

To the Hon. Donna Faragher, Minister for WA's Environment and Youth  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Minister

## Re: Protecting WA's amazing Great Western Woodlands

I would like to thank the Government for recognising the significance of the Great Western Woodlands and committing to work with all stakeholders to develop a biodiversity conservation strategy for the area.

However, a strategy alone will not protect the Great Western Woodlands.

I urge the Government to ensure:

- The upgrade of all Unallocated Crown Lands to tenures which better reflect and protect the area's outstanding conservation and heritage values while allowing for well regulated economic activity including sustainable tourism and mining;
- Secure adequate long term funding for science-based land management including protection from repeated large wildfires;
- The development of a substantial Great Western Woodlands Indigenous Rangers program.

These actions are urgently needed. The Great Western Woodlands is internationally recognised as the world's largest remaining intact temperate woodland. It is also very significant in terms of its biodiversity (with over 3,000 plant species!) and as a massive carbon store.

The Woodlands store the equivalent of twice the total annual greenhouse gas emissions produced by Australia. Protection and management of natural forest and woodland ecosystems is increasingly seen by scientists, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as a crucial part of our fight against dangerous climate change.

The Great Western Woodlands are currently under threat from large and frequent fires, feral animals, weeds and fragmentation due to **ad hoc** infrastructure development and resource extraction.

For these reasons the WA government has an unprecedented opportunity to establish a new benchmark of global importance in conservation and Indigenous outcomes - which also enhances the sustainable long term economic opportunities of the region. I urge you to take the actions outlined above to protect the extraordinary nature of the Great Western Woodlands for its people, its wildlife, and the planet.

Yours Sincerely

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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