

Madam Mayor and Councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to present tonight.

Our deputation relates to **M26/93 Special meeting of Electors – 23 June 2026 Motion Carried**

My name is Christine Richardson, and I am the Chair of the Urban Bushland Council. I am joined by Philip Thomas, a member of the UBC committee and local resident.

I'd like to outline our response to the motion carried at the Special Electors meeting.

1. **INTRODUCING THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL:** UBC is an association of almost 100 Friends of Groups around Perth with a broad role to assist our members protect Perth urban bushland. We have been around for over 30 years helping these wholly volunteer organisation conserve local bushland for the benefit and health of their local communities. As a part of our work, we advocate widely across state government. Our membership includes some of the friends groups in the City of Melville. I am delighted to see so many familiar conservation faces here tonight.
2. Our concern is that you are planning to needlessly destroy a mature active urban bushland. Sometimes clearing is really needed and there really are no alternatives. This is not one of those cases. You need to save the clearing for when this is genuinely no alternative. We are surprised that in 2026 with everything we know about the need for conservation and environmental protection a council, one that recently declared a climate emergency, would choose an option that deliberately destroys mature native Bushland instead of opting for a slightly smaller but still workable local community cricket pitch.

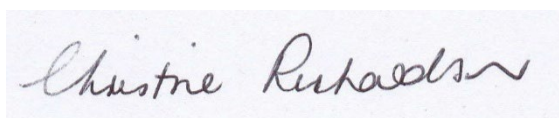
I will raise 4 issues today areas that are directly relevant to our natural heritage:

- a. This is **valuable bushland**. Almost 70% of Banksia woodlands have been cleared, every patch is now critical. The local area has only 15% native vegetation cover, well below national targets of no less than 30%. This is important for the native flora and fauna and for the people who live here. Native bushland as I am sure you know has a tremendous positive impact on health, just like regularly undertaking a sporting activity.
- b. **Black Cockatoos** will be further endangered by this plan. Like the City of Melville, UBC was a partner with Murdoch University in the Keep Carnaby's Flying project, and a Black Cockatoo Conservation Action Plan was developed for your Council. In that plan, the John Connell Reserve is identified as an important area to revegetate given its proximity to key roost trees. If this clearing goes ahead, this Council will be adding to the extinction pathway for black cockatoos, rather than taking positive steps to save them.
- c. This area of bushland is recognised by the State Government as being a **threatened ecological community** – the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain- which is why the offsets determined for this proposed clearing permit are so high. We need every parcel of remnant vegetation retained in order to protect biodiversity and to create corridors for species survival. This is an important link for native bird and animal transition. Clearing this bush has implications far beyond this reserve.
- d. **Offsets** don't work well. While this plan is somewhat well provisioned and it will be great for Ken Hurst Park, it does not make up for the feed gap between clearing of mature trees and the time required for the offset to deliver foraging equivalence. Where do the black cockatoos feed in the meantime?

Our request: –

1. Although you have a Clearing Permit for the site, its implementation will create a net loss of native vegetation for the City of Melville. It is also clear that you have a divided community.
2. Reconsider the adoption of option 3 in the business case as a likely widely acceptable option that provides for the extra cricket pitch without wantonly destroying bushland. This will also reduce the costs and the likely timeline for completion. To go ahead as planned means Melville will be actively contributing to the extinction story for black cockatoos, destroying critical environment needed to help protect all residents from the effects of climate change.
3. The funds saved by choosing option 3 can be used to restore the rest of the John Connell reserve in line with the black cockatoo action plan and Melville's commitment to healthy city for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak



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Background to the Deputation

MEETING RESOLUTION (MOTION 4) – Carried 114 to 82 at elector meeting. FOR REFERENCE.

We request that the City of Melville:

1. *Amend the current indicative delivery timeframe for the John Connell Reserve extension project so that clearing and associated early works commence no later than Q3 2026/27;*
2. *Prioritise all necessary design, approvals and procurement during Q1 and Q2 2026/27 to achieve that outcome and remain within the current clearing permit timeframe; and*
3. *Adopt a staged delivery approach for the John Connell Reserve project, with clearing and field extension works undertaken first as priority, with the floodlighting upgrades and other non-time-critical components delivered in a later stage, including through future grant opportunities where available.*