

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman

Dear Mr Swinbourn and Committee Members

Re Petition 004

Ref WAPC 50-145-HV SP 71 Lots 2, 3+6 Helena Valley Road Helena Valley.

On behalf of Save the Wetlands and Lake Committee in Helena Valley, I Susan McCann represent the "884" residents and concerned citizens of Helena Valley and surrounding areas.

The Mundaring Shire, DPaW and 77 submissions from local residents all fully supported the lake and wetlands be retained.

The Previous Government's planning decision for Plan SP 71 totally ignored their own Liveable Neighbourhood Policy e.g. "To protect and conserve water bodies and wetlands adjacent to urban developments".

Concerns should also be raised with housing estates and expansion, this should not be the reason for savaging our wildlife and flora for settlement. We have had enough destruction by our forefathers, the precious resources that are left we need to protect for our countries future generations. I hope this brings out a discussion with the Environment Protection Authority.

With regards to flora and fauna, the WA State Government Parks & Wildlife have specific regulations over the management of such wetlands and the animals that live within.

I would like to draw your attention to document "Protecting Our Wetlands" issued by DEC. This document states how we must protect Wetlands. By allowing this development they would be going against the very principles of the WA Government Environment Policy which prohibits the non-essential clearing of native vegetation and habitat of native animals.

<http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities>

We are totally opposed to the Wetlands and Lake in Carabeen Avenue Helena Valley, being filled in for residential housing. These wetlands and lake have been here for many years and provide their own wonderful eco system. It has a thriving wildlife breeding habitat, many varieties of birds, ducks, long neck turtle and other of wildlife species.

In 1981 the land owner filled in most of these valuable wetlands, only this little area remains. What must be taken into account and considered is the wildlife, they are the inhabitants, their areas of marsh and water whether natural, artificial, permanent or temporary with water that is static or flowing is of great significance in a supporting role for multiple plants and animal species. Biologically they play a key role in continued survival of the species, ecosystems and ecological function of wetland properties.

Our Community has a keen awareness and appreciation for our wetlands and the many great values they provide to the Earth.

274 mature Eucalypt trees will also be destroyed. Trees play a vital part in providing habitats for native birds, coolness and also act as a buffer against the contamination and pollution that lies beyond, areas that the land owner filled in with contaminated land fill, that can never be built on as it is geologically unstable

The residents want your Committee Members to know the benefits to our community and the significant role the wetlands and lake play, in both indigenous and non-indigenous cultures, it is highly valued as spiritual place, a source for relaxation, peace, tranquillity and recreation.

To save the lake and wetlands the developer only needs to delete "5-6 housing blocks" out of the 77 proposed subdivision lots

This plea is to shed light on how important this wildlife lake is to our community. There has been talk of wildlife relocation, this is not feasible as most of the wildlife will face imminent death.

I have personally spoken to hundreds of local residents and give you my personal oath, that every word is true and correct. Yes I have taken up this complaint with the Ombudsman.

Sincerely

Susan McCann
Save the Wetlands and Lake Convenor.

<http://chevie350.wix.com/helena-valley>

