From: Alan L Hill <alan.hill.wwes@bigpond.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 30 May 2013 2:35 PM

To: 'swan@swan.wa.gov.au'

Subject: City of Swan One City Diverse Places Draft Heritage Strategic Plan

Helena River Catchment Group

C/- 50 Girrawheen Drive

Gooseberry Hill WA 6076

Chief Executive Officer

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Midland WA 6936

Dear Sir

Thank you for your public invitation to comment on the draft of your Heritage Strategic Plan

For more than a decade the Helena River Catchment Group has been aware of and enjoyed celebrating

and protecting the catchment’s great Indigenous, natural and European heritage values, including key

areas in the City of Swan.

In your recent draft report the plan for the interpretation and protection of heritage and indeed

European heritage in Guildford and elsewhere across the City were greatly diminished because the

natural heritage of the area and the rich Indigenous heritage were, not only not fully or properly

acknowledged, but were unacceptably dismissed. Due to these fundamental omissions and the

misleading use of the title of the report, it has made content in the introduction and appendices of the

report and its proposals misleading and irresponsible at best.

The City of Swan is so lucky to be a fascinating focal point of the heritage of the State, but what will

continue to shape its history needs to be properly acknowledged. The City of Swan is what it is, because

it continued to be greatly influenced before and after 1829 by the meeting places of Perth’s totemic

clans and traditional Nyoongar campsites and tracks, including areas near the Swan River, Helena River,

Bellevue, Elder Creek, Perth airport, Bushmead, Red Hill, Walyunga, Lake Chandala Chittering,

Wannamal, Brockman River and Bailup. These areas still have very high State natural and cultural

heritage significance.

It is unconscionable for the Shire to prepare a strategy purporting to be a heritage strategic plan which

deliberately omits treatment of important areas subject to international, national and State obligations

to protect natural and Indigenous cultural heritage values. We suggest that this heritage strategic plan

needs to be consistent with Australia’s Burra Convention and Australia commitment to the Articles of

the UN (2007) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Helena River Catchment Group would instead hope the City’s future heritage strategic plan would

acknowledge and be more supportive of our voluntary heritage landscape protection works over more

than a decade, and more importantly be seeking to more appropriately celebrate Swan’s continuing

pivotal role as a focal point for National and State natural and cultural heritage. The continued heritage

value recognition and preferred long term protection in a linked regional parks including previously

State and Federal heritage listed natural and cultural values of Bellevue farm, Elder Brook, Kadina Brook

and Bushmead Rifle Range is a continuing concern for our group.

This draft plan needs to be improved to identify how the new local heritage strategic plan will better

assist Council and its town planning system, to work with the different state national and international

heritage institutions to continue to protect the City of Swan’s currently outstanding natural and

Indigenous cultural heritage values for future generations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on your report.

Alan L Hill

For Penny Hussey

Chairperson

Helena River Catchment Group