



Media Release

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WAs Environment Minister caves in to mining interests

- A parliamentary petition from Toodyay-based Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance (JCAFA) with 5,223 signatures has been rejected by Environment Minister Reece Whitby
- The Julimar petition calls for National Park status over a unique, high-conservation native forest north of Perth
- Toodyay locals are furious and have condemned Minister Whitby's yielding to mining interests and have vowed to keep fighting for protection

Toodyay campaign group, Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance (JCAFA) is deeply disappointed in the recent rejection of their petition calling for national park status over the 28,600ha Julimar State Forest 70km north east of Perth.

Spokesperson for the Julimar alliance, Sharon Richards, said "It's unbelievable that the environment minister has sided with the mining industry and has refused to protect one of WAs last remaining Jarrah/Wandoo forests north of Perth". Richards continues "Julimar state forest hosts a range of endangered native species including Chuditch and Woylies, and is the second largest breeding ground for the endangered Carnaby Cockatoos in WA, it seriously deserves formal protection".

Minister Whitby has replied to the petition stating that mining tenements in the forest will take precedence over conservation despite his acknowledgement that Julimar supports significant conservation, Aboriginal cultural heritage and recreation values. Minister Whitby also states that Julimar is reserved as a State Forest and the area has had no timber harvesting activities since the mid-1970s and has been managed for conservation for many decades, despite the category of State Forest offering no formal protection. The Julimar group contests this claim stating that the area is under serious pressure due to its proximity to Perth making it a highly visited recreation area that needs better management to ensure it retains its immense biodiversity values. 613 hectares of old-growth forest (Jarrah and Wandoo) have been mapped within Julimar.

The WA Forest Alliance (WAFA) has also slammed Minister Whitby's decision. WAFA senior campaigner, Jason Fowler, said "Despite Julimar forest ticking all the boxes for conservation status and being proposed as a Conservation Park since 1994, Minister Whitby omits this fact from his response, ignoring his own department's Forest Management Plan and capitulating to mining interests". Fowler goes on "There is a serious risk that the Cook government's commitment to finally implement over 200,000ha of already proposed protected areas like Julimar will fail". In addition, the WA Government is committed to creating 400,000ha of new conservation areas in the southwest.

To view the petition see [here](#)

To view the petition response see [here](#)

To view the detailed petition submission see [here](#)

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