



Manning Park-Bush Forever
Time to heal after 195 years of genocide, ecocide & pollution

Cate Tauss

Summary

Where is Manning Park?

Why was Manning Park included in the Bush Forever estate in 2000?

Is it still special?

What is Manning Park's local and regional context?

Where does Manning Park sit in the legal framework of State and Federal laws for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation?

How does legal and orderly governance apply to any Master Plans/development plans made for Manning Park & adjacent lands by the LGA, DBCA, or private industry?



An eye-shaped gnamma (waterhole) and its mirror image in Manning Park reflecting *Banksia sessilis* (Parrot Bush) "the forgotten Banksia"

Who are the knowledge holders, stakeholders and lovers of Manning Park?

What is greenwashing and what is genuine information?

What are the threats to the heritage values of Manning Park?

How can we help to heal Manning Park?



WHERE IS IT?

City of Cockburn, Spearwood Dunes System, about 3 km south of Fremantle CBD, ~0.4-1km from the sea (Owen Anchorage). Four red polygons (BF247) make up the Manning Park, Bush Forever Area 247. Other bush immediately west of BF 247, is also ecologically significant Honeymyrtle TEC; or Parrot Bush/Aleppo Pine/Teatree scrub that buffers the TEC.

WHY WAS MANNING PARK INCLUDED IN BUSH FOREVER 2000?

- **rarity and biodiversity** of flora, fauna, vegetation, karst limestone landforms and soils, and habitats- all now rare in Perth Region.
- **Manning Lake** is the last, coastal, carbonate-sediment-filled, **freshwater summer fauna refuge** (lake) that remains in the **Spearwood Dunes system**, south of Swan River to Mandurah. Fremantle LGA has no natural wetlands left. Manning Lake is distinct from the Mt Brown wetlands, the Rockingham Lakes, Lake Richmond and other wetlands further south as they are either Holocene formations, or brackish/saline, or only seasonally inundated.
- Manning Park represents a **unique combination of intact natural and cultural, heritage values that have been lost elsewhere**. **Very few intact bushlands (of any type)** remain in the Spearwood Dunes from the Swan River to Mandurah. MP differs significantly from the other Bush Forever Areas of the Pleistocene, Spearwood Dunes (Henderson- Mt Brown, Leda and Paganoni Swamp).

IS MANNING PARK STILL IMPORTANT?

Yes, even more so than when Bush Forever was published. Confirmed in the detailed, independent study (Tauss & Associates Biodiversity Consultants, 2024) commissioned by local community. This is the only peer-reviewed, scientific study of this BFA that complies with EPA guidelines, & incorporates all the official conservation advice for both the Federal and State TECs (Critically Endangered) that occur in Manning Park: 1. *Honeymyrtle shrublands of the limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain* (2023) and 2. *Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain* (2019).

NO PART OF MANNING PARK IS EXPENDABLE. None of the remaining native vegetation can be cleared (or otherwise developed) without high impacts on Federal and State listed values, or on other values that are now rare in the Perth and Peel Regions. All remnant vegetation, even if it is degraded, serves important ecological functions in Manning Park (e.g. fauna habitat) and it should be carefully and slowly restored to increasingly support the overall biodiversity and the sustainability of the Threatened ecosystems, Threatened Species, Priority Species and wetland.

•**Flora:** 246 spp. inc. **FIVE Priority Flora Species & another species that should be Threatened Flora.** At least 15 other flora species of the vanishing limestone flora endemic to Perth Metro Region: it is the most complete assemblage of limestone endemics between Mindarie (City of Wanneroo) and Lake Clifton (Shire of Waroona).

•**Fauna:** 232 spp. out of a possible 240 in Perth Metro Region. **THREE Threatened Bird Species. SIX Priority Fauna Species. 16 Internation Treaty listed birds. Local Significance: 24 native birds, and one mammal, now uncommon in Perth suburbs.** For many it is their last Spearwood Dunes refuge in the Fremantle and Cockburn LGAs (and they are locally extinct in most other LGAs in the Perth Metro & Peel Regions).

•**Vegetation.** Significant areas of **TWO Threatened Ecological Communities** both Critically Endangered listed under both Federal EPBC Act 1999 and WA BC Act 2016: 1. *Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain* 2. *Honeymyrtle shrublands of the limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain* (~20ha)

•**A very significant size area (>30ha) of critical forage habitat** (*Banksia sessilis* and other vegetation) of the Threatened Fauna Species Carnaby's Cockatoo (Endangered).

•**Ecosystem services.** Manning Park has a significant tree & shrub canopy that is vital for local control of: 1. **urban heat**. The Cities of Fremantle and Cockburn have some of lowest-canopy cover levels in Aust (Hurley et al., 2020). *Benchmarking Urban Vegetation Cover: Melbourne, Perth Sydney*. Clean Air and Urban Landscape Hub, Melbourne, Australia.]; and 2. **air pollution** carried on prevailing southerly winds (Kwinana to Fremantle) from Cockburn Cement, Kwinana Industrial Area industries (Kwinana EPP) and freight road traffic to Hamilton Hill, Coogee, Spearwood and Fremantle.



Extent of Spearwood Dunes from Bunbury in the south, to north of Lancelin: the known occurrences of TEC: *Honey myrtle shrublands of the limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain*, mapped in red (DCCEEW, 2023)

The Honey myrtle TEC occurrence in Manning Park is LARGE and part of INTACT catenae (topographical sequences) of native vegetation. It is the LAST highly representative, good to excellent condition occurrence of this ecosystem between Mindarie in the northern suburbs of Perth, and Lake Clifton (inland from Preston Beach) in the Shire of Waroona.

Why is Manning Park so biodiverse?

The variety of **habitats** in and around this Bush Forever Area provides some clues

- 1. Karst limestone (Booyeembara)** Ridge crests /saddles/ slopes and flats. Caves, sinkholes, *gnamma*. Degree of slope and depth of sand vary. High biodiversity & complex, dense vegetation structure, successive waves each year of *mass* flowering and seeding of large flora populations- provide rich food and nesting resources for small birds and Carnabys Cockatoo. Even the bare limestone areas and bare sand are important native reptile habitats. Tall ridges in the west of the BF247 are used by raptors to survey prey.
- 2. Coo loongup Sand** Quartz brown sand over orange/yellow sand on lower slopes, in saddles or on low dunes. Very shallow (skeletal) pale brown sand (leached) on upper or steep slopes. Ideal habitat for fossorial reptiles and Rainbow Bee-Eaters. Minor drifts of white, calcareous Safety Bay Sand on some west-facing slopes
- 3. Complex microtopography** A mosaic of sand and limestone pinnacles & voids. Above and below soil surface heterogeneity : void depth, diameter, “fill” and moisture level. Ideal habitat for reptiles & variety of plant roots (structure/function). Such environments are very difficult to revegetate after gross disturbance of landforms soils and vegetation.
- 4. Manning Lake (Dgilgie)** Regionally, the oldest peat over carbonate mud coastal wetland (V& C Semeniuk Research Group). Usually a freshwater fauna refuge in summer . Some polluted stormwater drainage into lake. No wetland buffer which threatens biota (eg turtles, waterbirds, Quenda). Soil compaction by vehicle incursions, food shortages and lack of cover from predators. Entire lake should be managed as a Conservation Category Wetland due to very high conservation values.
- 5. Owen Anchorage (Derbal Nara)** The ocean off Perth is a marine biodiversity hotspot (part of the SW WA hotspot). Also marine influence (rainfall , temperature, humidity) buffers the terrestrial vegetation’s climate. Owen Anchorage is a rich and varied food resource for the 18 “marine” and migratory bird species that use both Manning Park and ocean e.g. Plovers, Sandpipers, Stints, Greenshank, Terns, Nankeen Night Heron, Eastern Osprey, Cormorants.

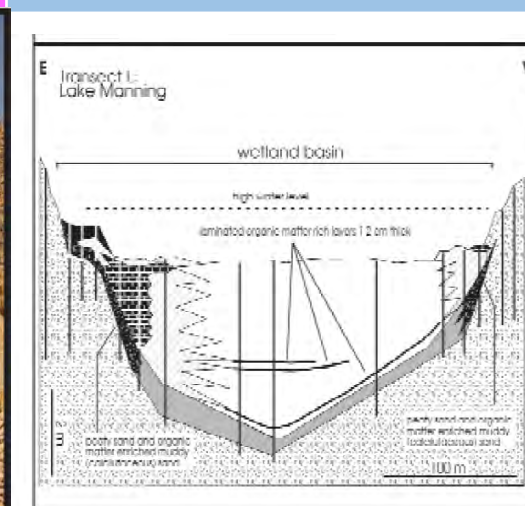
1. Booyeembara
Varied karst limestone
landforms. Skeletal, pale
brown, quartz sand

2. Coo loongup Sand
Deeper, brown-over-
orange, quartz sand.

3. Complex microtopography
Varied above and below ground level
habitats that suit the co-existence of rich
assemblages of flora and fauna

4. Dgilgie. Unusual stratigraphy,
& rare freshwater summer drought
refuge (most years) for Threatened
& International Treaty avifauna

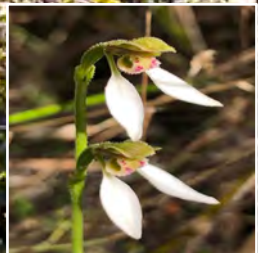
5. Derbal Nara e.g.
Mewstone Rock. Rich
fishing grounds in marine,
biodiversity hot spot



Honeymyrtle shrublands of limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (Critically Endangered)

Floristic Community Type 26a

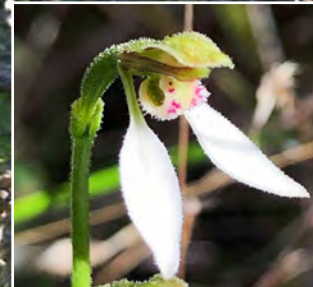
Wave after wave of prolific flowering by large populations of many species of plants over 9-10 months annually. Species-rich resources (nectar, pollen, seeds and foliage) that sustain viable populations of native birds, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates, including pollinators.



***Banksia sessilis* subsp. *cygnorum* dense scrub**

Floristic Community Type 24

Critical forage habitat for Threatened Carnabys Cockatoo & declining birds of the Perth Metro and Peel Regions



Victorian Coastal Tea Tree over *Banksia sessilis*, *B. attenuata*-*B. menziesii* tall dense shrublands

Floristic Community Type 24

Good or degraded condition. Irreplaceable as **Critical Habitat of Carnabys Cockatoo** and of the declining birds of the Perth & Peel Regions. Dense vegetation structure provides scarce shelter & diverse food resources (copious nectar, pollen, seeds, invertebrates)

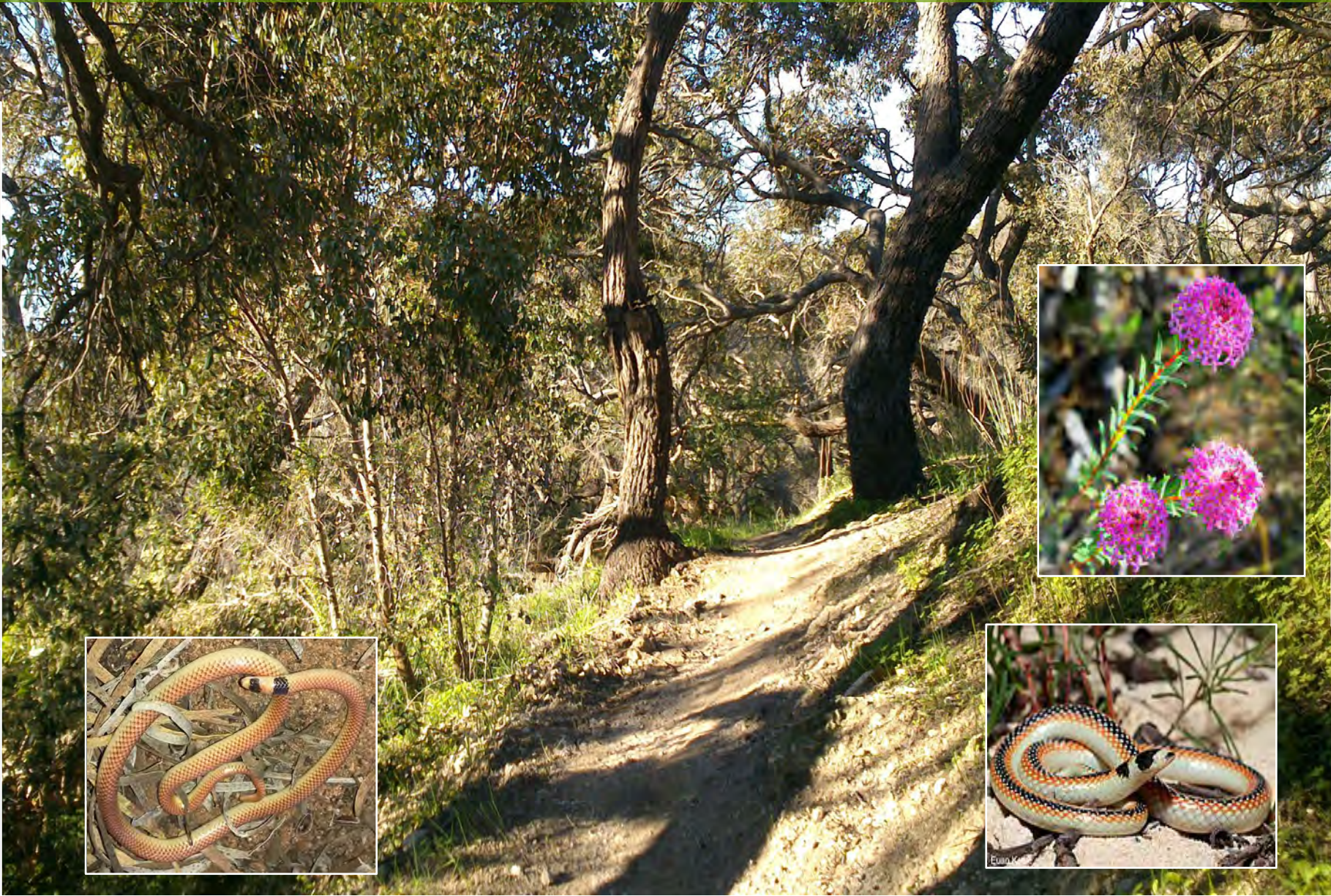
Has great potential for a slow-paced, economic, careful, ecological restoration as the teatree is relatively easily controlled



Eucalyptus decipiens – Redheart – low open mallee forest

Floristic Community Type 26b

A very species -rich flora in the remaining intact areas. Small fossorial snakes- Priority Fauna. Mountain bikers, dogs & runners have caused huge degradation in this beautiful community at Manning Park and they continue to do so



Tuart forests and woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (Critically Endangered)

Represented in Manning Park by two “patches” (as defined under the TEC) and three structural formations (open woodland, open forest, woodland)- see next two slides.



Tuart Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (Critically Endangered)

Floristic Community Type 24. Tuart Structural Type 1. Open woodland over *Banksia sessilis* understorey.

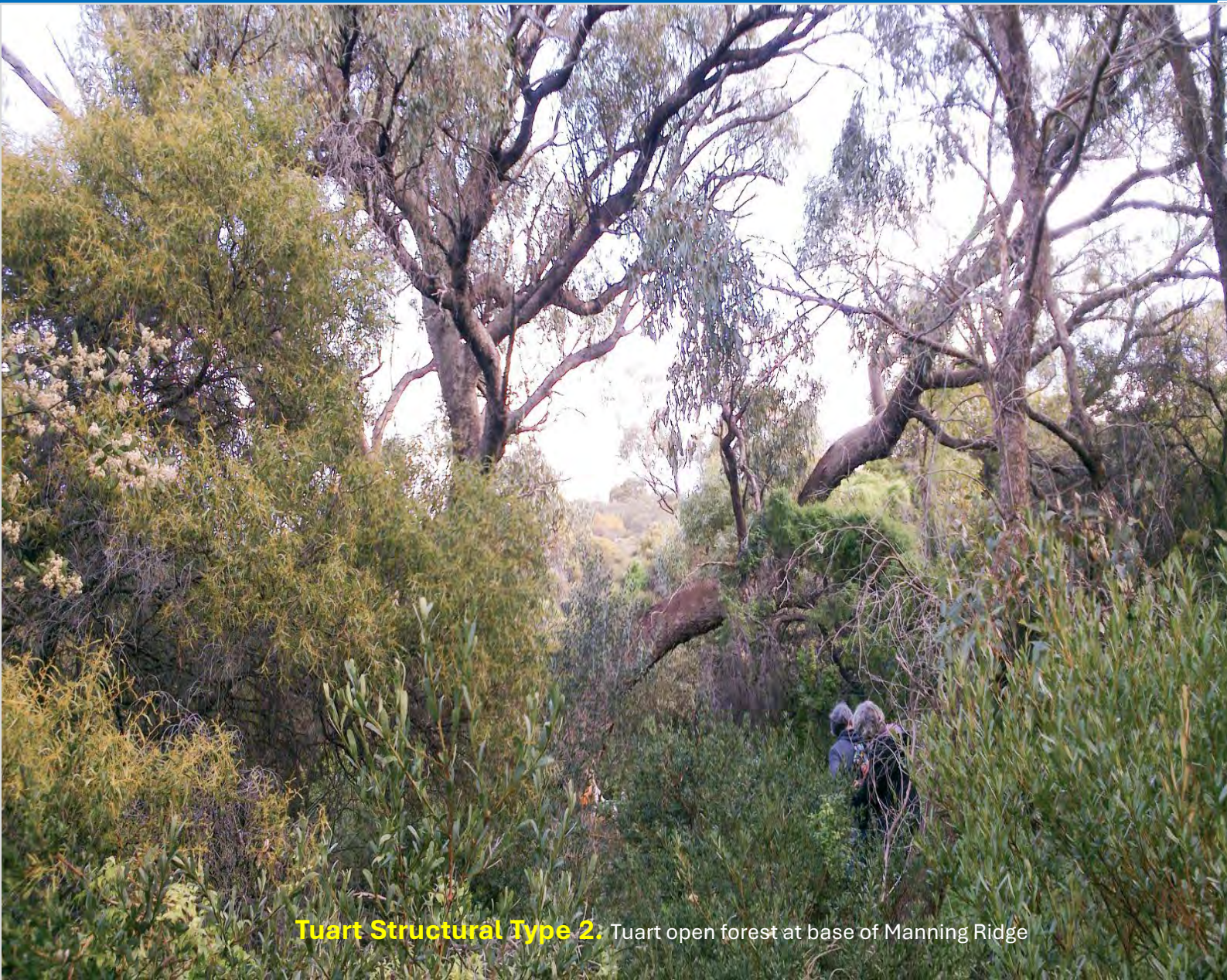
Critical Forage Habitat of Threatened Carnabys Cockatoo (Endangered)

Photo in Feb 2024 in a record, dry summer



All three structural types of Tuart in Manning Park (open forest, woodland and open woodland) qualify as a total of two very significant sized patches of the TEC: *Tuart Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain* (Critically Endangered)

Critical nesting habitat for Carnabys Cockatoos and Tuarts support a plethora of other biota in their canopies, wood and roots



Tuart Structural Type 2. Tuart open forest at base of Manning Ridge



Tuart Structural Type 3. Veteran, tall Tuart woodland on the flats around Manning Lake



**Most of Manning Park is critical forage habitat of
Carnaby's Cockatoo**

Parrot Bush scrub

Tuarts

Aleppo Pines

Acacia shrubland

and even some of the weeds e.g. Rose Pelargonium

Manning Park Survey

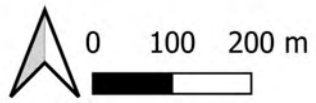
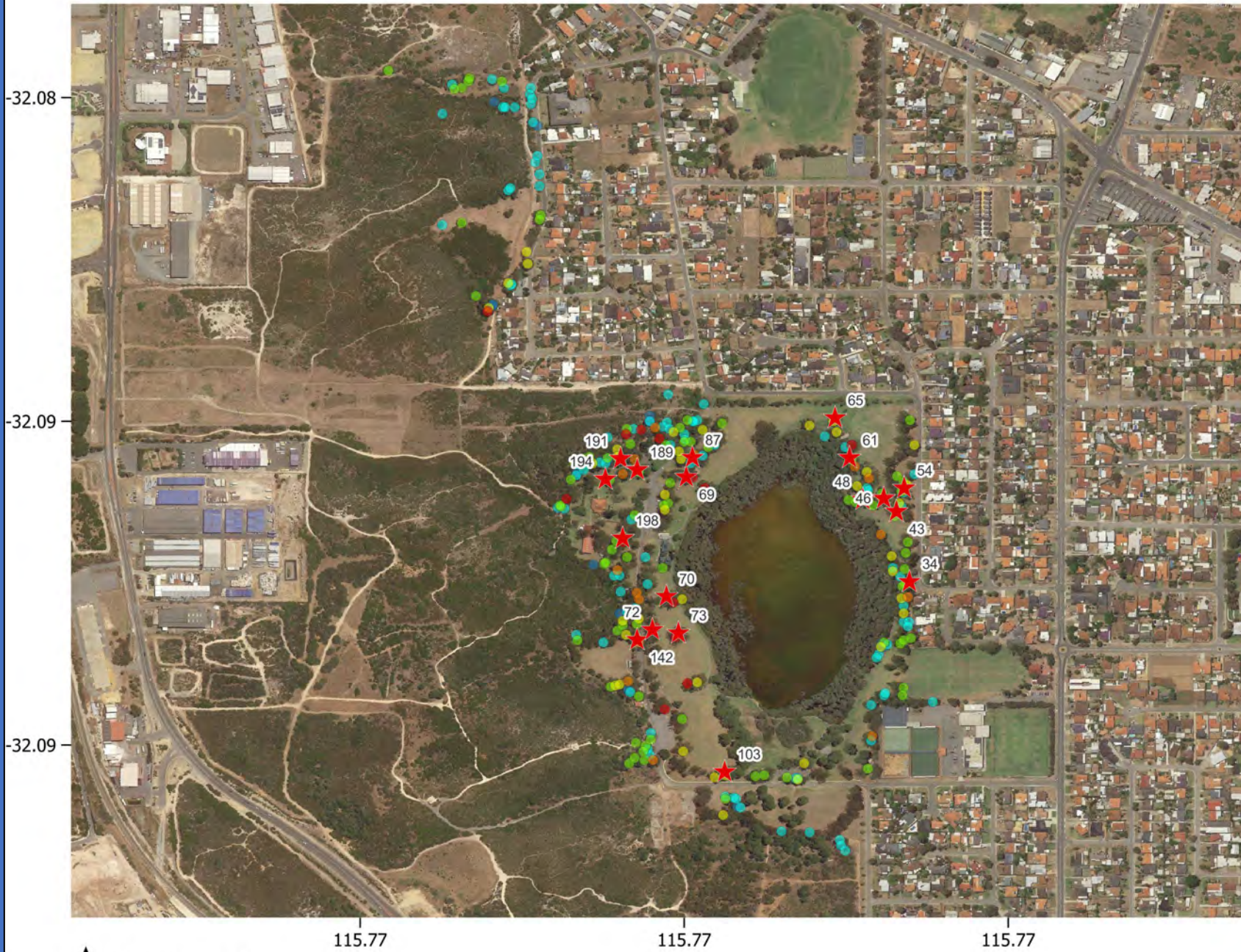


Legend

★ Black Cockatoo Nesting Tree Survey

Tree survey (DBH)

- >1500mm
- 1250-1500mm
- 1000-1250mm
- 750-1000mm
- 500-750mm
- 300-500mm



Carnabys love to eat weed seeds too! Rose Pelargonium on the western slopes of Manning Ridge





South end of *Dgilgie-Manning Lake*
Floristic Community Type 17

This should be a **Conservation Category Wetland** not a **Multiple Use Wetland** (as it is currently mapped in DBCA Geomorphic Wetlands Dataset) because it: has excellent natural vegetation attributes; is a summer drought refuge; and it supports Threatened Fauna, Priority Fauna and up to 16 migratory species protected under International Treaties.

Why has this management category error not been corrected yet?

Ngalkaning - Nankeen Night Heron on Manning Lake

This lake hosts an amazing array of wetland birds

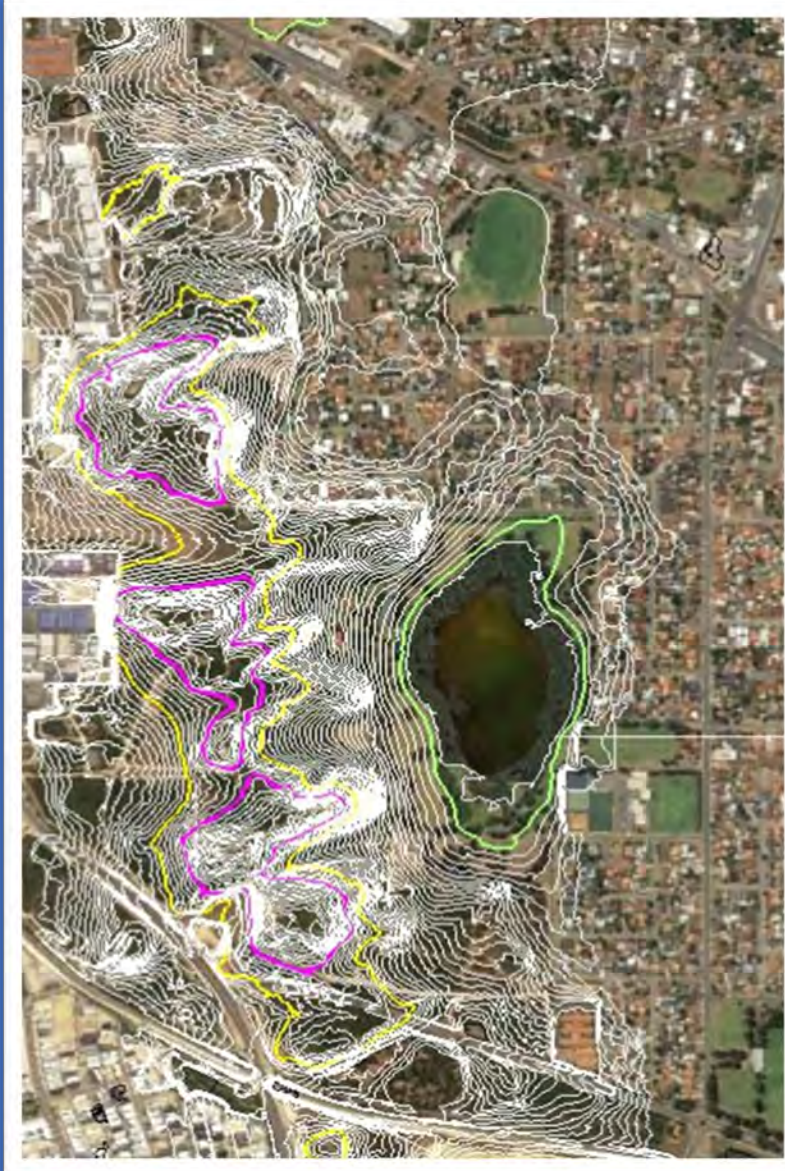
Photo P. Melling



TRIPLE THREAT

Proposed: 1. mountain bike trails 2. Cockburn Coastal urban/industrial (heat island) 3. western ridge-top road

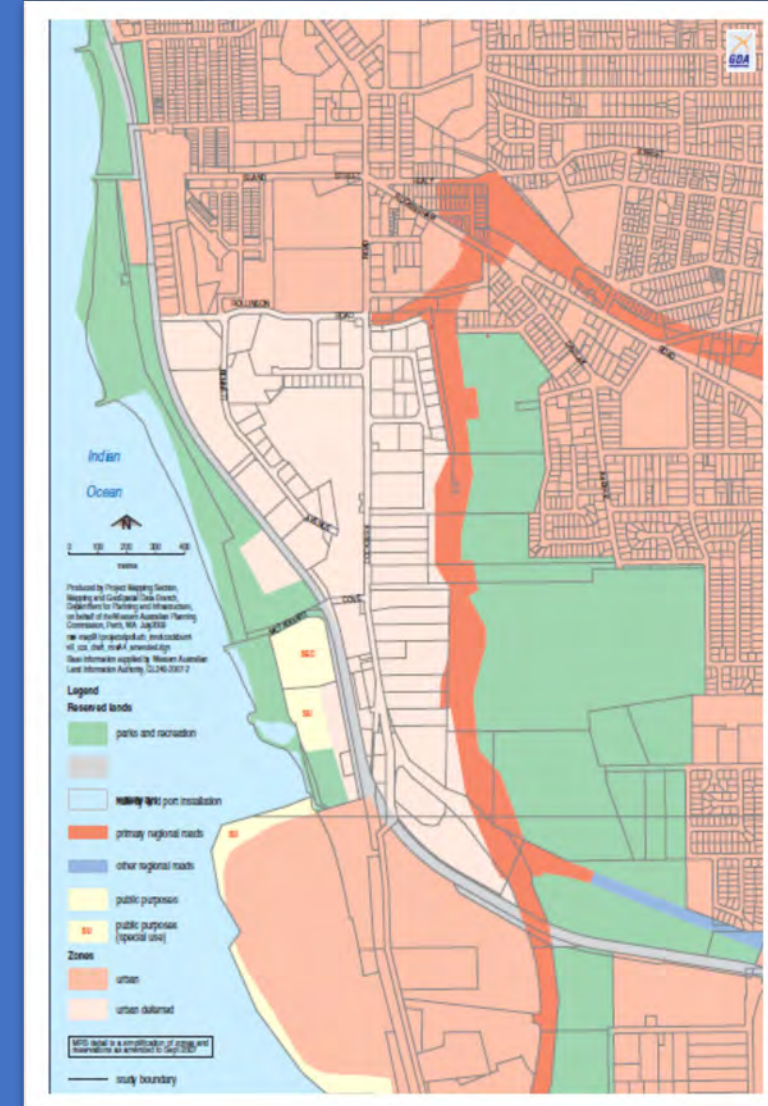
Topographic contours of Manning Park. Tallest peaks on the west side of ridge shown in pink: the peaks & steep slopes are the critical habitat of the most significant vegetation: the Honey myrtle TEC and intergrading Parrot Bush scrub



Red, ridgetop road corridor and the plans for mountain bike “spine trail” in the green BFA immediately east of the red road both developments will directly impact the high ground that is critical habitat of the Honey myrtle TEC and Parrot Bush scrub (Carnaby's forage grounds).

According to the CDSP(2009) the impacts of the Cockburn Coast development on Manning Park will include:

1. A significant increase to population in the area surrounding the Park, increasing user groups for the Park and Reserve area;
2. Potential social and environmental impact of proposed Cockburn Coast Drive road reserve; and
3. Proposed ‘green corridor’, east-west public open space connections from the Cockburn Coast development into Manning Park.





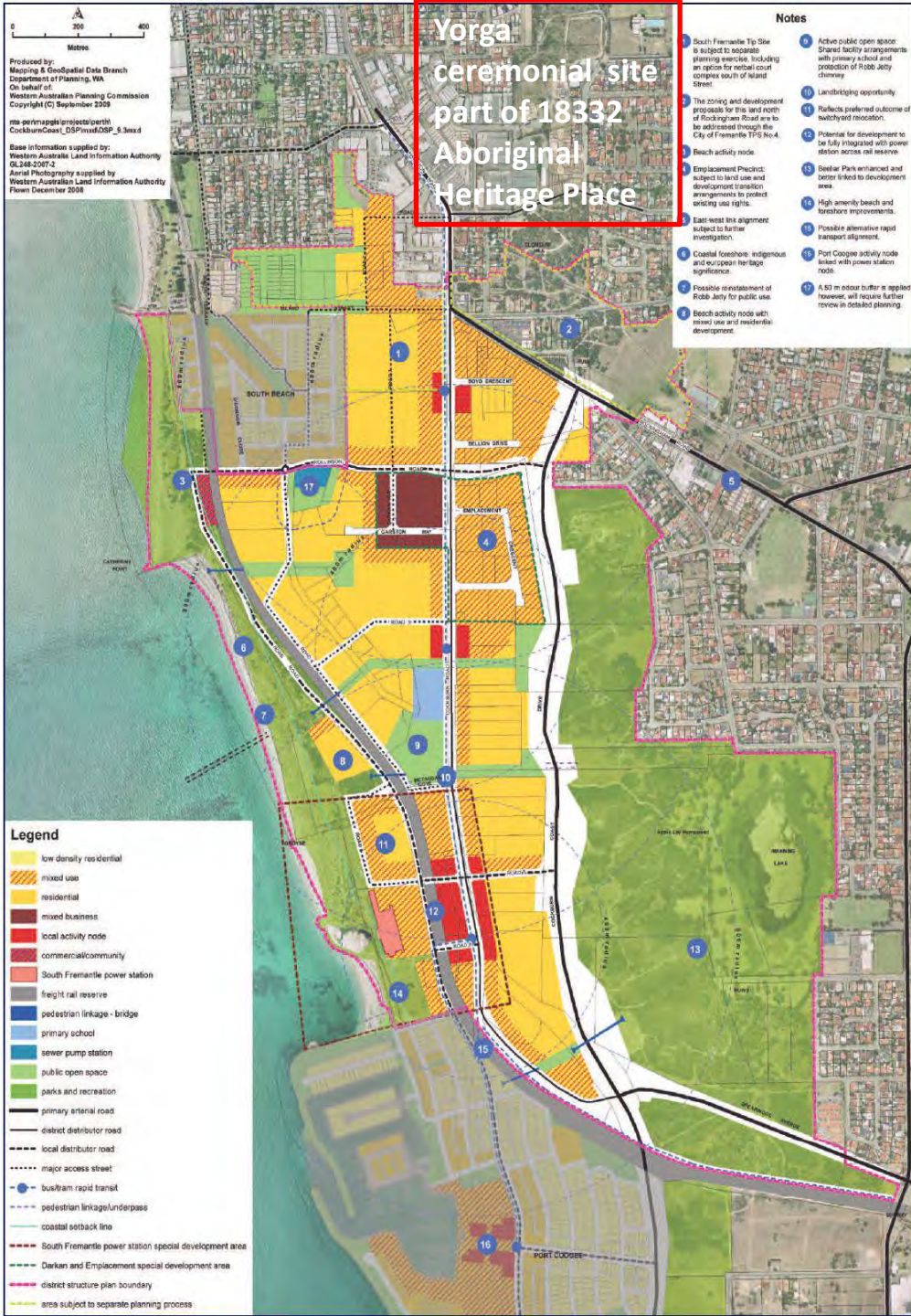
Western ridge top road (FRAC). Proposed location of **ridgetop road and/or the mooted mountain bike spine track(s) along this area. Such developments are astoundingly- poor landscape design & will have irreversible, impacts on:**

- 1. environment (Honeymyrtle TEC and Parrot Bush scrub, Carnabys Cockatoos and small rare birds);**
- 2. The national heritage, indigenous cultural landscape;**
- 3. Heat and light at night in Manning Park; and**
- 4. the magnificent views to the islands from the top of ridge that should be for all (not just the proposed luxury apartment owners in Cockburn Coastal) to enjoy.**

Drone photo of part, Manning Park (taken from suburban area east of Bush Forever Area and looking west to Owen Anchorage) provides a great view of the topography of the ridge.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=772194841690370&set=a.576435537932969>

The tallest part of the ridge is approximately where the current, blue and grey-roofed industrial units can be seen. The ground then slopes steeply down to the west of the ridge to the Cockburn Rd (which is the grey, main road running west of the ridge and approximately parallel to the beach). Cockburn Rd is partly obscured by the tallest part of the ridge in the blue and grey roofed industrial area.



Proposed Cockburn Coastal Development

Massive population increase is planned on the western border of Manning Park Bush Forever Area, based on WA Planning Commission (2009) Cockburn Coast District Structure Plan (CCDSP, 2009)

The current development plans by the City of Cockburn are rooted in this outdated Structure Plan with its total lack of awareness about: climate change; Federal and State Listed environmental values of Manning Park; and the indigenous, cultural landscape and other heritage values.

How will Bush Forever Area 247 cope with 15,000⁺ new residents/workers (that are predicted for Cockburn Coastal) and even more people that will be added in the proposed Roe-9 corridor urban/commercial developments when they start using it daily/weekly?

The high-rise, luxury apartments on the western part of Manning Ridge, are likely to wreck the **ancient cultural landscape views from the peaks**: over *Derbal Nara* (Owen Anchorage) to *Wadjemup* (Rottneet), *Meeandip* (Garden Island), *Ngooloomayup* (Carnac Island), Mewstone Rock and Woodman Point. This would be cultural vandalism, yet it was not even contemplated in CCDSP (2009) or in the current City of Cockburn proceedings.

When will the FOUR, immensely significant indigenous heritage areas of **Site 18332 Aboriginal Heritage Places State Register** associated with the Dixon Swamp massacre be given real respect and protection?

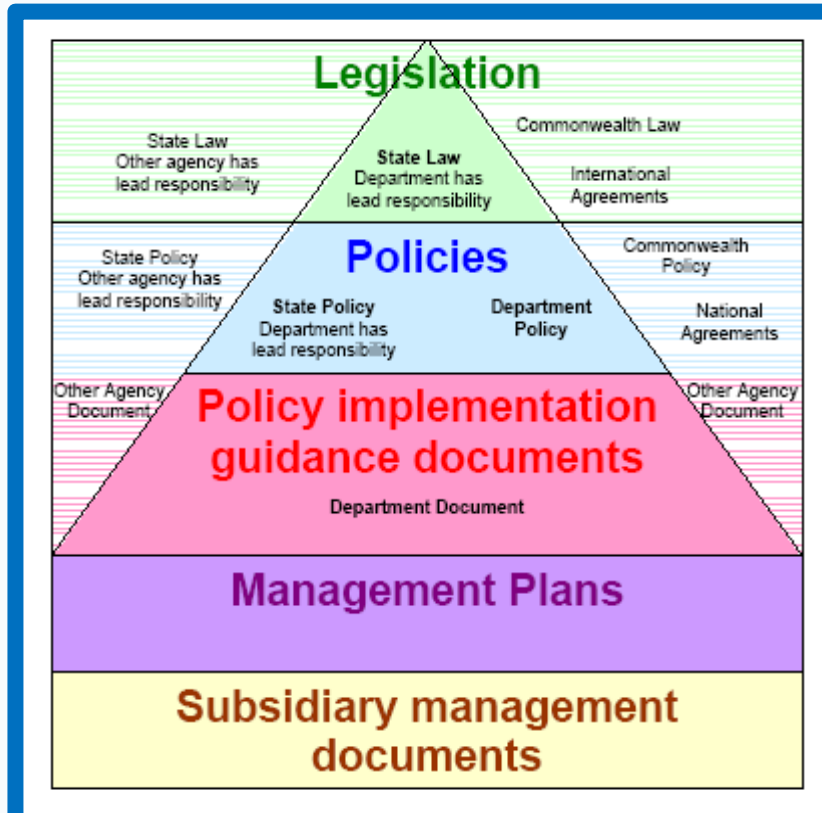
The part of **Site 18332 which is the women's (yorga) ceremonial site**, located just south of **Rockingham Rd** is still indicated as destined for mixed use/residential and part of the Fremantle to Rockingham Access Route (FRAC) as part of Cockburn Coastal and the Roe-9 proposal.

In the absence of a fully-realized, Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor in the former Roe-9 road reserve, an opportunity for making the Cockburn Coastal a livable neighbourhood (that is socially and ecologically well connected by greenways) will be wasted.

Why should Manning Park, Clontarf Hill and the indigenous heritage associated with Dixon Swamp bear the brunt of this anachronistic planning scheme that will only benefit developers, and not improve the livability of the area for residents or conserve the globally significant biota and indigenous heritage of Manning Park?

LEGAL PROTECTION THAT APPLIES TO MANNING PARK

Federal & State Legislation governs many values in Manning Park including the Honey Myrtle TEC (Critically Endangered), the Tuart TEC (Critically Endangered), the Carnaby's Cockatoo (Endangered) and its critical forage, nesting and roosting habitat. **This environmental legislation is in the TOP TIER of the governance pyramid and it decides what can or cannot be legally developed in Manning Park. Current plans by City and Council of Cockburn, mountain bike lobbyists including DBCA Attractions, and other developers are operating under outdated or obsolete, poor quality-controlled, subsidiary management documents on the LOWEST TIER of the governance pyramid.** Thus LGA and Council appears to be ignorant (or in denial) of legal orderly governance & the legally prescribed environmental impact assessment procedures under State and Federal Government laws that apply to Manning Park. This is causing great reputational damage to the City of Cockburn



The Beeliear Regional Park Management Plan (2008) is obsolete as current legislation, listed values & issues are not included. It requires urgent update to remain a legal & practical guide to manage this park.

CoC (2018) Master Plan for Manning Park did not mention the relevant State & Federal laws. It is thus obsolete and misleading. Much of the contents of this Master Plan are overruled by legislation at the top of the pyramid

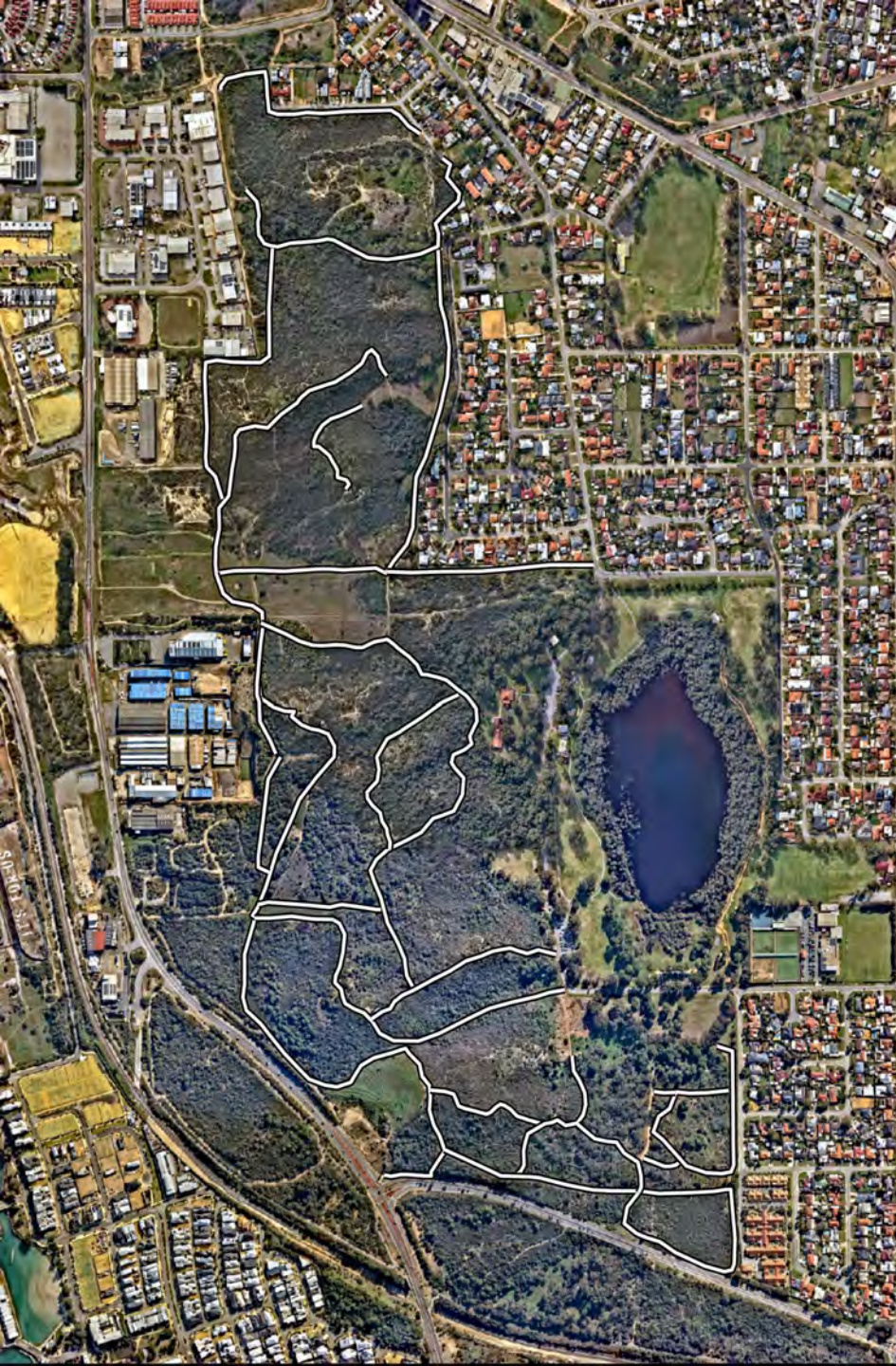
Beeliear Regional Park Management Plan (BRPMP, 2008)

City of Cockburn Manning Park Master Plan (CoC, 2018)

DBCA's Mountain Bike plans

Governance pyramid included in all DBCA-approved management plans, including Beeliear Regional Park Management Plan (2008) which applies to Manning Park.

City of Cockburn claims that the simplistic DBCA 8-point plan for mountain bike trail development will provide adequate approval for development of Manning Park as a trail sports destination/attraction. However, DBCA 8-point plan is simply a part of a minor, subsidiary document at the lowest level of governance. State & Federal Legislation over-rules the City of Cockburn, DBCA Attractions and mountain bike lobbyists plans. The City has ignored independent environmental advice and is playing catch up with poorly briefed, hired consultants. Proposals of vegetation rehabilitation of trail damage by sports at Manning Park is an illegitimate attempt to rationalize further destruction of TECs etc.



Map 1. Manning Park (aerial photo 2021) shows about 10 km of official walk trails and firebreaks (white)

Fragmentation of native TEC vegetation, loss and edge effect- degradation has spread out into the bush by at least 5-10m in width , on each side of trails, over many years and still continuing.

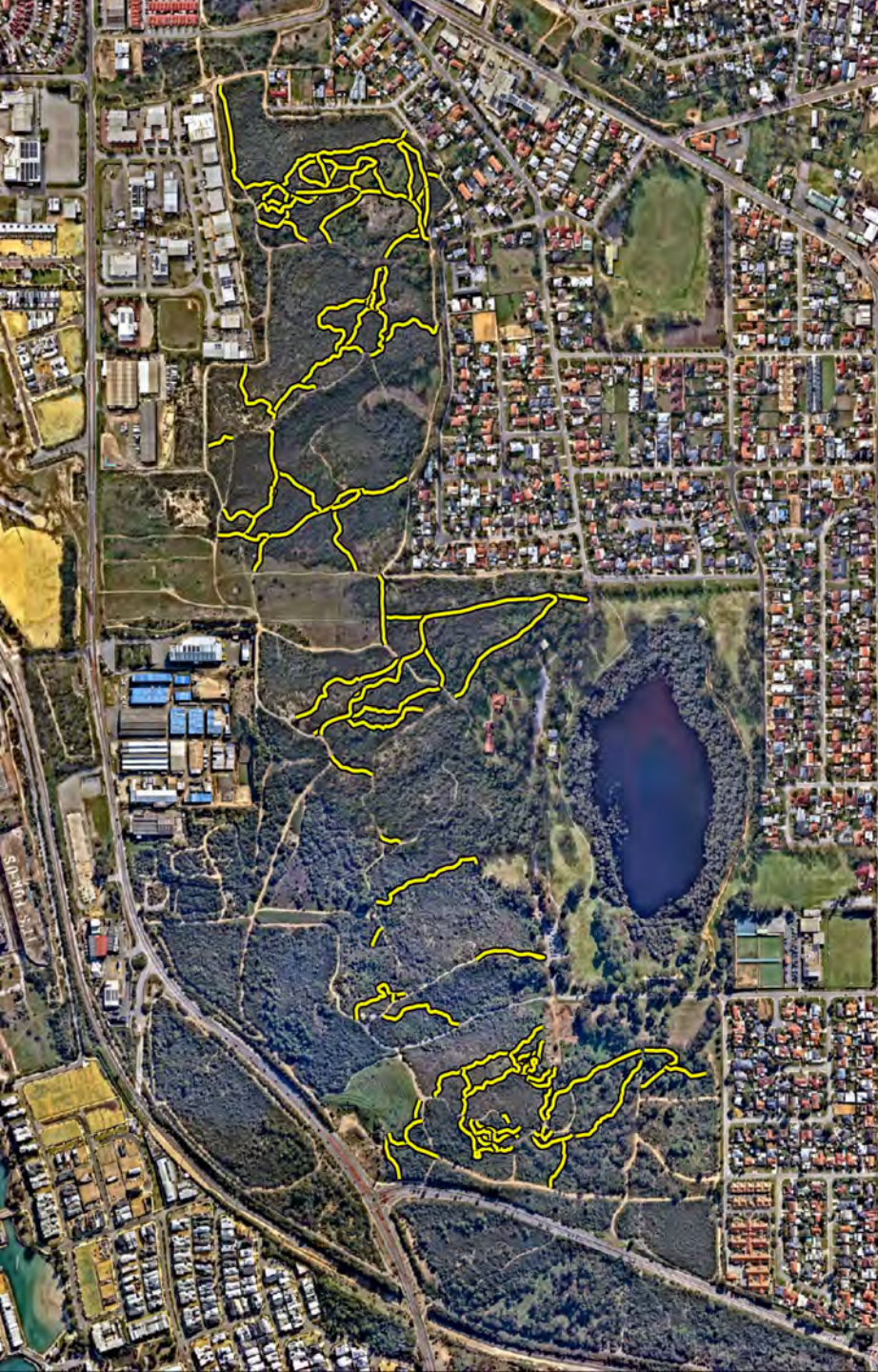
Thus 10-20 ha loss and degradation of native vegetation has occurred along these trails (not counting the direct clearing of the trail itself) by 2021. It is obvious that some of these tracks are redundant and should have been closed long ago to contain degradation.

Every trail that is cut into bushland causes degradation that spreads progressively, further and further into the initially-intact bush that borders the trail. The City of Cockburn has not been able to control degradation along the existing official trails, let alone preventing or repairing the additional degradation set in motion by trails made by mountain bikers over the last decade (Map 2) .

Best practice conservation management dictates that only the minimum number of official trails through a bushland are kept open. (Prof. Kingsley Dixon, 2020)

Approved Conservation Advice for Honey Myrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion (DCCEEW, 2023):

“Ecological restoration is not a substitute for sustainably managing and protecting ecosystems in the first instance”



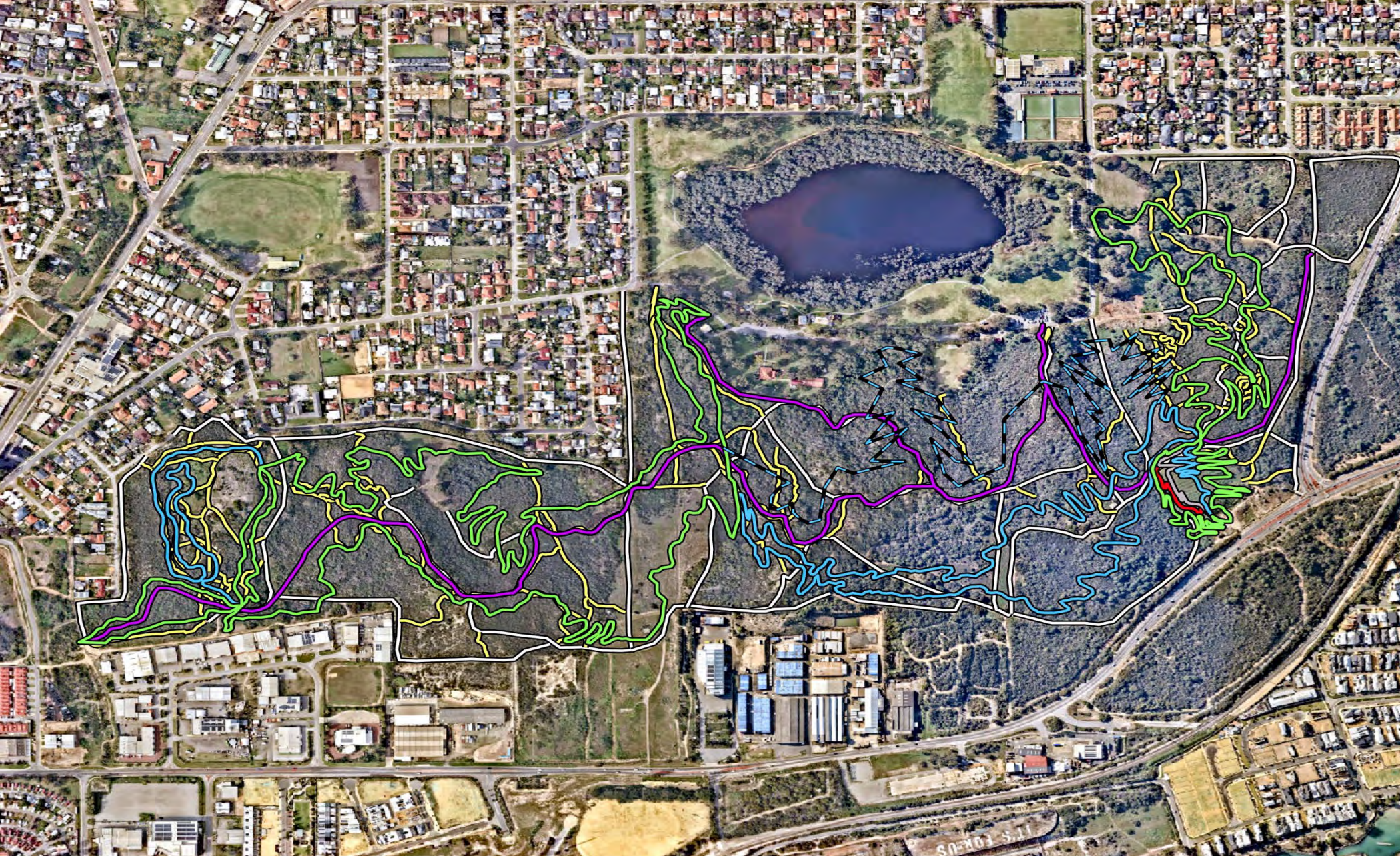
Map 2. Bandit trails made by mountain bikers in Manning Park (2021, aerial photo).

Extensive research worldwide has shown that linear fragmentation of native vegetation (by trails) causes direct loss of vegetation and also progressive degradation and eventual loss of much more vegetation than the initial width of the trail. **At Manning Park, Veldt Grass, Soursob and other aggressive weeds spread rapidly into the adjacent bush after ANY track clearing. The weeds at Manning Park have never been managed and they increase exponentially under ideal conditions of constant soil disturbance by bikes and runners' feet and fertilization by dog excrement**

Most of the bandit trails at Manning Park (after 3 -10 years) are now fringed by degradation that extends at least 5m- 10m on both sides of the centre line of these trails. Thus the approx. 10 km length of bandit trails has resulted in the **loss and degradation of 11—21 ha of native vegetation.** Moreover, this area of degradation continues to grow each year.

The current plan by the City of Cockburn (Council minutes, 8/12/22) to “rehabilitate” the bandit trails has budgeted to treat a total area of only 1.5 m wide x 10 km long (i.e. **1.5 ha**) at a total cost of **\$409, 525**. This is clearly a huge underestimate of the task and budget required to even carry out even a meagre “rehabilitation” of the area that has been impacted by illegal activity. Also the City specification for this work (i.e. “rehabilitation” which is the lowest level of remedial work, carried out by a generalist, commercial operator to fit such a low budget) is a grossly inadequate treatment for a TEC (Critically Endangered). The City has never carried out a successful treatment for the skeletal soils of the TEC and climate change has only made this task more impossible.





The new trails, proposed by City of Cockburn in Manning Park (Common Ground Trails, 2020) would have caused ~ 20 ha of additional loss and degradation of native vegetation. The degradation out from these trails would just continue to grow outwards from the trails over time.

Added to existing degradation due to linear infrastructure, the new trails would result in the almost total loss of the native vegetation in Manning Park.

This ill-conceived plan has caused considerable expense to ratepayers and loss of social license to the City. Despite this and rising expenses, four years later the City is still effectively administering degradation of the environment and struggling to fill its knowledge gaps.

Map 3. Fragmentation of native vegetation by official trails, bandit trails and additional mountain bike trails proposed (2020) by City of Cockburn in Manning Park

Proposed (approx 20km) of new mountain bike and walking trails—green, purple, blue, red, black—and existing official (white) and bandit (yellow)

Expensive “underwater” walk trail recently installed in the actual CCW wetland of Manning Lake. Why fight with wetland ecology like this and waste money?



Wetland Science 100.

Provide a fully-native vegetated, buffer zone (instead of lawn) around Manning Lake for the turtles to nest in and the water birds to feed in.



Who's who in Manning Park?

Context. Early contact with white colonists and continuing cycles of **genocide, ecocide & gross pollution** (1827-2024). These three themes still determine the course of Manning Park (albeit in new forms) as: tokenism instead of true reconciliation; ongoing illegal clearing of country (including for Manning Park bike trails); and runaway CO₂ pollution.

Current legal framework. ALL the vegetation in Manning Park is now protected under State and /or Federal legislation as part of two: Critically Endangered TECs; Threatened Fauna critical forage habitat; and Manning Lake a Conservation Category Wetland which is **still lacking a protective wetland buffer zone**. The LGA is still playing catch-up on the facts that should have been obvious to them for decades.

Stakeholders.

- **Knowledge holders:** Nyungar, the conservation community, long-term residents and scientists.
- **The responsible authority:** City of Cockburn. Not (yet) a knowledge holder or a best-practice, community consultation practitioner.
- **Proponents for Cockburn Coastal District Structure Plan.** Developers of luxury high rise, Dept of Planning and City of Cockburn. Inadequate assessment, outdated thinking (DSP 2009), vested interests. Proposed endorsement of overuse of MP open space by 16,000+ new residents/workers & additional population crammed into Roe-9 urbanized corridor. Inadequate POS.
- **Recreation lobbyists. Competitive, track-based-sports makeover of MP Bush Forever has stagnated for 10 years of “planning”.** Loss of social license due to illegal vegetation clearing, ignorance of biodiversity and disingenuous arguments. Lovers of nature do not destroy nature. Remarkable lack of basic environmental awareness.

How do you spot greenwash?

Greenwashing is a form of deception/deceptive conduct in which some (e.g., company, government, institution, industry, etc.) make false, misleading or overblown claims to have environmentally friendly policies, procedures, practices, products, or ethos.

Easy to spot when statements/images used by a stakeholder (to sell a product or pitch a plan) are **information-poor** but make **grand, altruistic claims and generalizations that appeal to emotion rather than the logical facts**. Especially when actions don't match the words used. E.g. “we love the Cockatoos” yet they permit destruction of roosts and forage habitat; “we are nature lovers” yet they clear native vegetation; “nature is so important for our mental health.” yet they don't even pause to look at it or listen- they are just there for the adrenaline rush, “it's our club tradition, therefore it's essential” yet they ignore and destroy the traditions of others (especially those of indigenous custodians).

At all tiers of many governments, claims are made to be working to save the environment while actively engaged in promoting industries that are destructive, **Many fund or support minor initiatives or research that are environmentally friendly, but which do not threaten the vested interests of destructive industries or companies. They then promote those minor initiatives as evidence of their environmentally friendly credentials.** It is greenwashing as it gives a false picture, one which hides the extent to which they support environmentally destructive industries, policies, companies, etc.

Threats to Manning Park Bush Forever

- **Entrenched lack of awareness, lack of expertise and development-driven agenda.**
- **Fragmentation.** Loss of habitat and accelerating degradation along edges: spreading further each year. A basic ecological issue that most managers who lack ecological training find difficult to understand.
- **Lack of informed, planned and effective conservation management.** Absence of deterrent signs and rangers on site. No coherent conservation management plans. Ad hoc decisions based on PR reward rather than conservation management e.g. using community groups to do low effect but high visibility tasks.
- **Lack of evaluation and adaptive management.** Mistakes repeated over and over by inability to evaluate the loopholes in consultant reports and take appropriate action.
- **WALGA Natural Areas survey is NOT a monitoring tool or impact assessment.** It is a waste of money to keep repeating this most basic of surveys, over and over again, every 3 years.
- **Disingenuous community consultation: a top-down management style.** Best practice community consultation is required or it just leads to loss of social license for managers.
- **Greenwash.** Publicity that uses persuasive language and /or images but provide little detail or real proof of an even basic understanding of conservation issues or real conservation action.
- **Blackwash.** Indigenous heritage concerns currently sit outside the colonial heritage silo that most LGAs have habitually worked within. Many LGAs still promote inequitable, disrespectful and outdated views, often gleaned from the ethnocentric views & the ecological vacuum of the 19th and mid 20th Century local popular press (e.g. Berson's "History of Cockburn"). Reconciliation actions are spoken of in florid terms and symbols but are actually limited to the comfort zone enjoyed by the dominant culture since colonization 195 years ago: there is opportunity given for truth telling or real actions to amend past wrongs. This could be called blackwash. Boodja which is central indigenous wellbeing and spirituality is routinely destroyed. The intangible values of boodja are not, as yet, recognized in the dominant culture that fixates on protecting ugly relics of the past such as the abattoir chimney at Roes Jetty and the Old Power Station, rather than conserving beautiful and health enhancing, natural heritage and landscapes/features (such as Honey myrtle scrub) even in denial of their very strong statutory protection.
- **Ecological connectivity principles ignored.** Roe 9 corridor.
- **Poor wetland management: eg no wetland buffer zone to Manning Lake.** The endpoint of this will be a 1950s style, low biodiversity, eutrophic wetland like Hyde Park in North Perth. Recent mas deaths of turtles at Bibra Lake: was the high profile Turtle Tracking enough to save them or was it mainly good PR for LGA?
- **Current City costing and rehab plan for bandit MB trails (1.4 m x10 km) is a token gesture.** Not an effective plan or costing to restore damage which is the greater than the area cleared in the Roe- 8 bulldozing (which the WA Govt funded, more realistically at about \$5 million).
- **Rehabilitation of bandit trails at MP is no excuse for clearing more for tracks through native vegetation .** Just another, expensive greenwash that will never replace the values lost.

How to heal Manning Park?

Manning Park is far too small and fragile for active recreation. However it is perfect for a well-managed, high-quality passive recreation, tourist and local visitor, wildlife experience (similar to Craigie Bushland in City of Joondalup)

- **Any development in or adjacent to MP requires formal and independent, authoritative assessment under the WA BC Act and EPBC Acts .** None of the documents produced by WestCycle, DBCA and City of Cockburn address environmental impact assessment **in the great detail required or meet the requirements of these Acts.** The inexperienced and naïve DBCA 8-point plan for mountain bike trails (and other trail sports in MP) is not a substitute for legitimate environmental impact assessment for the very high conservation value areas (such as Manning Park) that are predominantly TECs(CR)
- **Redesign Cockburn Coastal** to exclude /minimize such impacts on MP as heat island, artificial light at night, noise, cat and dog incursions, over use of the disproportionately small open space within Manning Park, by the extra ~16,000 residents and workers expected within Cockburn Coastal. **Now that the Honey Myrtle TEC in Manning Park has been listed under the Acts by both Federal and State Governments, a major re-think is legally required.**
- **Avoid blocking and impacting the culturally significant views from top of Manning Ridge** over Derbal Nara by the eight story plus, lux apartments currently planned. Also green planted roofs and walls should be mandated. This feature would stamp the development as truly innovative and unique in Fremantle and Cockburn. It would be a genuine attraction for many prospective residents.
- **Education of City staff, Council, and Beeliar RP management committee** is required – **they need to stay abreast with community values and legal issues** or risk further reputational damage and loss of social license for the LGA.
- **True collaboration & consultation of City with conservation & indigenous communities is essential.** Must use the best -practice international and SERA guidelines for community consultation, not the rigid, “top down” regime. Full transparency and inclusion of indigenous leaders in management, is mandatory.
- **A conservation management plan developed through true consensus** with the conservation and indigenous communities is required
- **Move the Spring Fair, other fairs and all trail sports OUT of Manning Lake to less sensitive parks** (eg MacPhaul Park or Woodman Point Recreation Area). **Completely revegetate lawns around Manning Lake to a native understory.** The recent mass deaths of Turtles at Bibra lake are a warning to the City that it must be more scientific/professional about managing wetlands for conservation.
- **The vision of Manning Park as a cat-proof fenced, wildlife sanctuary for re-wilding native fauna** (similar to Craigie Bushland in City of Joondalup, see next slide) is very feasible in Manning Park.



Craigie Bushland in the City of Joondalup (Bush Forever 303) is managed as a sustainable sanctuary for wildlife.

Craigie Bush Forever Area is fully fenced with a tall, cat-and-fox-proof fence; with double-lock doors for **pedestrian entry only**. **No dogs or bicycles are allowed inside this fence.**

Quenda have been successfully re-introduced in this sanctuary. Bushland condition has improved greatly. Weeds have decreased, leaf litter is naturally low, habitat logs and nesting hollows are abundant, and the current drought has not significantly impacted this bush.

Two sets of exercise stairs and a perimeter trail around the **outside of the fence** are used for running/biking/dog walking. This is a very popular fitness training location but **does not compromise on conservation.**



THANK YOU



Field Surveys - Flora & Vegetation. D Rose, J Lange, D Corbyn, P Cullen, B Ekanieke, C Caldeira, Prof. J. Conran (Adelaide University),
A Lowrie (*Stylidium* expert), ME Trudgen

Field Surveys - Fauna. Dr S Rycken (BirdLife WA), D Arthurell (Carnabys Crusaders), P Cullen, D Rose, P Melling

Analyses. PM Cloran **Cartography.** DJ Martin, S Croft, SD Genovese

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