**Letter to the federal Minister for the Environment - Ms Tanya Plibersek**

Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au

I am writing to you, as the Federal Minister for the Environment, with grave concerns that I have over several issues that are related to the construction of the Southern Bunbury Outer Ring Road in Gelorup, WA.

Main Roads WA (MRWA), are proposing to recommence clearing in Category 1 Possum Habitat of the Gelorup Corridor, without an updated adequate, or scientifically proven Fauna Management Plan.

The farcical proposal by MRWA to passively shepherd the critically endangered Western Ringtail possum, was, in late 2022, a complete failure. Of 11 possums identified in a preclearing study, 10 had to be physically removed from the path of the bulldozers. The collaring of possums for monitoring and the clearing resulted in 6 possum deaths - with 2 joeys having to be euthanised.

As the Minister ultimately responsible for the protection and conservation of endangered species, you stated in your Press Club speech last year, that we must reverse the decline of extinction of our native species. Halting any further clearing in the category 1 areas of the Gelorup Corridor is a good place to start; followed by demanding from MRWA an updated Fauna Management Plan that will achieve the objective of reversing the extinction of our vulnerable native species.

My second issue with the imminent clearing of the Gelorup Corridor Category 1 bushland by MRWA is the lack of approved Offsets Management plan.

 MRWA have been unable to obtain sufficient like for like offsets and so propose that the replanting of saplings is sufficient. Western ringtails and the 3 species of black cockatoo which inhabit the Gelorup Corridor, need habitat NOW to prevent extinction - not in 30+ years.

Please Minister- DO YOUR JOB and protect our environment. Halt all remaining Category 1 clearing in the Southern BORR footprint.

Yours sincerely,