



Protect Kalamunda's Backyard: Worth More As Forest Than As Firewood

A group of local Kalamunda residents and the Western Australian Forest Alliance (WAFA) will meet with Hon. Matthew Hughes MLA, Member for Kalamunda, today to ask for his support to protect South West forests for climate and wildlife, and particularly to protect Barton Forest in Kalamunda's backyard from a shocking proposal to log 440 hectares of magnificent jarrah forest primarily for firewood.

Where: Kalamunda Central, Shop 9, 39 Railway Road Kalamunda WA 6076

When: Thursday, 14th January 2021

"Barton Forest is a magnificent old Jarrah forest, teeming with life," said Paddy Cullen, WAFA's community organiser for Kalamunda.

"The area of Barton forest that the Forest Products Commission wants to log is the size of Kings Park. It is an incredibly beautiful and highly diverse forest that is home to many endangered species of wildlife, including all three WA species of Black Cockatoos. We surveyed the forest recently with a group of locals and we were absolutely blown away by the number and diversity of wildlife we saw," said Mr Cullen.

"This area is also the gateway to the world-renowned Bibbulmun Track. It's also an important water catchment area; it plays a vital role in attracting rain in a drying climate; and it's a critically important carbon store that we need now more than ever before to protect against climate change.

"This proposed logging is a slap in the face to people who live in, and love, Kalamunda because of the forests and wildlife here," said Mr Cullen.

"The very word Kalamunda is derived from two Noongar words: Cala meaning 'home' and Munda meaning 'forest', and the basis of the Shire's motto 'A home in the forest'.

"What we are seeing here with this proposed logging in Kalamunda's backyard is echoed right across the South West with 10 football fields of Jarrah and Karri forests being logged or cleared every single day.

"Our forests are worth so much more standing for climate, wildlife, water and future generations.

"We are encouraging people in the lead-up to the State election in March to make sure that their local election candidates are fully aware of how important forests are to them.

"We are asking Hon. Matthew Hughes to become a champion for forest conservation and an advocate on this issue for the Kalamunda community: supporting the call for the South West's forests to be protected for climate, wildlife, water and future generations.

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Photos will be made available on request and the group will be available for comment and photographs following the meeting with Matthew Hughes at midday, Thursday 14th January outside Matthew Hughes' office.