



## **WA FOREST ALLIANCE**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Seven local grandmothers have stopped the logging in McCorkhill forest near Nannup this morning, taking their concern for the forests and their children right to the frontline.**

Logging has been brought to a standstill in McCorkhill forest this morning by seven grandmothers from Margaret River who are calling on the McGowan Government to protect native forests for climate and biodiversity.

Peta Goodwin, one of the women stopping the logging and a lead organiser of the recent rally for the forests in Margaret River, said, “Our grandchildren are depending on us to deal with the climate and biodiversity crisis. I’ve never done anything like this before, and I never thought I would, but I have tried everything, and the McGowan Government just isn’t listening. We have to protect these forests for the climate, and for life.”

The women arrived in McCorkhill forest at 4 o’clock this morning with picnic chairs, banners, and home-baked treats to give to the contractors. They are sitting in the way of four logging machines and are hoping to have a productive conversation with contractors about why logging of native forests has to stop.

Great Grandmother, Janny Lane said, “We are doing this together this morning because we share the same deep anxiety about our children’s, grandchildren’s and great-grandchildren’s futures and we are all very aware of the role of protected forests in mitigating the effects of climate change and of how fast we are losing our native forests.”

“We hope that this serves as a wake-up call for people in Perth and for the State Government. We are on track for 4 degrees of warming by 2100 and I can’t accept that.

“I won’t accept that my grandchildren and great grandchildren will have to live through dramatic water and food shortages, and major environmental and social collapse, but the only way to prevent that is for us to take action. I want my children to know that I did all I could for their futures.

“We want to shake this Government out of their slumber and tell them to get on with dealing with climate change by protecting our forests,” said Ms Lane.

The grandmother’s manifesto, which will be read and presented to the contractors, Forest Products Commission representatives and police is on the following page.

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## Grandmother's Manifesto for the Forests

*We are mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers and Elders in our community of Margaret River.*

*We have come here this morning to ask you to stop doing this work.*

*We are asking you to stop logging in the native forests of the south-west.*

*What you do to these forests you do to us.*

*We are telling you that what you are doing is harmful to life – all life - not only the lives of our children and our children's children – and yours.*

*We are telling you that the forests you are logging provide habitat for many plant, animal, insect and fungi species that exist nowhere else on earth, some of whom are in danger of becoming extinct.*

*The forests you are logging are vibrant, productive, dynamic and generous communities. The way logging is practised by you in these forests is destructive and wasteful. It breaks our hearts and it breaks our forests.*

*The rationale behind it is based on a past history (of logging and clearing) and a business model that does not work – and does not acknowledge either the eco-functions of the forests (habitat, water and nutrient cycling, temperature control, carbon sequestration) or the complex communities that forests are and the way in which a forest and its inhabitants interact. These communities have co-evolved over many millennia and our knowledge of them is incomplete to the point where we are not capable of making decisions about how we might interact with them in any sustainable way apart from leaving them alone to do what they do.*

*What they do is provide us with what we most need – a liveable planet – we do not need “forest products” that threaten the very existence of forests.*

*We are telling you that what you are doing here is unsustainable – you are destroying the forests, not managing them. Production that is based on destruction can never be sustainable – sooner or later the goose will become too weak from abuse to lay her golden eggs.*

*We know that the Forest Products Commission is running at a loss - not a profit, and we know that markets for the “products” of your work are hard to source. These ancient trees are burnt or pulped and sold for less than it costs you to log them. You do not have saleable sized timber anymore because you have cut down all the big trees. You do not a social license for your “business”. All you have are jobs. And when all the trees are gone you will not have them.*

*We ask you to stop doing this work.*

*We ask you to stop logging our native forests before there are none left.*

*We ask this for the forests, the forest dwellers, the rivers, the earth, the sky, life, our children, our children's children – and yours.*

