

From: Stefan Eberhard <stefaneberhard@outlook.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2025 10:43 AM

To: Pash Tzaikos <pash.tzaikos@mirning.com.au>

Subject: Weebubbie Cave Management Plan

Dear Pash Tzaikos,

Re Weebubbie Cave Management Plan

I am writing to express my interest, and offer my expertise, in the development of a management plan for Weebubbie Cave.

I am very concerned for the future protection of Weebubbie Cave and its outstanding natural and cultural heritage values.

I have been visiting and researching Weebubbie Cave over 40 years and in that time, I have observed and documented (photos and video) gradual degradation and impacts to the cave.

In addition to its immense cultural heritage values Weebubbie Cave is of exceptional importance for its ecological values which includes three discrete ecological communities which qualify as Threatened Ecological Communities. The communities include a diverse community of blind cave invertebrates (beetles, spiders, cockroaches, centipedes, crustaceans), bats, swallows and dependent guano invertebrate community, and a globally unique communities of aquatic microorganisms – microbial mantles. Each of these communities are potentially impacted by people and divers if care is not taken to minimise disturbance when visiting the cave.

As a cave scientist / ecologist, speleologist and cave diver with more than 40 years professional research experience I have a strong interest and great respect for Nullarbor Mirning karst Country and its unique caves.

My Nullarbor consultation work includes projects, commissioned separately by the Western Australian and South Australian governments, which embrace cave and karst feature metrics, subterranean biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage values, environmental impacts, monitoring, and management.

I am an Honorary Associate with the Western Australian Museum, an Adjunct Affiliate at the University of New South Wales (Connected Waters Initiative Research Centre), founding Director of Subterranean Ecology Pty Ltd, and co-founder Save The Nullarbor Inc.

I would welcome an opportunity to contribute my professional expertise in cave ecology and cave management towards the development of a management plan for Weebubbie Cave.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Stefan Eberhard, PhD

Honorary Associate, Western Australian Museum

Adjunct Affiliate, University of New South Wales

Founding Director, Subterranean Ecology Pty Ltd

Co-founder Save The Nullarbor Inc.