



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien

Petition No 128 – Destruction of sensitive wetlands in Bayswater

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in relation to the above petition. I was pleased to table this petition on behalf of a local resident and I can advise the Committee that I have not referred these issues to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

As the petition states, the WA Planning Commission has approved works to commence on Lot 14 (Carter's Land) in the City of Bayswater, despite the local Council voting against development of this sensitive wetland. Pre-development works already underway have inflicted substantial damage to the area adjacent to the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary.

Numerous environmental experts, including 2016 Scientist of the Year Kingsley Dixon, Birdlife Australia, and a range of independent environmental consultants, have confirmed the environmental significance of these wetlands and expressed their concerns over development in the area. Carter's Land's dense foliage acts as an important refuge for endangered species, such as long-necked turtles and moaning foxes.

Furthermore, I have been informed that the environmental assessment report commissioned by the developers focused exclusively on adjacent Lots 6-10 (Skipper's Row) rather than Lot 14 (Carter's Land). This report appears to have formed the basis of the application for subdivision and development of both Skipper's Row and Carter's Land to the WA Planning Commission, which subsequently approved the project. It beggars belief that a report which did not even consider the unique area in question could be used as justification for its destruction.



It is unquestionably the case that current environmental conservation laws do not adequately protect urban wetlands such as Carter's Land, nor are the existing wetlands buffer guidelines sufficient to prevent loss of important habitats. Subdivisions such as Skipper's Row/Carter's Land must be properly assessed to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, and the recommendations of local government must be given adequate weight.

I respectfully suggest the Committee consider investigating the proposal arising from this petition as a significant proportion of the community are concerned because of the unique status of this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alanna Clohesy'.

Alanna Clohesy MLC

MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN

21 October 2016