PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

SWALSC calls on Premier to immediately halt clearing of land for Roe8

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, on behalf of the working party of the Whadjuk Registered Native Title claim group, calls on the Western Australian government to put an immediate halt to land clearing works associated with the Roe 8 project.

This area around Coolbellup (North Lake) and Walliabup (Bibra Lake) has strong historical, cultural and environmental significance to the Noongar people.

SWALSC, on behalf of the working party of the Whadjuk Registered Native Title claim group, remains strongly opposed to the Roe 8 project.

SWALSC has made a submission to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment under s.10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Heritage Protection Act seeking the Minister to intervene to protect the Noongar cultural heritage of the area.

The Commonwealth Minister is yet to make a final decision about whether or not to intervene in the project, but clearing is already underway.

For the Western Australian State government to continue to clear the land before Commonwealth Minister for the Environment has responded to the submission is disrespectful to the process and the concerns of the Noongar people of the Whadjuk Registered Native Title claim group.

SWALSC calls on Premier Barnett to immediately halt the destruction of this area of deep cultural significance to Noongar people while the Commonwealth Minister considers SWALSC’s submission.

With the State Election only weeks away, SWALSC separately and additionally calls on Premier Barnett to immediately halt the destruction of this area until Western Australians have had their say about the future of the State and this project at the upcoming election.

To continue to destroy of an area of deep cultural significance to Noongar people ahead of an election outcome which may result in the project being abandoned by an incoming McGowan Government, is unnecessary.

For further media comment, please contact Jai Wilson on 0427 690 053.

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council