



## KALAMUNDA MEN'S Shed Inc

*Proudly supported by the City of Kalamunda.*

ABN: 76 391 304 870

PO Box 1359 Kalamunda WA 6926  
secretary@kalamundamensshed.org.au

Rhonda Hardy,  
CEO, Kalamunda City  
Railway Rd,  
Kalamunda

Dear Rhonda,

### The Kalamunda Men's Shed and Non-Native Trees

As you know we have completed the round of grants that has enabled the build of a new workshop on the land. We have recently passed the asset to the City which is a great \$500,000 addition. However it has highlighted a growing problem we are encountering on the eastern boundary of the land. In particular the upward growth of Eucalyptus citriodor (Lemon Scented Gum). These trees have leapt upward and are now blocking some of the solar PV panels on the original workshop roof most of the morning, which of course, is when we use most power.

As part of the enhancement to the building we installed rechargeable batteries in an attempt to future proof the Kalamunda Men's Shed from ever upward power charges. The plan has been seriously thwarted by the shadows from the trees. As you can guess we have lots of opinions amongst our members for the solution to this problem but the more sensible seems to include:

- Removing the lemon scented gums, which are not native to WA
- Pruning the tops off the gum trees to allow light to the panels

The first solution has the advantage of solving the problem and is accompanied by the suggestion an alternative planting of a selection of local plants that would provide a "hedge" along the boundary, but not interfere with the PV Cells. To this end our members have come up with a list of possible plantings:

- Casuarina Huegeliana (Rock Sheoak) up to 10m
- Acacia lateriticola
- Acacia oncinophyllia (Hooked Leaf Wattle) minni-richi bark up to 3m
- Acacia saligna (Orange Wattle) up to 6m
- Jacksonia stembergiana (Stinkwood) Up to 7m
- Viminaria juncea (Swishbush) up to 5m
- Callistemon phoeniceus (Lesser Bottlebrush) up to 6m
- Leptospermum erubescens (Roadside teatree) up to 3m
- Banksia sessilis (Parrot Bush) up to 5m
- Grevillia diversifolia (variable Leafed Gravillea) up to 4m
- Hakea petiolaris (Sea Urchin Hakea) up to 3m

The second suggestion is a stop gap as lemon scented gums grow from pruning and coppice freely which would bring the same problem again in a few years.

As part of the solution we are examining installing more panels on the western end of the workshop to increase our generation by a further 6Kwh. It seems likely this will cost us about \$10K.

I am aware that removal of trees in the City is a tricky business, but this suggestion would provide an opportunity to replace a non-native group of trees with genuine Darling Range trees and shrubs, as well as beautifying the boundary. I hope this proposal can receive approval and that Kalamunda Men's Shed can restore the hope of creating sufficient power to keep the show on the road.

I look forward in anticipation to your review of this suggestion,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John L. Baxter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

John Baxter  
Chairman  
23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020