

actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Local Government Reform Review
Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (DLGSC)
PO Box 8349, Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Dear LG Reform Officers,

Submission to LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

I would like to add my voice to the submission from the Urban Bushland Council WA (UBC) with regards to enhancing how local government interacts with local Friends groups who spend so much time caring for bushland and wetlands where a LGAS is the land manager

UBC is the key community organisation in WA providing a public voice on the need for retention of what remains of our urban bushland and wetlands which is critical for a healthy and prosperous future. I am part of a Friends group that works with our LGA to protect our patch. It is my belief that every bushland needs a Friends group to champion (and improve) how it is managed.

Along with the UBC, I am disappointed that the following reforms have not been considered and ask that these are included in the final document **for a healthier and more resilient future:**

1. Better outcomes for the natural environment.
2. No further net loss or degradation of native vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain.
3. Protecting and managing Bush Forever Sites.
4. Compulsory development and application of a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Local Biodiversity Plan by each LGA and associated formal incorporation into their Town Planning Scheme (TPS).
5. Introducing 'local biodiversity conservation land use' category in Model Scheme Text (MST) and Local Planning Schemes (LPS) that has appropriate protections.
6. Compulsory development and application of an Urban Forest Strategy by each LGA including adopting and applying the WA Planning Commission (in collaboration with the WA Local Government Association) Guide for Better Urban Forest Planning.
https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2021-05/PRJ_Better_Urban_Forest_Planning.pdf
7. Protecting and enhancing green space to ensure adequate, resilient ecological linkages.
8. Reducing the 'heat-island-effect' whilst actively demonstrating accountability to State Government and Local Government Laws, Policies and Strategies to reduce 'heat -island-effect' such as application of each LGA's Urban Forest Strategy and Native Vegetation Protection Policy.
9. Establishing a "Tree Protection By-law on private and public lands" (including penalties for damage or removal).
10. Limiting population growth and urban sprawl.
11. Carbon neutral status for all LGAs.
12. Compulsory voting for all LGA elections.
13. Introducing Third Party Appeal Rights (TPARs).
14. Stopping political donations from property developers.
15. Amending *Integrity (Lobbyists) Act 2016 (WA)* to apply it to "local governments" and "town planning".

I support the details in Attachment 1 of the Urban Bushland Council WA's submission

Christine Richardson
