



## **Blockade established to defend old-growth karri forest scheduled for clearfelling.**

**MEDIA RELEASE  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019.**

**In a massive breach of community trust and expectation, an old-growth karri forest near Manjimup is scheduled for clear-felling this week. A nonviolent community protest has been set up in defence.**

“The forest is known as Lewin 06. It’s astoundingly beautiful, one of the most beautiful, ancient karri forest ecosystems in the world,” said Jess Beckerling, convener of the WA Forest Alliance.

“We first came across this forest two years ago on a survey. Bulldozers were parked over the weekend, having pushed tracks into what was obviously an old-growth forest. We stopped the logging with a community old-growth nomination which found 17-hectares of old-growth forest, a diverse ecotype zone and a large eagle’s nest that had been missed in the planning process.

“Over the past two years we have spent a lot of time in Lewin 06, and stayed in conversation with FPC and the Government about its incredible value. We were shocked and dismayed to hear last week that loggers were returning.

“Now the loggers are back for the rest of this forest, which is also old-growth but has been disqualified from old-growth status and protection on the most absurd grounds,” she said.

“In WA, we are very proud of our State policy to protect old-growth forests from logging. It was a very hard fought campaign that tens of thousands of people were personally involved and deeply invested in. It’s something we collectively take very much to heart.

“The problem is that the definition of old-growth was written in such a way that it underestimates the true extent of old-growth and fails to protect all the State’s precious old-growth forests.

“In the karri forests just one stump from a tree cut down sometime in past 150 years or so disqualifies that area of forest from official old-growth status and protection. A further ‘minimum area rule’ means that small or irregularly shaped areas of old-growth forest are excluded from protection even when no trees have been cut down in the past. This goes against community expectations and an ecological application of the national old-growth forest definition.

“Lewin 06 should be immediately protected. It is a mistake for this forest to be on logging plans. And the old-growth definition should be urgently improved to make sure this doesn’t happen again.

“We call on the McGowan Government to urgently to pull loggers out of Lewin forest and correct the definition of old-growth forest being applied by DBCA and the FPC to ensure that our precious old-growth forests are fully protected,” said Ms Beckerling.

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### **NB: DIRECTIONS and NOTES**

The blockade camp is on Pine Creek Road, off Graphite Road, just west of One Tree Bridge between Manjimup and Nannup. It is well sign-posted. One Tree Bridge is searchable on Google maps and you can see Pine Creek Road a few kilometres to the west. You will find activity on Pine Creek Road between 1 and 10 kilometres from the corner of Graphite.

There is no mobile reception.

If you can’t reach Jess, text her or leave a voicemail, she will be frequently going to a nearby site with mobile signal to check messages.

Photographs of Lewin 06 forest and of the neighbouring part of Lewin and Graphite forests, clear-felled in 2017, can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ylb0rUoaIa8doBEM9RA-AH90vC32Xatr/view?usp=sharing>

There is also an operations map and screenshot of a Google map of the area in the folder.

All forest images are of Lewin 06, scheduled for clear-felling this week.

All logged forest images are of neighbouring Lewin 08 and Graphite 02, clear-felled in 2017.

Photos of Jeff Pow are from 2018 when Jeff sat in a tree platform in Lewin 06 to defend the forest and raise awareness.

Please credit Lewin Forest-13-1 and Lewin Forest 754-3 to Martine Perret. All other photographs are by Jess Beckerling.