

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



26 August 2024

S Richards  
Principal petitioner  
TOODYAY WA  
6566

By email: [julimarforest@gmail.com](mailto:julimarforest@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Richards

**Petition No. 120-Julimar Forest becoming a National Park (e-petition; TP 2973)**

**Petition No. 120-PETITION IN RELATION TO THE FORMATION OF A JUUMAR NATIONAL PARK (paper petition; TP 3258)**

I refer to the above petition which was tabled by the Hon Darren West MLC in the Legislative Council on 27 February 2024 and 19 June 2024. They were, as you know, referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee).

As part of its preliminary inquiries into the terms of the petitions the Committee wrote to the Minister for Environment. A copy of their response is enclosed.

From this response, the Committee understands that while the Government does not support the formation of a Julimar National Park as a whole, several mechanisms are in place which offer similar protections for Julimar State Forest that a National or State Park allocation would provide. Following consideration of this response, the Committee decided on 14 August 2024 not to conduct any further inquiries into this matter and to finalise its consideration of the petition

Copies of documents in relation to the petition are available on Parliament's website at: [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au) » Get involved » Petitions.

The Committee thanks you and your fellow petitioners for bringing your concerns to the attention of the Parliament. If you have any queries, please contact Daniel Hawkett, Research Officer, on 9222 7258 or email [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Hon Peter Foster MLC**  
Chair

Enc: *Letter from the Minister for Environment, Hon Reece Whitby MLA, dated 18 June 2024*



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**Hon Reece Whitby MLA**  
**Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action**

Your Reference: A1080886

Our Reference: 79-15608

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Foster 

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2024 regarding Petition No. 120 – Julimar Forest becoming a national park.

In response to your request for comments on the terms of Petition No. 120 and the submission from the principal petitioner, I provide the following advice.

**Petition**

The terms of the petition are: *We the undersigned support the formation of a Julimar National Park to cover at least the area currently gazetted as the Julimar State Forest and known as the Julimar Conservation Park.*

In response to these terms there are some important points to consider:

- On 8 September 2021, the McGowan Government announced its decision to end large-scale commercial logging (timber harvesting) in native forests, building on the Gallop Government's 2001 commitment. This included the commitment for enhanced protection of native forest areas through additional conservation reserves.

- The *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033* (FMP) includes commitments to:
  - reservation of proposed conservation reserves as a priority;
  - reservation of an additional 400,000 hectares of State forest, timber reserves and *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) section 5(1)(h) reserves as nature reserves, national parks and conservation parks by 2033; and
  - consideration of the remainder of State forest areas for addition to the conservation reserve system.
- Julimar has been managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and its predecessors under the CALM Act for the protection of its significant flora, fauna, cultural heritage and landscape values since 1982. Due to its location, it is also subject to high public interest and recreational use.
- The petition calls for the entire area of 28,610 hectares of Julimar to become national park. This may not be achievable initially as State Agreement ML1SA granted to Alcoa under the *Alumina Refinery Agreement Act 1961* covers 7580 hectares of Julimar State forest. The State Agreement provides Alcoa with development rights and interests over the area.
- There are currently existing and pending exploration licences affecting Julimar targeting minerals used in battery manufacture and green hydrogen technology adoption.
- In 2023, the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) published File Notation Area (FNA) 17231, which covers the eastern portion of Julimar, to inform resource industry proponents that applications over this FNA will be subject to more stringent approval processes designed to maintain the integrity of those lands for future use as conservation reserves, conservation management or potential offsets.

In summary, Julimar Forest is a significant area for its, cultural and recreational values. However, any change in its reservation, including the boundary and tenure arrangements, will require stakeholder consultation and refinement processes.

### **Submission**

The petition included a submission that outlined the rationale for creating Julimar National Park. Some of the points raised are addressed below.

*National park status will protect the integrity of a sizable area of rich biodiversity and protect critical habitat for DBCA listed threatened and priority species.*

- DBCA notes that Julimar supports significant conservation, Aboriginal cultural heritage and recreation values. There are 613 hectares of old-growth forest (jarrah and wandoo) mapped in Julimar. While reserved as State forest, the area has had no timber harvesting activities since the mid-1970s and has been managed for conservation for many decades.

*Changing the status to national park will help meet national targets for areas under conservation reserves.*

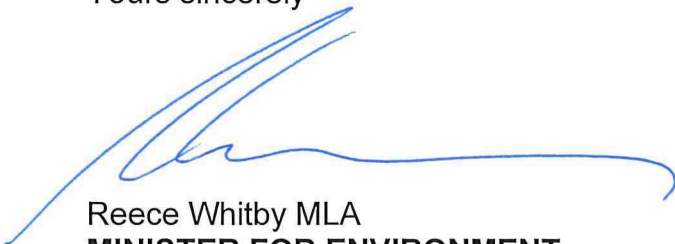
- Establishment and management of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) conservation reserve system provides a means of meeting the objectives and obligations of various national strategies and international conventions, including *Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009-2030*.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity has a target to conserve and effectively manage at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas in conservation reserves. A change of tenure to either national park, conservation park or nature reserve would contribute to national targets for a CAR reserve system.

*National park status will ensure appropriate management of multiple threats including the impact of the Gonneville Nickel-Copper-Platinum Group Element Project on wildlife corridors and the risk that mining on the boundary of the forest presents to forest ecosystems.*

- Chalice Mining Limited has a proposal for the development of the Gonneville deposit located on freehold land adjacent to Julimar. The proposal to mine the Gonneville deposit was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. On 16 April 2024, the EPA decided to formally assess the proposal as a Public Environmental Review (PER) with an eight-week public review period. Any concerns about the impact of the project on Julimar and surrounding areas will be considered through the PER.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Reece Whitby MLA  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

18 JUN 2024

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