



## Giz Watson MLC

BSc (Environmental Science)

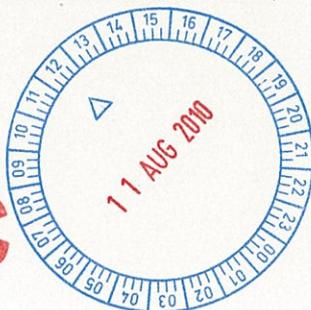
Member for North Metropolitan Region

### Electorate Office

339 Oxford Street  
Leederville WA 6007

Telephone	(08) 9201 0582
Facsimile	(08) 9201 0583
Parliament House	(08) 9222 7222
Email	<a href="mailto:giz.watson@mp.wa.gov.au">giz.watson@mp.wa.gov.au</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.giz-watson.net">www.giz-watson.net</a>

**PUBLIC**



Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Omar

### **Petition No 81 (Preservation of Warrup Forest Block) - Request for Committee to Inquire**

I refer to the Chairman's letter to me dated 30 June 2010. I confirm that I was overseas and therefore unaware of it until my return from leave on 9 August 2010. I ask therefore that my written submission be accepted out of time. I ask the Committee to inquire into this petition and my 2 page submission in support of that request follows.

The Warrup Forest Block is about 25 kilometres south east of Bridgetown and about 30 kilometres north east of Manjimup in the Greater Kingston forest region, which is predominantly jarrah-marri forest. It is regionally significant, locally significant and nationally significant for its rare, endemic and threatened species, especially small mammals.

Warrup contains the last intact, extensive and unreserved high conservation value forest in the Greater Kingston region. Warrup landscapes retain old-growth characteristics of old trees with hollows, mature understorey and little evidence of disturbance. This is because the area has experienced logging only once, between the 1940s and 1960s, and that logging was light and selective so that only the very best trees were removed. Today Warrup still contains very significant mature trees and is a magnificent area of forest. It is mixed old growth, high conservation value forest with significant old growth, particularly in western Warrup (the State forest side) and eastern Warrup (the national park). These forest forms have very high quality habitat for a diverse suite of vertebrates and invertebrates, particularly Gondwanan species, which are some of the very ancient invertebrates that we have in Western Australia.

Ten threatened species occur in Warrup and three of these - the woylie, the brush-tailed phascogale and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo - have had their threatened status increased since the present forest management plan, upon which the plan for logging is based, began in 2004. It is therefore particularly important to protect habitats that still contain these species.

The location and undisturbed nature of the unreserved forests across central Warrup provide a continuous, mature forest link between the high habitat value old-growth areas in western and eastern Warrup. Warrup also provides an extremely valuable ecological

corridor for north-south and east-west movement and migration of animals and plants in the Greater Kingston region. Retention of this connectivity and linkage via mature habitat is critically important, especially for rare and endangered species. Climate change will intensify stresses on fauna and flora in the region. We are already seeing this in our forests. The impacts of climate change are becoming more and more apparent. Dramatically contracting rainfall will induce greater southward and westward fauna migration to moister habitat with preferred characteristics of diversity and maturity, which is evident in the existing high conservation value forests in central Warrup.

Warrup also has a cultural heritage legacy of many recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites, notable for an inland south west forest. Its mature, little-disturbed forest landscapes are still greatly valued by Nyoongah people today. Warrup's natural and cultural landscapes were classified by the National Trust of Australia in 1998. Warrup's many non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values include a significant surviving section of a timber tramway that operated from the 1940s with associated cultural relics. This has been nominated for the State Register of Heritage Places by the local community, which has shown significant social attachment to the Warrup region over many decades. Warrup also has significant European historic heritage values. There are very few surviving sections of these tramways.

Current intensive logging proposals in Warrup will effectively produce clear-felling over wide areas. This is scheduled to occur in the central and western Warrup in compartments 02, 06, 07 and 08 from 2000 to 2012. The area to be logged is 1 520 hectares of the last unreserved high conservation value forest in this block and in the Greater Kingston forest region. The size of that area is almost the equivalent of four Kings Parks. In compartment 06, high conservation value forest will be cleared right up to the boundary of old-growth areas. This will leave the old-growth areas isolated and exposed to adverse edge effects, eliminating the connectivity values the old growth shares with its presently bordering high conservation value forest and also diminishing in the long term habitat values in the old growth itself.

Yours sincerely

*G. Watson*

Giz Watson MLC  
Member for North Metropolitan Region

August 9 2010