



## WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

16 July 2021

Vienna Schnell  
Planning Department  
Shire of Chittering  
6177 Great Northern Highway  
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Dear Vienna,

**Re: Proposed Scheme Amendment No. 69 and Local Structure Plan Amendment  
Wildflower Ridge Estate (Lot 9002 Reserve Rd, Chittering)**

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia (WSWA) has reviewed the above proposed **Scheme Amendment No. 69** and the **Local Structure Plan Amendment** Wildflower Ridge Estate (Lot 9002 Reserve Rd, Chittering) **references** O21126759 PLN.SA.69, A11832. WSWA notes the larger area of woodland (lot 9001) contains Banksia woodland which is a declared Threatened Ecological Community under the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and development of that land requires approval from the Federal Minister for the Environment, as well as a Clearing Permit required under the State Environmental Protection Act. It appears from the contents of the Structure Plan that Council is aware of that requirement. WSWA is concerned that remnant bushland in the Shire of Chittering is being planned for development at a time when the amount of bushland locally and within the South-West of Western Australia is being depleted and species lost at a rate that is not sustainable.

Whilst we are pleased to see that the Shire of Chittering has a **Local Biodiversity Strategy** that highlights that **'The Shire of Chittering is located in the internationally recognised South West Australia biodiversity hotspot, an area identified for its exceptional species diversity under threat from human disturbance' (Myers *et al*, 2000) p.9/14)**. The Strategy steps out ways to **"Keeping the Balance"** by **formally protecting the natural areas within the Shire and that it should occur in a timely manner**. The greatest threat to biodiversity in the Shire of Chittering is sub-divisional development or other types of development that require clearing of native vegetation. This threat can largely be controlled by careful planning. Consideration must be given for future development to occur on previously cleared land.' **(Chittering Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy p.6)**

In addition to the Banksia Woodland TEC, the recent discovery of a declared rare flora in close proximity to the proposal and report to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions, Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority, Chittering Landcare Centre and ourselves at WSWA, it is of utmost importance to retain the remaining bushland in this area and protect it to preserve biodiversity of both flora and fauna in a biodiversity hotspot.

We urge the council to assess this proposal with their Biodiversity Strategy and State and Federal biodiversity conservation legislation and objectives in mind with the view to conserving the natural environment of the Shire for future generations and pursue its development objectives in areas of

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cleared land that can be utilised for that purpose. The retention of the natural heritage of the Shire of Chittering will be of great socio-economic and health value to the present and future residents of the Shire as well as providing an attraction for visitors to the area to appreciate in the future.

WSWA would encourage the modification of the Proposed Scheme Amendment No. 69 and Local Structure Plan Amendment for the Wildflower Ridge Estate (Lot 9002 Reserve Rd, Chittering) to excise the bushland areas from the development envelope and include them in a reserve for conservation purposes.

Yours Faithfully



<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>

Cc: Hon Shane Love MLA, Hon Martin Aldridge, Hon Melissa Price MP, Hon Amber Jade Sanderson, CEO Shire of Chittering, Cr Kylie Hughes, Cr Mark Campbell, Cr Mary Angus, Cr John Curtis, Cr Rebecca Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Peter Osborn, Cr Carmel Ross, Mrs Rosanna Hindmarsh.