



WA FOREST ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

10th September 2020

The Augusta Margaret River Shire has voted to support the protection of the South West's native forests for climate and biodiversity.

The Augusta Margaret River Shire Council passed a motion endorsing the five aims of Forests for Climate and the three aims of Forests For Life at its meeting in Augusta last night.

Local resident Ray Swarts, who was at the Council meeting said, "Protecting native forests has real support in Margaret River. It is the major topic in the community that everyone is discussing, and we're very pleased the Council has voted in support.

"The Council has represented community sentiment with this vote. Native forest logging has totally lost its social license and it's time for the transition of the industry to be completed to farm forestry and plantations," said Mr Swarts.

Peta Goodwin, convener of the Margaret River Regional Environment Centre said, "We are very heartened by the Shire Council's support.

"When seven of us went out to stop the logging in McCorkhill on Tuesday, all grandmothers and great grandmothers, we wanted it to be a wake-up call to decision-makers and to get the active support of people with the power to protect forests for climate and biodiversity – this is a great step in that direction.

"We are on track for 4 degrees of warming by 2100. We have to act quickly and decisively to deal with climate change and protecting forests is an obvious and immediate way that we can do that here in the South West.

"The Shire's vote is an accurate reflection of community sentiment. Now we need the State Government to listen and take action too – we need to protect our native forests for climate and for life," said Ms Goodwin.

The full text of the motion is below.

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Motion passed by Augusta Margaret River Shire Council, Wednesday 9th September 2020

That Council endorses:

1. The following five Forests for Climate actions:

- a) Immediately protect mature native forests as biodiverse carbon stores;
- b) Protect degraded forests as Future Forests and allow them to recover their full biological potential;
- c) Complete the transition of the timber industry to sustainably managed plantations and farm forestry;
- d) Develop a targeted, strategic approach to fire management with guidance from Noongar fire practitioners and ecologists; and
- e) Rule out native forest bioenergy.

2. The following three major aims of Forests for Life:

- a) To protect forests from threatening processes;
- b) To develop a world-class farm forestry sector in south-west Western Australia; and
- c) To meaningfully account for the critical role forests play in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

3. That the CEO write to the Premier, Opposition Leader, relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to express Council's position.