

Government plans to destroys more Priority 1 water resource and wants to house 293Ha of Whiteman Park

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan announced on Sunday 1st April 2007 that she intends to increase the size of Whiteman Park – a good news story. The deception is that she has taken almost 300Ha of Whiteman Park Priority one water resource and intends to sell it for housing.

Whiteman Park is not protected as an A Class reserve as many might think. The State Planning Commission owns the land and will slowly carve it up for housing as has been announced by the Minister.



The land that has been added to Whiteman Park is already Priority 1 water resource so for the government to add it to the park is being dishonest in an attempt to hide the massive loss of 293Ha or nearly a third of the existing parkland to housing.

Rod Henderson has referred to the move as vandalism to our most precious asset, water. Whiteman Park was bought by the state government to be retained for its water to quench the thirst of a large proportion of Perth.

The state says that the some of the money from the sale of land will be used to further develop Whiteman Park. The only reason the park exists today is because of the water underneath it. Some of the original owners will be angry at this irresponsible move to house much of Whiteman Park having been forced to sell their land for public use.

The Minister talks about the land being degraded so as to give the impression that it is of no value but does not refer to the massive amount of pristine water below the ground. There are many public uses that the land can be put to without wiping out the water yet the government can only see a massive profit from urbanising the parkland. The grasslands currently feed hundreds of kangaroo's, a great spectacle for tourists during the summer months.

When will the government wake up to the fact that water is a serious issue in this country and stop the rot of continual attacks on water resource land and our prized parklands for fat profits? How can the government place such little value on our water reserves when we have to use desalination plants to obtain water?

Upper House of Parliament stops Government by blocking the Bill.

Following months of work with community members and successful acceptance by the Liberal Party that Whiteman Park should not be cut up for urbanisation, the Labor government was defeated in the Upper House of Parliament.

Rod Henderson said that it was a victory for the community and the plan should never have been considered. It would have netted the government many millions of dollars but community assets like Whiteman Park should never be plundered for short term gain. Rod wants to see the park protected so that future governments can not even consider doing this again.

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