental stewardship capabilities that forms the core operations of all staff.</p> <p>The Shire of SJ have a real opportunity to become leaders in sustainable designs and practices to ultimately shape state government policies and practices.</p> <p>There needs to be an increased protection of mature and still existing Marri Woodlands, in addition to targeted planting of more degraded sites with more Marri Woodlands species mix (in appropriate soil conditions). Destroying mature trees Woodlands and replanting elsewhere creates at least a 30 year time lag to start to recreate the ecosystem services of what has been removed. It also sends an inappropriate message that people and the natural environment we depend on cannot co-exist to mutual benefits in our urban contexts. They can and they must co-exist and thrive for each other's mutual long term benefits.</p> <p>Education of ratepayers of our flora and fauna of our Reserves, and their importance needs to be included in these Action Plans. The more people value our environment and these areas in particular, the more support and voice the Shire can have to lead change with developers, the State Government and so on.</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p> <p>Acknowledged.</p>	