



# Wireless Hill Reserve

## Whadjuk Noongar Country

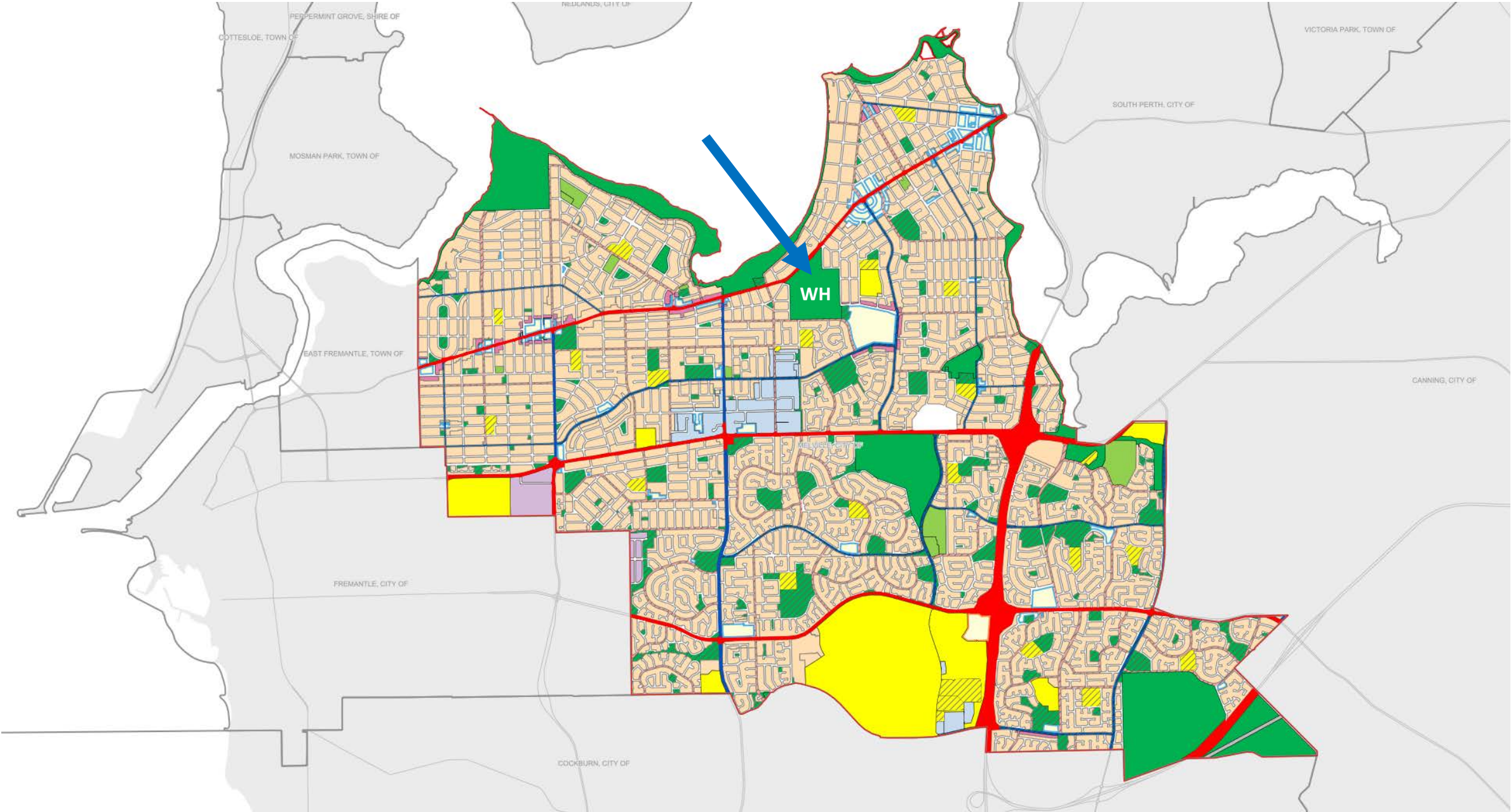
Graham Jenke  
Convenor

Margaret Matthews  
Secretary

Friends of Wireless Hill

September 2024

City of Melville – Parks and reserves in green



The motion relates to 4-6 Almondbury Road which abuts Bush Forever site 336 which is Wireless Hill Park.

Our concern is to preserve its conservation and heritage value without compromise.

PROPERTY BOUND...	
PROPERTY BOUNDARY 1 OF 1	
PIN	231256
Legal Area	12586m²
PIPARCEL	R 33422
Lot Number	2674
Watering Days	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Zone	Public Open Space
R-Code	
Restricted Use	
Precinct Plan	Melville City Centre Structure Plan
Precinct Plan URL	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
PROPERTY 1 OF 1	
Property Key	182201
Property Status	Current
Property Name	
Address	4-6 Almondbury Road ARDROSS WA 6153
Description	Lot 2335, Lot 2674
Vol/Folio	DT



38 hectares of regenerating bushland  
2 hectares of grassed parkland









## **Why is it important?**

This block is the major part of Wireless Hill Park which has not had significant disturbance since settlement by Europeans began.

It is probably the only place in the City of Melville where the bushland is close to its original condition, and as such, has important heritage value for the city.

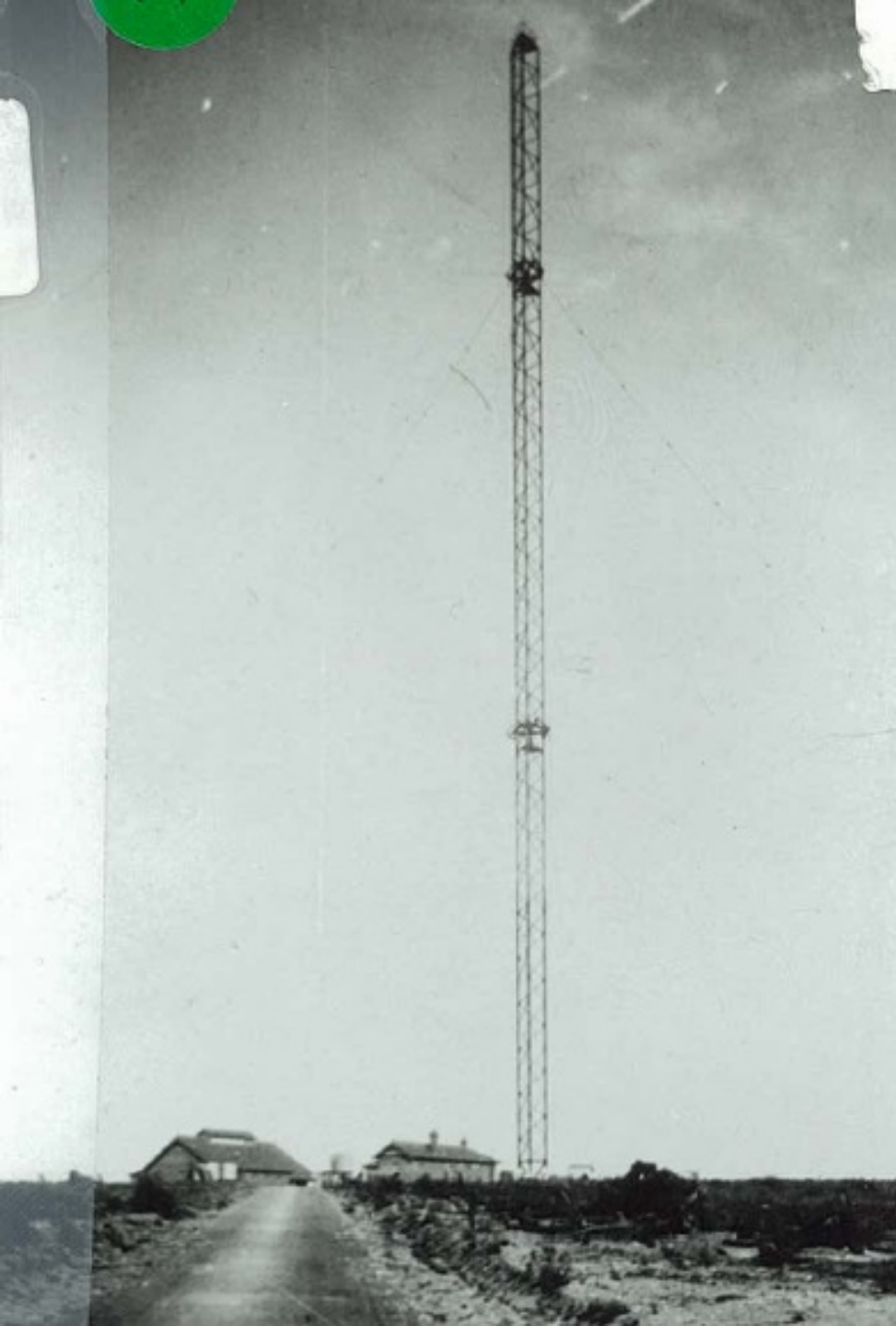
It may contain species of insects and plants not present elsewhere in Wireless Hill Park.

From an environmental perspective, it is important that it be left undisturbed because of the interdependence of

- Plants
- Fungi in the soil
- Insects

Our concern is that possible future use of the land as public open space for recreation (picnic areas, nature playgrounds, etc) and unconstrained access will compromise its long term value to the City

## **Some history ...**



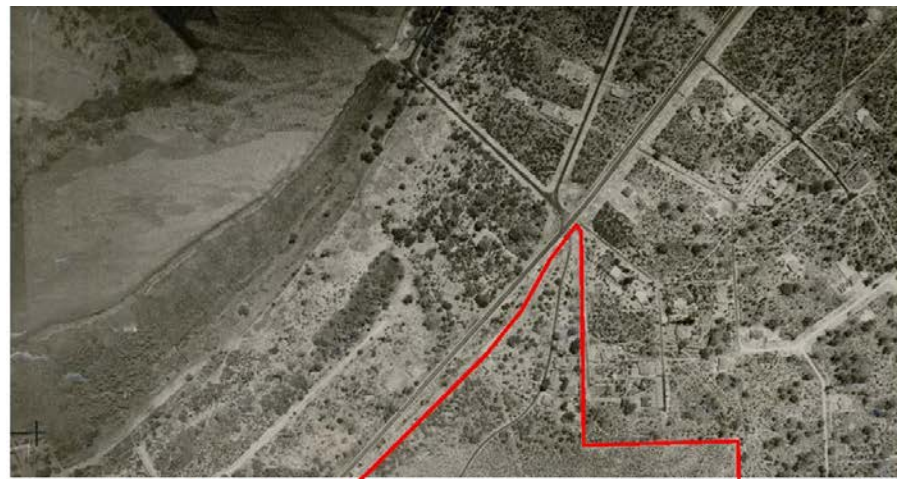
- Site purchased by Federal Government in 1911 for construction of the Applecross Wireless Station
- Bushland within 300m of the base of the mast was completely cleared
- Subsequently the site was planted with perennial veldt grass from southern Africa for soil stabilization
- Annual burning until the station closed in 1967
- The City of Melville acquired the site in 1969

*Photo of the 120m high aerial in 1912*



**Wireless Hill mast  
1935**





**Aerial Photography  
1930s**





**Rhombic aerial  
1956  
for the  
Perth – London  
radio telephone  
service**





**Removing a  
30 metre mast  
in 1967**





**Aerial photo  
1977**





# Regeneration

From 1967 the cleared area was not actively managed and native species began to slowly regenerate over time from the soil seed bank and the surrounding bush

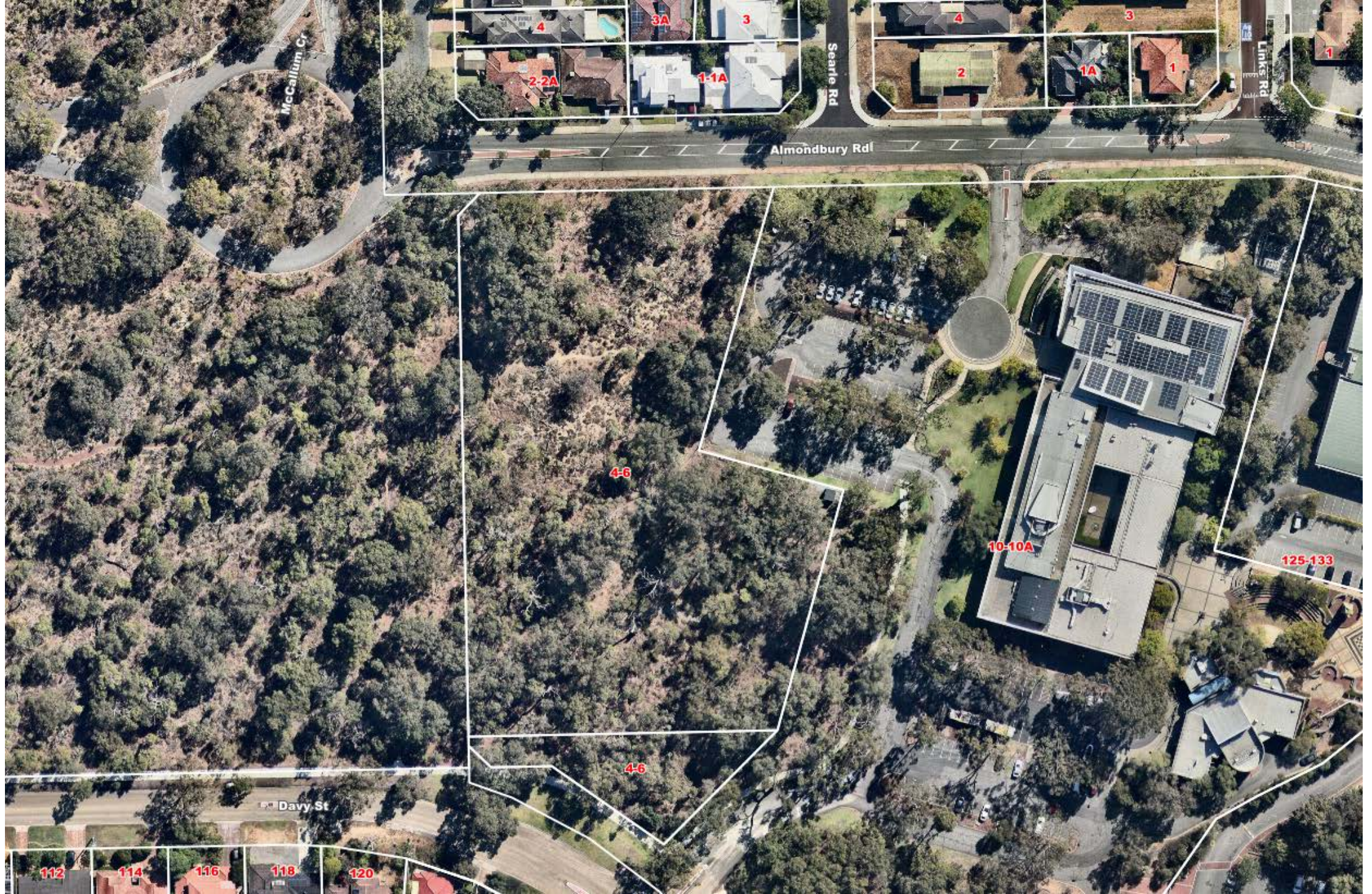
Wireless Hill Park is recognized as a significant remnant of Banksia woodland south of the Swan River

It is an A Class Reserve

It became Bush Forever Site No. 336 in 2000

It is recognised as the best place to see native orchids in the Perth metropolitan area







**Bush Forever  
Site No 336**

**4-6 Almondbury**

**Council Office and  
Car Parks**

**Future Cultural  
Centre and Library**

McCallum Cr

Searle Rd

Almondbury Rd

Links Rd

Davy St

112

114

116

118

120

1-9/88

2-2A

R100

1-1A

4

R20

3A

3

2

R100

1A

1

4

R20

3

R100  
1

10-10A RAC-0

125-133

4-6

4-6

- This land is part of the small area of Wireless Hill Park that was not completely cleared for the construction of the Wireless Station in 1911-1912.
- As undisturbed bushland, it contains large mature trees and better continuity of the canopy compared to the rest of the park.
- It is more likely to contain the original community of plants, insects and soil fungi than other parts of Wireless Hill or any park or reserve in the City of Melville.
- It is probably the only place in the City of Melville where the bushland is close to its original condition, and as such has important heritage value for the city.
- Identifying these portions of land as A Class Reserve will demonstrate the City's regard for the natural environment to the wider community, and its willingness to ensure that it has the highest level of protection available.



West Australian native orchids in bushland rely on specific fungi in the soil to help their roots gather nutrients and moisture, and on specific insects to pollinate them. Without both of these, they cannot survive, and they cannot be propagated in nurseries. They live only in bushland.

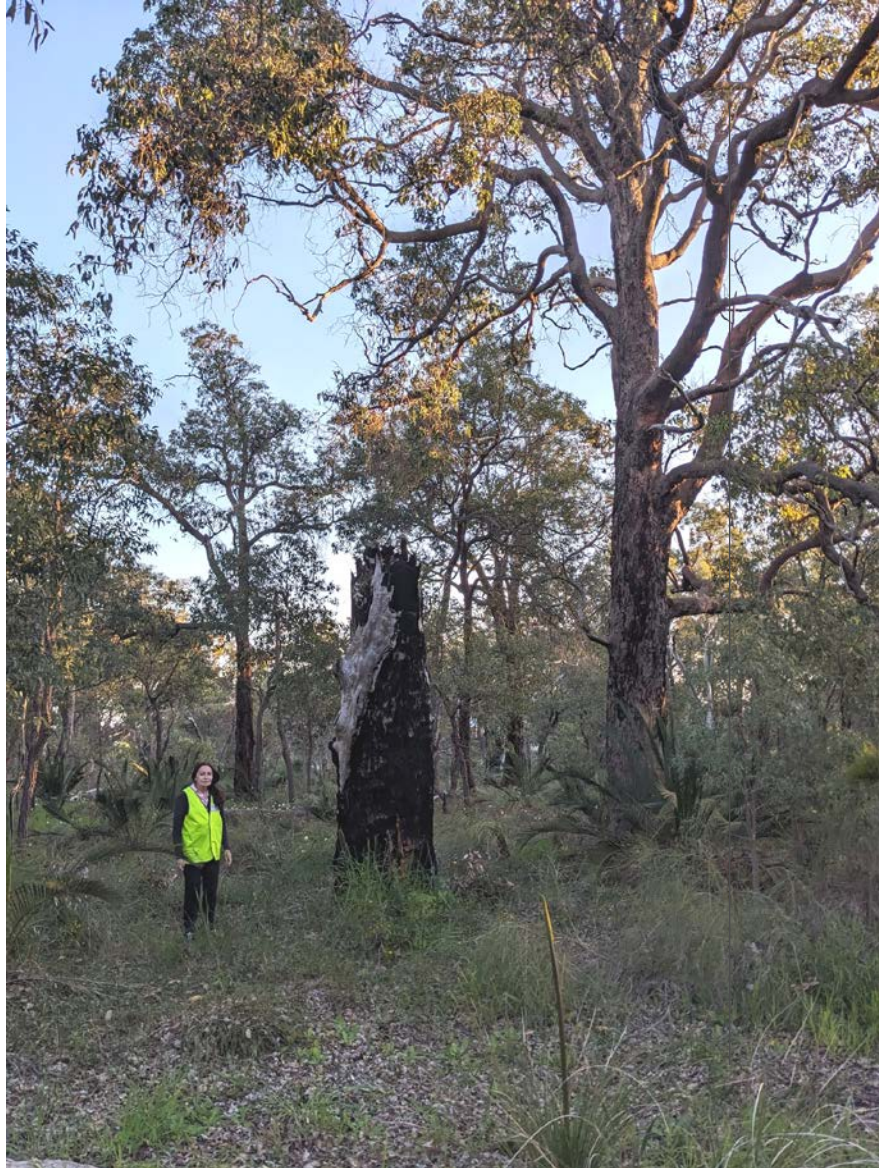


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They are a unique asset to the City of Melville.

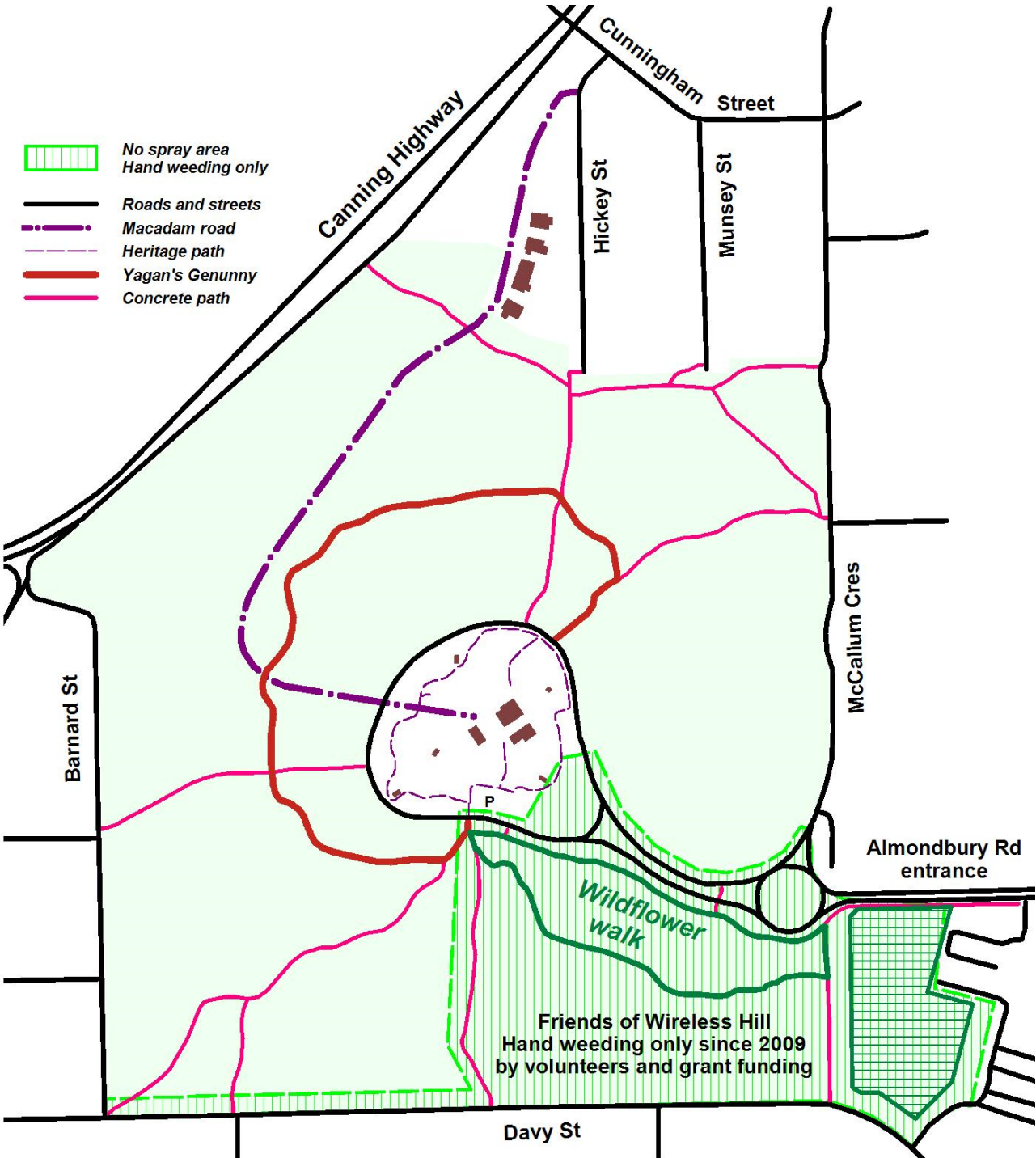


Some of the large  
old trees on 4-6  
Almondbury Road





# Wireless Hill Park Ardross





Thank you

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