



MEDIA STATEMENT

4th August 2022

Perth voters in Curtin back Gelorup option

As bulldozing of the Gelorup woodland and wildlife proceeds, a poll shows Perth motorists, by a landslide margin, would prefer the Bunbury Outer Ring Road went an alternative route.

On Wednesday night, the Ucomms poll (see below) asked 816 people in the Perth federal seat of Curtin: “The Bunbury Outer Ring Road will bypass Bunbury for traffic travelling onward to Busselton, Dunsborough and Margaret River. A short section at Gelorup will require bulldozing the habitat of critically endangered ringtail possums, black cockatoos, orchids, and a rare species of native fish. How concerned are you about this development?”

71.6% were concerned, while 25.3% were not. Only 3.1% were undecided.

The second question asked: “If an alternate route were available that would significantly reduce the impact on the local environment, do you agree or disagree that development should continue with the alternative route?”

A 5:1 majority would prefer an alternative. 75.5% agreed, 13.8% disagreed, 10.6% were unsure or did not know.

In both cases, the majority was greater amongst women and young people (aged 18-34), though there was a clear majority across the board.

“This is a huge eleventh-hour boost for the Friends of the Gelorup Corridor and pulls the rug from under those who thought there would be popular support for this development at any cost. The bulldozers should get out of the woodland. The government bought a number of small properties for this project: it should now purchase the open land nearby and go there instead,” said Jess Beckerling, convener of the WA Forest Alliance.

“This is not surprising. People everywhere are alarmed about the extinction of species and loss of forests and woodlands. They want governments, state and federal, to opt for alternatives which save our nation’s most critical habitats.

“Federal Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek, made important statements about the need to protect remaining habitats during her State of the Environment report release address. We need actions, not words. The Minister should take this poll very seriously and intervene if she is to keep faith with the people on the environment,” said Ms Beckerling.

Contact: Jinni Wilson | Wafa media officer | jinniwilson@outlook.com | 0459 709 216

FINAL RESULTS

uComms conducted a survey of 816 residents in the Federal seats of Curtin on behalf of Friends of Gelorup Corridor during the evening of 3 August 2022 using self-completed automated voice polling methodologies.

Question 1:

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road will bypass Bunbury for traffic travelling onward to Busselton, Dunsborough and Margaret River. A short section at Gelorup will require bulldozing the habitat of critically endangered ringtail possums, black cockatoos, orchids, and a rare species of native fish

How concerned are you about this development?

	Total	Female	Male	18 – 34	35 – 50	51 - 65	65+
Very concerned	39.9%	49.2%	29.8%	47.2%	33.8%	37.7%	41.4%
Somewhat concerned	31.7%	34.4%	28.8%	20.8%	38.9%	35.4%	31.0%
Not at all concerned	25.3%	13.9%	37.8%	31.1%	25.3%	23.1%	21.4%
Undecided	3.1%	2.6%	3.6%	0.9%	2.0%	3.8%	6.2%