Why is it so hard to save urban bushland from destruction?
Let’s look at one battle as an example of many fought piece by piece, year after year, again and again across the metropolitan area.
The battle to protect Bush Forever 242 - the rich and rare Anstey – Keane Dampland.
Bush Forever 242

311 hectare oasis of heathland, dampland and banksia woodland surrounded by ever-encroaching housing and industrial development. The Anstey-Keane Dampland is the second most floristically diverse Bush Forever site on the Swan Coastal Plain and has more plant species than Kings Park. Its vegetation is in excellent to pristine condition. It is an area of high biological importance.

30 km south of the Perth CBD in the heart of semirural and semi-urban Forrestdale between Nicholson Road and Tonkin Highway and north of Armadale Road. Part of the Jandakot Regional Park.

381 plant species and important habitat for the quenda


WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT NEED TO PROTECT SITES LIKE THIS? LEGISLATION? POLICY? BUDGET? GOVERNMENT SUPPORT??

Well – we have all these – let’s look at them
And a host of legislative environmental protections of the EPBC Act (and local legislation) – TECs, RAMSAR wetlands, MNES etc
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Wetlands of international significance
Bush Forever is a comprehensive, world class plan for the protection of our unique biodiversity on the Swan Coastal Plain established in 2000 but not yet completed. Bush Forever is a comprehensive world class plan for protection of our unique biodiversity in the Perth region. It has three major components each of which is essential for retention of its overall biodiversity values:

• 287 Bush Forever Areas
• Significant ecological linkages
• Locally significant natural areas

You can find out all about Bush Forever on the UBC website. It is UBC’s key focus.
a budgetary mechanism to support this policy framework – the $400 Million Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund
UBC are currently advocating with WAPC (and relevant Minister) that they purchase the
government agencies to implement Bush Forever and manage the conservation estate –
WAPC, DBCA
BUT the loss of staff from DBCA over the last few years makes their role impossible to
deliver. DBCA needs to be properly resourced.
parts are still in private ownership – but there are funds in the MRIF
significant damage through illegal access - exacerbated by parts still being in private
ownership
the site is not managed as one -
State agencies regularly propose projects deleterious to environmental values. – Water
Corporation and the Balannup wastewater pipeline
This remarkable solitary native bee was discovered in December 2010 when the Museum’s Curator of Insects, Dr Terry Houston, and Museum volunteer, Mr Otto Mueller, went looking for a gazetted rare and endangered bee species in bushland at Forrestdale, only about 20 kilometres from Perth CBD. While scouring the bushland for that species a chance observation by Mr Mueller of an insect entering a hole in the ground led to discovery of the new species. This slide magnifies the unique animal diversity that must be saved but is on the brink of destruction.
They won a lengthy campaign to stop the proposed extension of Keane Road through the reserve.

Currently installing 1.5 kilometres of pipeline through Bush Forever site 342 following an existing track between Keane and Anstey Roads. Using the plough method as opposed to the more environmentally damaging open cut trench, the high-density polyethylene pipe will be installed at a depth of 1.2 metres. All we can hope for is that immediate and ongoing damage to the environment is kept to an absolute minimum: that extreme care is taken during installation, and that the spread of invasive weeds and Phytophthora dieback disease, resulting from soil disturbance, will be effectively controlled by the proponent.
And, in addition, escalating hoon activity is threatening Anstey-Keane. The perpetrators mainly enter the reserve through two privately owned and unfenced blocks (Lots 67 and 171) on Skeet Road. We believe that these two blocks should be acquired by the government without further delay. Once this is achieved, the installation of sturdy fencing and other permanent barriers could be carried out. Of course, we also need proper management of the reserve as a whole. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/campaign-to-save-anstey-keane-continues/
Rubbish dumping on land in private ownership
The Friends of Forrestdale Lake care. They have campaigned since 1990 to protect this rare jewel.
Bryony Fremlin and David James
It is terrible that volunteers have to repeatedly fight for the same piece of land against a continuous onslaught of threats.
The Minister for Planning can take steps to secure Anstey Keane Dampland from further damage. Buy those 2 lots still in private hands; manage as one piece of land. Spend MRIF funds

UBC meets regularly with the Minister for Environment but is rarely able to meet with the Minister for Planning or her staff.
AK would seem a perfect place to have an educational centre for this purpose; and a DBCA managed site lends it self as a centre for especially children education
IN CONCLUSION

• Conserving urban bushland for our grandchildren requires perseverance and resilience.
• We need stronger environmental laws.
• We need planning strategies for a growing population that do not sacrifice our biodiversity.
• We need a united voice to speak on behalf of our native flora and fauna through Friends’ groups or peak bodies such as the Urban Bushland Council.
• We must increase community awareness of environmental issues, continue advocacy and activism.
• Come along to a walk in Anstey-Keane 20 October.

Their efforts are played out again and again across the metropolitan area, in pockets of our last-remaining beautiful bushlands and wetlands. We have a community that deeply values its unique, rich and diverse natural heritage. The walk that FoF are organising for UBC members and supporters is on Sunday morning 20th October.