



# MANDURAH NATURE TRAILS

## Plant a Tree for The Queen's Jubilee

### **PROJECT RATIONALE**

The Peel region hosts some of the most unique and diverse flora and fauna in Australia.

Two thirds of WA's flora are located in the South-West - over 5700 species, 2000 on the Swan Coastal Plain alone, of which about 80% are found nowhere else.

The Perth-Peel region is part of the South-West biodiversity hot-spot. Global biodiversity hotspots are where exceptional concentrations of endemic species (>1500 species of plants that are found nowhere else in the world) are undergoing exceptional loss of habitat (>70% cleared).

The Perth-Peel region is home to around 96 threatened species; 38 vulnerable, 30 endangered and 28 critically endangered and contains internationally significant RAMSAR listed wetlands including the Peel-Yalgorup System Wetlands south of Mandurah.

All of this incredible biodiversity is squeezed into an area less than 30% of its original extent and is highly fragmented due to rapid urbanisation in the Perth and Peel region. This fragmentation of the natural landscape is causing significant habitat loss in Mandurah and is endangering the area's unique biodiversity. Urbanisation is increasingly reducing the size of our remaining natural areas.

We have reserves, but they are not enough to sustain biodiversity, for the smaller the natural area, the less diversity it can support, especially in the long term.

These isolated protected natural areas act like islands. Each island is separate from each other and the biodiversity supported is only as much as the individual island can support.

To sustain biodiversity, native fauna need to be able to move between remaining sources of food and shelter to maintain healthy populations. Linking protected natural areas with nature-friendly pathways or trails increases their sustainability and provides the least risk to species moving across the hostile urban landscape.

Each connected natural area will cumulatively add to the total area, supporting a higher level of biodiversity.

This tree-planting project has multiple benefits, as the greening of our city is beneficial not only for biodiversity, but also for people.

Nature trails provide natural oases from the stresses of city life in close proximity to where we work and live.

Contact with nature has been scientifically proven to benefit our physical and mental health.