

11 February, 2010

Alex Jones

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Hon. Donna Faragher

Minister for Environment

10<sup>th</sup> Floor Dumas House

2 Havelock Street

West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister,

My role at this meeting is to represent supporters of the issues raised in three petitions promoted by Save Our Trees. Two petitions were tabled in the Legislative Council in September 2006 and November 2008. The third petition is currently available for residents anywhere in Australia to present to their local or state authority. The issues raised in all three petitions cross a number of portfolios: Environment, Health, Local Government and Planning and Infrastructure.

The Save Our Trees network of residents began in the western suburbs of Perth in 2005 but now represents residents from suburbs throughout Western Australia. The residents are concerned about past and present government policies and practices that have placed at risk and continue to place at risk public health and the natural environment.

We are simply stating that we no longer accept the government rationale that countless mature living trees may be removed under tree replacement policies, and that vast areas of public land such as playgrounds, playing fields, verges, medians, parkland and bushland may be sprayed with various herbicides and pesticides.

We are aware that there are strong links between tree removal and climate change, diminished air, soil and water quality. Similarly, we are aware that there are strong links between herbicides / pesticides and human and animal ill health, as well as diminished soil and water quality. These issues are inextricably linked and must be addressed by all the relevant Ministers.

**We ask that you and the relevant Ministers urgently rescind the policies and recommendations promoted in the National Weed Strategy and the Environmental Weed Strategy, Western Australia and all other such policies and recommendations in Local and state Governments. We believe that these policies and recommendations have led to the ongoing removal of living trees and the poisoning of public land for the killing of weeds in our suburbs. Both nationally and internationally there is concern about the chemical cocktail that exists in our soils and waterways. We call for these activities to stop in the interest of the natural environment and public health.**

Attachments:

1. Tabled Petition No. 34, 2006 (blank)  
Tabled Petition No. 9, 2008 (blank)
2. Current petition (blank, Message attached)
3. Current petition ( 109 signatures ) signed at: Green Drinks, Tafe, East Perth 09/02/2010,  
Hume Rd. Thornlie, 92.9 Tree Man Party , 05/02/2010,  
Signatures gathered by Western Suburbs MCS resident
4. Pesticide Petition to Stirling Council 2007 (blank)
5. Residents' Accounts of Adverse Effects...Pesticides in Western Australia , 2009/10
6. Ontario Ministry of the Environment-Support for a Cosmetic Pesticide Ban, 2008
7. Suzuki supports Canada wide pesticide bans.
8. Post article,28 November,2009, Pages 3 and 22  
Re: Dolphin deaths spark spray probe, by Linda Callaghan
9. Weed spraying: CCC sites misconduct, Post newspaper 28 November, Page 11
10. Questions to Nedlands Council Re: Herbicides
11. Letter to the Editor-  
Re: Hands off Toxic Grass, says label - Post Newspaper, 23 January, 2010
12. Unidentified Inert Ingredients in Pesticides:  
Implications for Human and Environmental Health, Caroline Cox & Michael Surgan
13. Weeds Under Fire in the Porongurups, Environment & Conservation News, page 6, 2008  
- Herbicides used by DEC  
  
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14. FEWER TREES, LESS RAIN: STUDY ..... by Richard MACEY, Sydney Morning Herald,2005  
  
TREES: Guardians of the Earth by Bill Mollison
15. Framework Model Tree Policy , Save Our Trees, 2007
16. Letter from City of Gosnells - Re: **Hume Road Verge Tree, Thornlie.** 3 February 2010  
Tree Man's story –Trees are safe
17. Letter from Minister Re: Underwood  
A. Jones address to Nedlands Council Re Underwood.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Jones

