

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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Committee to continue inquiry into petitions process

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs will continue its inquiry into the petitions process for the Western Australian Legislative Council. The Committee commenced the inquiry in June 2008 with the aim of streamlining the petitions process.

Considering that the Committee's inquiries into petitions assume a considerable part of its workload, the Committee resolved to inquire into the petition process for the Legislative Council to consider:

- a) the current practice and procedures for referring tabled petitions to a Committee
- b) the Committee's structure, operations, process and procedures
- c) community expectations of the petitions process
- d) electronic petitions (E-Petitions)

The Committee is interested in the current inquiry into electronic petitioning by the Standing Committee on Petitions in the House of Representatives in Canberra and the inquiry into the Public Petitions Process by the Public Petitions Committee in the Scottish Parliament. The Committee will be looking closely at both inquiries, including the option of holding joint meetings with each committee.

The Members conducting the inquiry are: Hon. Sheila Mills (Chair), Hon. Bruce Donaldson, Hon. Kate Doust, Hon. Paul Llewellyn and Hon Wendy Duncan MLCs.

The Committee reviews petitions that have been tabled by a member of the Legislative Council on behalf of a person or groups within the community. The Committee aims at providing a forum for public discussion on matters of community interest and to allow interested persons, or groups, to bring their concerns to the attention of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council of Western Australia is the only State House of Parliament that refers all petitions to a committee for inquiry. In many other jurisdictions petitions are simply recorded in *Hansard* and no further investigation is undertaken.

Hon Sheila Mills - Chair

Ends.

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