



MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN
BA LLB BJuris JP MLA

My ref: 029509

17 JUN 2003

Ms Mia Betjeman
Clerk Assistant
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Betjeman

**RESPONSE TO REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN RELATION TO THE PETITION
OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SEWERAGE PUMPING
STATION IN HESELTINE PARK, GLENLEIGH ROAD, BUSSELTON**

I refer to your letter dated 14 April 2003, under Legislative Council Standing Order 337 seeking a Government response to the above report tabled on 17 December 2002.

Recommendation 7 states:

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure should review the current planning policy in relation to the siting of waste water infrastructure in areas of public open space.

Response:

The Western Australian Planning Commission's policy relevant to this matter is Development Control Policy DC 2.3 in which clause 3.4 permits sewerage pumping stations to be constructed on public open space (POS) providing they are underground and blend in with the landscape to ensure the amenity of the POS and use by the public is not impaired.

As a general principle, the Commission considers the siting of underground pump stations within or adjacent to POS appropriate and desirable from the point of view of making best use of available urban land and locating pump stations away from residences. The Commission's policy however, does not negate the need for the Commission and local government to consider individual proposals on their merits and having regard to the particular circumstances of the case.

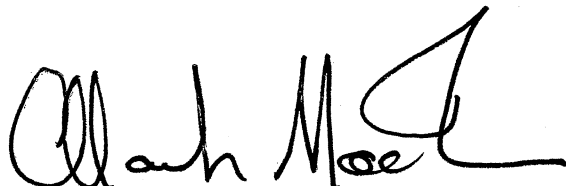
At its meeting held on 21 February 2003, the South West Region Planning Committee (a delegate of the Commission), considered a report on Commission policy in relation to the location of Water Corporation Infrastructure in POS reserves. This resulted from correspondence from the Hon Christine Sharp MLC, in relation to the above-mentioned proposal at Heseltine Park, Busselton and another at Erskine near Mandurah. The Committee resolved to endorse a reply to Dr Sharp.

The response to Dr Sharp explained Policy DC 3.4 in the above terms and also explained that the pump station proposed for Heseltine Park is above ground and would represent a departure from Commission policy. The response noted that in this case the pump station is required for sewerage infill works and an above ground structure is required for operational, maintenance and safety reasons.

The report to Committee noted Heseltine Park has an area of 1.49 ha (14,900 sq m) and largely consists of remnant bushland. The proposed pump station is 9.3 by 12.3 metres (114 sq m) and 4 metres high, and the Water Corporation advises it will pursue an application to excise a small portion of this reserve for the pump station with legal road access. It was noted that in addressing the aesthetics of the facility, the Water Corporation advises that it would pursue a site of least visual impact and would undertake a dense vegetation buffer to screen views of the 4 metre high facility. Clearing will be minimised for construction and access purposes.

Having regard to the above, I am satisfied that the Commission's current policy DC 3.4 is appropriate in relation to the siting of waste water infrastructure in areas of POS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alannah MacTiernan', written in a cursive style.

ALANNAH MacTIERNAN MLA
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE