

13th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
Via: wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

19 November 2025

Dear Premier,

Re: Concerns about the State Development Bill

We are writing to you to voice some deep concerns that we have regarding the State Development Bill that is due to come before the Legislative Council soon. This Bill has the potential to modify key legislation in the state in a way that has the very real potential to lead to poor environmental outcomes in Western Australia.

The environment movement understands the need for a just and rapid energy transition. In fact, a recent report, *Power Shift: WA's Electrified Future*, released by Greenpeace on keeping WA's emissions aligned with our obligations on a 1.5 degree aligned economy, demonstrates the scale of the challenges and opportunities that we face. We need a strong and clear set of nature protections in this state so that we can confidently back the projects that need to happen without making untenable compromises on our environment.

Often, we see conversations framed around deregulation and 'green' or 'red' tape. What is missing from the conversation is a true account of the crisis nature is in, in this state. The Pilbara, one of the most prosperous regions in the country, has not been developed without a cost. Alcoa's impact on our Northern Jarrah Forest is not acceptable when it supports so many precious flora and fauna, and is itself on the edge of being functionally extinct due to climate change. As a movement, we have worked to elevate our concerns for nature so that they could be accounted for in the planning of future projects in WA. In your media release dated 8 September 2025 it says:

"The Bill is a key response to discussions at the Trade and Economic Resilience roundtable convened by the Premier in May this year. It builds upon the government's recent commitment to establish a WA Productivity Commission, as well as the nation-leading planning and environmental approvals reforms delivered during the last term of government".

What we haven't seen is an environmental roundtable to have meaningful input from across the sector into crucial reforms. In fact, the reforms to nature in the last term were brought in without proper consultation and have had a negative impact on our natural environment.

In its current form, the government is handing extraordinary powers not only to itself, but to whatever future government might be in power. There are currently no guardrails, no limits, no requirements for merit or public consultation, and a significant bestowal of power into one ministry through this Bill.

We respectfully request that the Bill is withdrawn in its current form and there is proper, deep consultation with the environment movement to ensure the Bill has our considerations on the record. It would be preferable that the Bill is withdrawn entirely, and the problems in the legislation across the board are reviewed and tackled to ensure a robust and strong set of laws in WA. Given the broad support for the underlying idea from the parliament, not the people, we would like some meaningful consultation.

We, the undersigned, look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Roberts | Executive Director Conservation Council of WA

Dr Richard Yin	Conservation Council of WA
Tim Frodsham	Appropriate Technology International
Angela Rossen	Artist and Biodiversity Educator
Serena Fletcher	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Eddy Wajon	Australian Native Plants Society Australia
Craig Sisson	Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre
Louis De Villiers	Citizens' Climate Lobby
Gavin Waugh	City of Melville Shadow Council
Sally Marsh	Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor Inc
Catherine Dixon	Dayton Residents Group
Bart Lebbing	Denmark Environment Centre Inc
Joe Dortch	Dortch Cuthbert
Tahnee Moore	Education
Rosanna Hindmarsh	Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group Inc
Brenda Wilkinson	EnviroBren
Andrew Kieran	Everything A.O.K
Susan Swain	Friends of Australian Rock Art
Ashe Murray	Friends of Coolbinia Bushland
Delia Hendrie	Friends of Lake Claremont
Leonie Stubbs	Friends of Paganoni Swamp
Lynn Deering	Friends of Woodbridge Bushlands
Steph B	Green Skills Inc
Robert Cass	Jacaranda Hill Farm
James Garbutt	James Garbutt Massage Therapy
Vanessa Seebeck	Kanyana Wildlife
Megan Loneragan	Landcare WA & Blackwood Environment Society
Dr Carole Peters	Margaret River Regional Environment Centre & WA Forest Alliance
Helen Clifton	Naturalist Club WA
Dr Ann Ward	Nature Conservation Margaret River Region
Bruce Derkenne	Peel Environment Protection Alliance Inc
Dr Jean Foster	Salisbury Medical Group
Dr Robin Harvey	Save Burswood Park Alliance

Dr Stefan Eberhard	Save the Nullarbor Inc
Andrea O'Brien	South West Environment Centre Inc
Ian Porter	Sustainable Energy Now
Steve Gates	Sustainable Energy Now
Dr Judith Odgaard	Sustainable Population Australia
Margaret Matassa	Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group Inc
Reem El-Naji	Terra Rosa
Piper Rollins	The Australian Conservation Foundation
Alice Clark	The Wilderness Society
Alyx Douglas	The Wilderness Society
Nicholas Doyle	The Wilderness Society
Desrae Clarke	Toodyay Naturalists' Club Inc
Kate Herren	Trillion Trees
Dr Alison Ritchie	University of Western Australia
Christine Richardson	Urban Bushland Council WA Inc
Jo Bussell	Urban Revolution
Joy Chew	University of Western Australia
Jessica Boyce	WA Forest Alliance
Linda Silvester	WA Wildlife Opshop
Mary Gray OAM	Wildflower Society of WA & Urban Bushland Council WA Inc
Deborah Walker	Wildflower Society of WA and Birdlife Australia
Roger Harington	Wildflower Society of WA Inc
Dr Sally Knowles	Writing Away WA
Claire Brittain OAM	
Assoc Prof Jonathan W Marshall	
Dr Catherine Spaggiari	
Dr Craig Chappelle	
Dr Eileen Whitehead	
Dr Gregory Taylor	
Dr Jane Hutchison	
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