

Alexandra Jones
(name removed)

Sunday, 10 June 2007

Honourable Members
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth, WA 6000

Re: Petition for the Protection of Mature Trees on Public Land in Urban Areas

Dear Members,

Today, during a jog through Kings Park, I realized that damage to the park and the broader environment is occurring due to ongoing management practices, and that the issues raised in Petition 34 seem to become more pertinent as time goes by.

For your information, I have attached two photographs of recently felled healthy, mature trees in an area of widespread devastation where it seems that non- indigenous trees are being targeted for removal. In the interests of protecting biodiversity and native vegetation the promoters of the removal of non-indigenous trees are causing environmental devastation of a broader kind.

The current obsession with removal of these trees is occurring in a backdrop of many dead and dying trees in the park, a reduced and at times non- existent canopy, insufficient / ineffective rain, salinity throughout Western Australia (largely resulting from the removal of deep-rooted trees) and global climate change.

Needless to say, these non-indigenous trees are also some of nature's own water pumps and air-conditioners with much needed CO2 sequestration benefits. They are often amongst the tallest trees in the park and provide habitat and refuge for birds.

The current state of the park gives the impression that both tree removal and the ongoing use of herbicides may be having a negative impact on native bush regeneration.

The onus is on the current managers to prove that these practices are having the desired effect and that the park is not suffering from the widespread felling of trees and any degree of residual effects on native vegetation from the use of a usually pink coloured herbicide. This herbicide is often seen on grasses and recently on the trunks of some trees in the bushland along the Broadwalk. As a very frequent visitor to the park for over 20 years, I have never before seen so many dead and dying trees.

My request is that all the managers of trees in both state and local government be made accountable for tree losses, not only in terms of numbers of trees removed per year but also in terms of the tonnes of CO2 released into the atmosphere through the wood-chipping process and the tonnes of CO2 no longer sequestered by the relevant number of mature trees that are felled in each year.

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Until such time as this is done and it can be proven that the practice has no detrimental effect on the environment, the practice of tree removal must stop, and I ask that all Members investigating Petition 34 support the moratorium on tree removal and the introduction of measures for the protection of trees as indicated.

Yours sincerely,
(signature removed)
Alexandra Jones
Save Our Trees



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