

## **Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group**

To Whom it may concern,

RE: EP ACT DISCUSSION PAPER

I write on behalf of the Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group. Like many community groups working on the ground to protect remnant natural areas on the Swan Coastal Plain and across the state of Western Australia, the prospect of a reformed and modernised Environmental Protection Act could not be more welcomed.

The Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group wishes to endorse the submission made by the Urban Bushland Council on the Discussion Paper. The points and recommendations to strengthen the Act are most valid. As a member group we are fully aware of the UBC's important advocacy for membership groups working to protect the environment. It is frustrating to learn that the appeals process for environmental justice is failing us time and time again. If there are hearings through tribunals or courts operating in other states around the country, then why doesn't WA apply the same process? We strongly support greater transparency and independent reviews as well as the recommendation for the EPA to provide regular State of the Environment reports to be tabled in Parliament including a Ministerial response.

The unprecedented devastation witnessed on the eastern seaboard and in the southern region of WA, highlights the importance of reform for much greater protection for the environment, including specific legislation to address climate change. The next step is then to provide the resources to ensure that programs are acted on in the interests of environmental protection in this state.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Shaw

President

FOAPBG