

1. Petition for the Protection of Mature Trees on Public Land in Urban Areas

Circulated July 2006, tabled September 2006

The issues raised regarding the loss of trees, were investigated by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs. The petition was tabled in the Legislative Council in September 2006 and the Committee made a Recommendation that was included in its final report to the Parliament of Western Australia in September 2007.

The Recommendation states:

“ The Committee recommends that the Minister for Local Government with the support of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in conjunction with local governments develop a model tree policy for protecting mature trees in urban areas”

2. Letter to Hon Louise Pratt, Committee Chairperson

July 2007

Save our Trees expressed the view that the Committee’s draft Recommendation:

- Ignored the petition’s request for a moratorium on mature tree removal,
- Did not provide a timeframe that recognized the urgency of preventing further environmental damage through ongoing tree-replacement policies and other removal activities,
- Ignored the questions of accountability for environmental damage due to tree removal and the lack of data relating to total numbers of trees removed from urban areas.

3. Framework for a Model Tree Policy

September 2007

Save Our Trees prepared and submitted a Framework for a Model Tree Policy to the Committee with a view to providing some impetus to the process and asked that we be included as stakeholders when the working group is established.

There has been no response to our document and no confirmation of a starting date for the preparation of the Model Tree Policy.

4. Letters, Submissions & Appeals for the Protection of Underwood Bushland

2001~2007

Although some of this correspondence from me to the University of Western Australia dates as far back as January 2001, with an appeal lodged in 2003 and another submission to the EPA in August 2007, the most recent letter to the Minister for the Environment and the appeal to the Appeals Convenor were both submitted by me as promoter of the above- mentioned petition and included attachments of the petition and a Post newspaper article highlighting the importance of preserving wildlife habitat.

5. Letter and Attachments to Kings Park, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

September 2007

This letter raised the issues of:

1. The environmental impact of widespread tree removal of non indigenous trees
2. The environmental and health impact of herbicide use in both the parkland and bushland.

A meeting with the CEO and the Director of Horticulture has been arranged.

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6. The strengths of the Save Our Trees argument

Our opposition to current tree removal policies as well as the spraying of herbicides for the control of weeds has been buoyed by a number of recent publications such as Peter Andrews' book "Back from the Brink", the South Carolina Forestry Commission's "Benefits of Urban Trees" website: <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/urbben.htm>, the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) Tree Benefits Estimator, the New Scientist, September 2007, Toxic Cocktail, and copious other documents.

7. Campaign Focus

The issues of tree removal and the widespread use of herbicides have become integral in the effort to prevent environmental degradation and the unsolicited exposure of humans and pets to toxic chemicals. Correspondence raising our concerns has been forwarded to the following people:

State and Federal Ministers for the Environment,
Minister for Health,
Pesticides Advisory Committee
Human Rights Committee

Responses from the Ministers have been bureaucratic and unsatisfactory to date but they will each be receiving further correspondence demanding more accountability.

Alex Jones

Save Our Trees

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