



“Minimba”

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RE: Water Treatment Plant
Mundaring Weir

Greetings Irene,

I have walked the DEC and Firewood Rd [O'Connor] sites regarding the location of the Water Treatment Plant, and the following are my comments.

1. I cannot reconcile the Water Corporation's map of the Firewood Rd Vegetation Condition GHD of 10 May 2007, with the facts on the ground. The track area, running SE-NW through the site is marked on the map as "Good-Very Good". It is not so. It is a cap rock area, with very few native Eucalypts, very little ground cover, and almost no litter. Almost 90% of the area is open, with little, if any, shade. Yet it is marked as "Good to Very Good".
2. On the same map, it marks the western and south-western sections as "Very Good to Excellent". This is also not so. There are a few mature Eucalypts in those zones, understory is sparse to average, shade is about 25%, and there is sparse litter. Yet the area is marked "Very Good to Excellent".
3. The Water Corporation's Treatment Plant Layout for Firewood Road [O'Connor] Site, places the Treatment Plant and drying ponds 250m [on average] from Mundaring Weir Road. This layout is placed over the so-called "Good to Very Good" land. Simply by relocating the drying ponds closer to Mundaring Weir Road, and bringing the Treatment Plant 200m due west, the "Good to Very Good" area is untouched.
4. Because the existing pipe line and power lines both pass along the western boundary of this reserve, minimal connection costs would be involved. By locating the necessary power substation on this same site, would also reduce costs.

Hoping these comments help,

Eric McCrum 13 May 2010

Eric McCrum OAM