

Yalukit Willam Nature Association

Statement on nest box alteration works

18 April 2026

Beginning on the week of the 11th of March council contractors undertook nest box alteration works within the nature reserve.

We were informed by council officers at the time that occupied boxes would be left in place and that they would not be moved until a later date in order to minimise risk to wildlife. We were also very explicitly told by council officers that no nest box would be completely removed.

Unfortunately during the works neither of these assurances were adhered to. Boxes were moved regardless of occupancy status and seven nest boxes were removed entirely.

We recently received conflicting statements from council representatives about the wellbeing of wildlife in the nest boxes and we became very concerned that the nest box works may have had a severe impact on wildlife in the reserve.

Unfortunately, nest boxes that were occupied immediately prior to the work are now empty. After an assessment it was discovered that every box in the reserve that was altered is now empty. The boxes contained sugar gliders, ringtail possums, rainbow lorikeets, lorikeet chicks and the box on the dead tree in the middle of the reserve looked like it was about to be nested in by a pair of red-rumped parrots.

We were not adequately consulted prior to the nest box work and we feel very strongly that the work could have been conducted in a more sensitive and appropriate way if we were given the opportunity to provide input and were treated as equal partners in relation to nest-box and associated wildlife management.

Safety of nest boxes in the reserve:

There has been an accusation made that the nest boxes installed by the nature association are unsafe. We do not believe this to be the case. We have installed our nest boxes using best practice methods. Our President Gio has been installing nest boxes for over a decade and often runs courses on nest box construction and installation. We haven't been provided with any evidence that our boxes are unsafe and we welcome any constructive, evidence based criticism.

The decision not to include the association in decision making has again resulted in negative outcomes for the reserve and has caused a lot of stress for our members. We were distressed witnessing improper practice during the alteration works and we were distressed again to discover that the moved boxes are now all empty. The contractor lowered nest boxes to the ground without first checking for occupancy and a number of

boxes were poorly re-installed and had to be redone after we pointed out the significant safety risk that they posed.

We very much value and hope for a healthy relationship with Bayside City Council. The relationship needs to be based on a real and active partnership. We are making every effort to attempt to restore the relationship and we very much hope that in the future our contribution can be appreciated and our achievements mutually celebrated.

Thanks for all the support,

Yalukit Willam Nature Association Committee

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