

Business for Council meeting

Tues.6th October.

Re: proposed clearing permit CPS 8269/1 Ingoldby St., Reserve, Shire of Plantagenet.

Concerned residents call for this work to be delayed until the plans are seen and appropriate public consultation regarding this proposal takes place. This permit is open until 26th June 2025 and the broader 2.9 Ha management area would be better considered in conjunction with overall fire strategies being planned for the whole township/shire with alternative management techniques to be seriously considered.

Background.

This work was proposed in 2018 and gazetted on the Dept of Water and Environment website 14 Dec 2018 with a 21 days submission period. Seven substantial submissions were forwarded in opposition to this work despite the short submission period and it being over Xmas.

It was subsequently approved by EPA in June 2020 to provide POS. (Public Open Space) albeit with some reservations.

No clear definition was given with the gazetted proposal of what Public Open Space meant.

The clearing permit changed tack from to that of the original concept taking into consideration fire mitigation, which in part, enables new residents to meet Bal requirements to proceed with their building objectives.

On hearing of the clearing proposal, I attended a Council meeting June 2020, asking when and how residents were going to be informed of the proposed works.

Nothing was notified in the local newspaper or elsewhere to my knowledge as a result of this request.

Lobbying resulted in notification only to residents adjacent to the bush and unfortunately not to **all residents** in this quadrant of town or the whole shire

populace as it has financial & social implications for all residents. This bush reserve is mostly pristine and is treasured and currently enjoyed by many.

Residents were dismayed to hear that a great swathe (1.5ha) was to be clear felled for fire mitigation and Bal requirements. A further 2.9Ha was to be cleared of all understorey and annually slashed.

A preliminary day time meeting of a few residents and their representatives, Kevin and Kathy Collins, was held with the Shire works officer, Mr. David Lynch and fire Advisory officer, Kath Kinnear Monday 7th Sept. 2020 to explain the fire mitigation requirements, show the plans and generally discuss options. Councilor Handasyde and our acting CEO were also in attendance.

Several other shire councilors were also informed of our concerns and Mr. David Lynch in discussion with our acting CEO, Mr. Paul Sheedy, have given verbal assurance that works would be postponed until full public notification and consultation has taken place.

Concerns and other considerations.

Proposed mowing damages large tree trunks, crushes all the small flowering plants and orchids, smashes ant hills, rocks and dead logs which all provide habitat for invertebrates.

Alternate management options of hand removing the over-abundance of eucalypt suckers and small eucalypt trees will reduce the fuel load and hence the level of fire hazard as well as maintaining a balanced eco system.

Machinery increases the very likely introduction and spread of dieback. Annual mowing disturbance leads to feral plant invasion, wind blowing in rubbish and the remaining trees vulnerable to machinery and wind damage. It destroys the integrity of the eco -system.

The very flammable suckers, full of oil, fuel the fire causing it to flare up promoting crown fires and fireballs. These have become very prolific due to frequent fire burn offs and have increased fuel load. Their physical removal after each 6 to 9-year cold Autumn burn, will greatly reduce fuel loads and fire hazard, allow light in to promote the small flowering species to be more prominent and orchids visible. The integrity of the bush can in this manner be retained.

We support the shire suggestion of a working party to look at fire management techniques for all our town reserves and hope other options of removal of the over abundance of eucalypt suckers and small trees with a narrow more regularly burnt strip as (employed for Mondurup Reserve) & incorporating aboriginal cool Autumn spot burns might be considered as a viable alternative to that of aggressive mowing.

The residents are keen to form a "Friends group" to monitor feral plants & collect rubbish etc. A facebook site is already in place promoting the wonderful flora of this site. Marked walk trails are envisaged with headworks signage displaying information on the beautiful flora & fauna of this reserve. This is an opportunity to showcase an alternate, less invasive management scheme which will be hugely cheaper (after the initial sucker removal) safer and with minimal ongoing cost compared to the annual slash/clearing & burn techniques currently employed.

Residents value this asset and specifically chose to build near the reserve to enjoy bush walks, orchid hunts, wildflower viewing, birds, feeding cockatoos, kangaroos and various invertebrates. It is currently actively enjoyed as POS with firebreaks, walk tracks with children currently enjoying bike riding with jumps, cubby building and other pursuits. Even others enjoy motor & quad biking (contrary to the rules).

The residents feel there is a need for further consultation with a public meeting at a more appropriate time and await your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards,

Kevin and Kathy Collins.

Kevin Collins

From: Kevin Collins <banksia@westnet.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 October 2020 2:26 PM
To: 'Kevin Collins'
Subject: RE: formatting talks for the council meeting.

Notes on my observations of Ingoldby Reserve.

Residents love of the bush and currently enjoy bush walking, orchid hunts, bird watching.
The bush was ours and others incentive to buy where you did.
We have seen children riding their bikes, making small jumps, cubbies and enjoying the bush as it is.
Currently utilizing the reserve as public open space.
The reserve has diverse and interesting flora and fauna and we regularly see white & red tailed black cockatoos feeding.
Many small birds nest and feed in the understorey.

At a meeting of a few concerned residents with shire staff, David Lynch & Kath Kinnear we learned of the proposals, bal fire regulations and appreciate a compromise on these issues is required.

Initial clearing of a 12m strip to meet Bal fire regulations and enable the remaining residents to build without extra fire mitigation costs is not unreasonable. This also enables fire truck entry. This work to proceed once recovery of seed and some special plants like Kingia & Xanthorrea and other small species can safely take place. Preferably at the start of winter.

The larger area management with walk trails and signage to be negotiated with council with the aid of the new proposed town fire planning consultative group. A full management plan for this and all town reserves be developed in a manner to preserve the integrity of the bush whilst meeting fire mitigation requirements.

Pat Ballantyne

** APOLOGY for MEETING, **

Shire Council Meeting 6.10.2020

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you here

We are a group of residents evolving into “friends” of the Ingoldby Jackson Bushland Reserve.

- I'd like to re-express some points that have come up in talks about this site at Ingoldby Jackson –
- One point, that this bushland reserve could become a trial site, an example to others – capable of being spoken about in other shires and locations - and showing what can be achieved where bushland exists within the township areas.
- It is possible that shire and residents can here collaborate on caring for environment, natural beauty and fire mitigation – as we believe has been done already for the Mondurup reserve.
- This can be achieved by the formation of a bushcare group (already in formation) – open to all – the friends of Ingoldby Jackson bushland. Together, we can support the beauty and hygiene of the bushland with weed and litter management.
- We can help to manicure, preserve and manage the natural bushland for fauna, flora and human enjoyment now and in the future
- In the ideal situation, aboriginal fire practices and environmental science come together with shire knowledge and the bushcare group, to inform us all on the care of the area.
- Our friends of this bushland, envisage thinning of eucalypt suckers that spring up, to lower the fuel load risks
- Also -Installation of an extra walk track running North-South, to enable the backburning of a narrow strip of bush near the fence-line. This we understand matches the fire practices already employed at the Mondurup reserve.
- These strategies will remove the damaging environmental impact of mowing the understorey, which destroys the integrity of the natural bush - for all the life within it and in the end is cheaper for shire and residents in the longer term.
- It is not far fetched to consider that through documenting this as a trial site – and the activities undertaken, and the steps achieved, Ingoldby-Jackson Bushland can become an example of ‘best practice’ townsite bushland maintenance – inclusive of the needs and pleasure of residents, and the nurturing of the natural environment.

Thank you.

Sarah Fraser –9 Mt Magog Gardens

COUNCIL MEETING 6TH OCTOBER 2020

Good Afternoon Everyone

As a local resident of Ingoldby Street for 16 years, I support the establishment of a "Friends of Ingoldby Jackson Bushland Reserve" group to monitor the use and maintenance of the Reserve.

As a foundation member of "Friends of Mondurup Reserve" I am familiar with issues that will continue to arise and feel strongly about the care of the Reserve.

I also recognize that there may be potential for liaison between the group and council to seek funding for appropriate walk trail signage and Ingoldby Jackson Bushland Reserve signage.

Thank you.

Veronica Rae
33A Ingoldby Street
Mt Barker WA 6324