



Peel Preservation Group Inc.

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PPG is a non-profit organisation devoted to the conservation of the natural environment in the Peel Region of Western Australia

Peel Preservation Group Inc.

CEO,
CITY OF MANDURAH
3 PEEL ST
MANDURAH 6210

3rd OCTOBER 2017

Dear Sir,

RE: PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURES – UNMADE ROADS WITHIN
YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK.

The Peel Preservation Group (Inc.) is very much in favour of the City of Mandurah's proposal to close various unmade roads within the Yalgorup National Park. The relevant closures are a very sensible move to provide greater protection to one of the Peel Region's most important reserves.

There is enough appropriate access for those who wish to enjoy the National Park for legitimate reasons without the need for these various unmade roads to go ahead. Unregulated access roads in national parks are too often used for the wrong reasons, such as the dumping of household and garden waste, "bush bashing", or inappropriate access to coastal dunes leading to significant degradation.

Vehicular activity is also associated with the spread of disease such as dieback, and the accidental transportation of a whole range of potentially dangerous materials, both biological and chemical.

As a keen nature lover with a strong environmental ethos I was very impressed during a recent visit to Denali National Park in Alaska. Private vehicles are banned throughout most of this huge park, only being allowed to drive along the main dedicated access road to designated camping sites. The vast majority of tourists are escorted through the park on a fleet of buses run by park rangers. I was similarly impressed on a visit to the newly opened national parks on the Tibetan Plateau in Juizhaigou, Sichuan Province, China, where private vehicle access is totally banned, and a fleet of park shuttle buses now transports a huge volume of tourists in a regulated and sustainable manner.

Hence there is now an international recognition that unregulated private vehicles and national parks don't go well together. The local impetus to close unmade roads at Yalgorup is certainly a step in the right direction if we are serious about protecting our national parks.

Yours sincerely,
Melvyn Tuckey, Committee Member
Peel Preservation Group (Inc.)