

Ms Jenny Goodburn
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Murchison
PO Box 61
MULLEWA WA 6630

Our Ref 14-740007
Enquiries Angela Coletti
Phone 6145 0806

Dear Ms Goodburn

DECISION UNDER SECTION 48A(1)(a)
Environmental Protection Act 1986

SCHEME AMENDMENT TITLE: Shire of Murchison - Local Planning Scheme
No. 1
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Shire of Murchison
DECISION: Scheme Amendment Not Assessed – Advice
Given (no appeals)

Thank you for referring the above scheme amendment to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

After consideration of the information provided by you, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) considers that the proposed scheme amendment should not be assessed under Part IV Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) but nevertheless provides the following advice and recommendations.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Environmental Factors

- Terrestrial Environmental Quality

2. Advice and recommendations regarding Environmental Factors

- **Terrestrial Environmental Quality**

The Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) notes that the Scheme proposes to zone all land except the two settlement areas for Pastoral uses.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife manages 344,302 ha of land (approximately 8% of the Shire of Murchison) including part of Toolonga Nature Reserve which extends within the Scheme boundaries.

The OEPA has been advised that four areas of former pastoral leases (Ex-Muggon, Ex- Wooleen, Ex-Woolgorong and Ex- Twin peaks) have purchased to be incorporated within the conservation reserve system. These areas are currently Unallocated Crown land managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The Local Planning Strategy's pastoral objectives are not considered to be compatible with the conservation objectives of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's managed lands.

Recommendations

The EPA recommends that:

- The Shire contact the Department of Park and Wildlife's Midwest Region to discuss the future status of the four areas of Unallocated Crown land.
- A Conservation reservation be added to the scheme and applied to the Toolonga Nature Reserve.
- The Local Planning Strategy identify actions to protect environmental assets within the Shire.
- The Scheme text and the Local Planning Strategy should be amended to recognise the environmental values and develop protection of these values within the Conservation reservation.
- The Shire review the draft Strategy and Scheme in reference to the report *A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002*.

3. General Advice

- For the purposes of Part IV of the EP Act, the scheme is defined as an assessed scheme. In relation to the implementation of the scheme, please note the requirements of Part IV Division 4 of the EP Act.
- There is no appeal right in respect of the EPA's decision on the level of assessment of scheme.
- A copy of this advice will be sent to the relevant authorities and will be available to the public on request.

Yours sincerely



Darren Foster
Director
Strategic Policy and Planning Division

9 June 2014