



**THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**REPORT 15**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND**  
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

Presented by Hon Sheila Mills MLC (Chair)

March 2009

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### Date first appointed:

17 August 2005

### Terms of Reference:

The following is an extract from Schedule 1 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders:

#### **“1. Environment and Public Affairs Committee**

- 1.1 An *Environment and Public Affairs Committee* is established.
- 1.2 The Committee consists of 5 members.
- 1.3 The functions of the Committee are to inquire into and report on -
  - (a) any public or private policy, practice, scheme, arrangement, or project whose implementation, or intended implementation, within the limits of the State is affecting, or may affect, the environment;
  - (b) any bill referred by the House; and
  - (c) petitions.
- 1.4 The Committee, where relevant and appropriate, is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment.
- 1.5 The Committee may refer a petition to another committee where the subject matter of the petition is within the competence of that committee.
- 1.6 In this order “**environment**” has the meaning assigned to it under section 3(1), (2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.”

### Members as at the time of this report:

Hon Sheila Mills MLC (Chair)

Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC

Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC  
(Deputy Chairman)

Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC  
(until 21 October 2008).

Hon Kate Doust MLC

Hon Wendy Duncan MLC  
(from 5 November 2008)

### Staff as at the time of this report:

Linda Omar, Committee Clerk

Dr Vincent Cusack, Advisory Officer  
(General)

### Address:

Parliament House, Perth WA 6000, Telephone (08) 9222 7222

lcco@parliament.wa.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au>

ISBN 978-1-921243-85-1

## CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2	REPORTING PERIOD .....	1
3	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE .....	1
4	MEMBERSHIP .....	2
5	STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES .....	2
6	ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....	2
	Evolution towards Sustainability in Western Australia .....	4
	Conclusion .....	5
7	COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR PETITIONS RECEIVED IN 2008 .....	5
	Petitions.....	5
	The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations .....	5
8	PETITIONS FINALISED BY THE COMMITTEE BETWEEN 31 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 2008 .....	6
9	PETITIONS THAT LAPSED UPON PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT ON 7 AUGUST 2008 .....	7
10	REPORTS TABLED .....	9
	Special Reports .....	9
11	SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES.....	10
12	ONGOING PETITIONS OF INQUIRY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008.....	12
13	GENERAL COMMENTS .....	14



## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### ANNUAL REPORT 2008

---

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Prior to the Thirty-Sixth Parliament, it was the usual practice for the Governor, on advice from the Executive, to prorogue and reopen the Parliament once a year.<sup>1</sup> Reflecting this practice, parliamentary committees prepared 'sessional' reports for tabling in the Legislative Council on their work during that period.
- 1.2 In June 2003, the then State Government indicated that it did not intend to continue to ask the Governor to prorogue on an annual basis<sup>2</sup> and prorogation did not occur in August 2003 or August 2004 during the Thirty-Sixth Parliament. Since the Thirty-Seventh Parliament, parliamentary committees of the Legislative Council table annual reports relating to their work during the calendar year.

#### 2 REPORTING PERIOD

- 2.1 This report covers the period of activity by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (**Committee**) between 31 January 2008 and 4 December 2008 in the fourth and final year of the Thirty-Seventh Parliament and in the opening weeks of the Thirty-Eighth Parliament. While the report mainly covers the Committee's activities in the Thirty-Seventh Parliament, it is now being tabled in the first session of the Thirty-Eighth Parliament.

#### 3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The Committee was established on 17 August 2005 as part of a series of changes to the Legislative Council committee system.
- 3.2 The Committee's current terms of reference are published on the inside cover of this Report.
- 3.3 The functions of the Committee are to inquire into and report on: public and private policies, practices, schemes, arrangements or projects in Western Australia (**WA**) which affect or may affect the environment; any bill referred by the House; and petitions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hon Kim Chance MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Leader of the House, Western Australia, Legislative Council, *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)*, 25 June 2003, p9149.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p9150.

#### **4 MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 The current members of the Committee are Hon Sheila Mills MLC (Chair), Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC (Deputy Chairman), Hon Kate Doust MLC, Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC, and Hon Wendy Duncan MLC.
- 4.2 Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC was a Member of the former Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs from 28 June 2001 to 21 May 2005. Following her reappointment on 26 May 2005, Hon Robyn McSweeney has been a Member of this Committee until her resignation on 21 October 2008.
- 4.3 The Committee acknowledges the contribution Hon Robyn McSweeney has made to the Committee and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

#### **5 STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

- 5.1 The Legislative Council Committee Office supports the Committee. The Committee has been staffed by Dr Vincent Cusack, Advisory Officer (General), and Ms Linda Omar, Committee Clerk.
- 5.2 The Committee acknowledges Dr Cusack's contribution to the work of the Committee and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

#### **6 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1 The Committee's terms of reference provide that, where relevant, it is to assess the merit of matters or issues arising from an inquiry in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainable development and the minimisation of harm to the environment.
- 6.2 'Sustainable Development' has no universally accepted definition. It has over a number of decades been defined in many different ways. One of the most cited definitions stems from the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development *Our Common Future* (**the Brundtland Report**) which states:

*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*<sup>3</sup>

- 6.3 The Brundtland Report recognised that sustainable development means adopting lifestyles within the planet's ecological means. The Brundtland Report also made it clear that the world's current pattern of economic growth is not sustainable on ecological grounds and that a new type of development is required to meet foreseeable human needs.

---

<sup>3</sup> The World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1987, p43.

6.4 Australia has used a slightly different term namely Ecologically Sustainable Development (**ESD**). In 1990, the Commonwealth Government suggested the following definition for ESD in Australia:

*[U]sing, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.<sup>4</sup>*

6.5 Put simply, ESD is development that aims to meet the needs of Australians today, while conserving our ecosystems for the benefit of future generations. To do this, methods need to be developed for using those environmental resources which form the basis of the Australian economy in a way which maintains and, where possible, improves their range, variety and quality. At the same time resources need to be utilised to develop industry and generate employment. As such, ESD represents one of the greatest challenges facing Australia's governments, industry, business and the community now and in the future.

6.6 The Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (**National Strategy**)<sup>5</sup> evolved over several years and through extensive consultation with all levels of government, business, industry, academia, voluntary conservation organisations, community-based groups and individuals. The National Strategy's origins stem back to the release of the World Conservation Strategy in 1980, the National Conservation Strategy for Australia in 1983, and the 1987 Brundtland Report.

6.7 ESD is, according to the National Strategy, characterised by:

- consideration of the wider economic, social and environmental (**Triple Bottom Line**) implications of governmental and private actions;
- taking a long term rather than a short term view when assessing those actions;
- reduction of the likelihood of serious environmental impacts;
- reduction of divisive and damaging confrontations which have characterised some developments;
- improvements in the quality of our land, air and water; and
- the development of new environmentally friendly products and processes.

---

<sup>4</sup> Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Ecologically Sustainable Development: A Commonwealth Discussion Paper*, Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service, 1990.

<sup>5</sup> Ecologically Sustainable Development Steering Committee, *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development*, Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1992.

- 6.8 The ESD model of decision making under the National Strategy offers a method of minimising conflict at all levels. It has been adopted by governments, at least on paper, as the central plank of Australia's environmental management framework. The National Strategy sets out the Council of Australian Government's view of the potential of ESD:

*By developing this Strategy, we have demonstrated our belief that a co-ordinated approach to ESD is required ... The goal is development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.*<sup>6</sup>

### **Evolution towards Sustainability in Western Australia**

- 6.9 In late 2003, and after a lengthy consultation period, the then WA State Government launched its State Sustainability Strategy. That comprehensive report went beyond the earlier definitions of 'ESD', and 'mere' references to the triple bottom line approach, by focusing on the need to 'integrate' the environment, economic and social principles and outcomes.

- 6.10 In the WA State Sustainability Strategy, sustainability is defined as:

*[M]eeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.*<sup>7</sup>

- 6.11 A main concern with the earlier references to, and assessments of ESD in Australia, was that the 'triple bottom line' issues were often treated in isolation. The inherent failing with that approach was that even when the environmental, economic and social outcomes were listed, often, particular benefits were considered to have more merit or were given a 'higher' weighting than others.

- 6.12 To provide guidance for overcoming that problem, the WA Sustainability Strategy emphasised the need for all proposals to be assessed by considering the environmental, social and economic factors together to ensure that trade-offs are minimised.

- 6.13 In other words, the WA Sustainability Strategy provides the framework that enables private enterprise, the community and government to find 'net benefit' in all three areas.

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Government of Western Australia, *The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: a vision for quality of life in Western Australia*, Perth, September 2003, p24.

---



- 6.14 The Committee acknowledges the conceptual clarification contained in the WA State Sustainability Strategy and that Sustainability is the term used throughout the report.

### Conclusion

- 6.15 The Committee will continue to monitor the use of relevant terminology in environmental legislation, but has yet to identify a convincing argument for replacing the term ‘ecologically sustainable development’ in the Committee’s terms of reference.

## 7 COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR PETITIONS RECEIVED IN 2008

### Petitions

- 7.1 A function of the Committee, as provided by its term of reference 1.3(c), is to inquire into and report on petitions.
- 7.2 A petition is a request for action by the Legislative Council from a citizen or resident or a group of citizens or residents. The Committee considers petitions that have been tabled by a Member of the Legislative Council on behalf of a person or groups within the community.
- 7.3 When reviewing petitions, the Committee seeks to provide 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.
- 7.4 **The Western Australian Legislative Council is the only State House of Parliament in Australia that refers all petitions to a committee for inquiry and report.**<sup>8</sup> In many other jurisdictions petitions are simply recorded in *Hansard* and no further investigation is undertaken.

### *The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations*

- 7.5 Certain issues or matters raised in a petition may come under the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations’ (Ombudsman) jurisdiction as set out in the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> In Queensland, the Clerk of the Parliament sends petitions to the relevant Minister. The Minister may respond to the Clerk, who then tables the response, forwards a copy of the response to the tabling Member and publishes the response on the Parliament’s website. See <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/EPetitions%5FQLD/> (accessed on 4 February 2009). Petitions tabled in the Senate are “brought to the notice of the appropriate Senate Committee”; however, there is no requirement for those committees to inquire into or report back to the Senate on the petition. See <http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/pubs/guides/briefno21.htm> (accessed on 4 February 2009).

<sup>9</sup> Act No. 64 of 1971.

- 7.6 The Committee liaises regularly with the Ombudsman's office in recognition of the fact that a matter raised by a petition may have been previously considered or could currently be under consideration by that office.
- 7.7 The Committee has resolved to report regularly to the Parliament on the progress of petitions that stand referred to the Committee under Standing Order 134(i) of the *Standing Orders of the Legislative Council*. Please refer to the Committee's regular overview of petitions reports for more details.<sup>10</sup>
- 7.8 During 2008, the Committee inquired into 49 petitions, 21 of which were carried over from 2007. The Committee received 28 petitions during this reporting period, 18 of which were in the opening weeks of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The Committee finalised 19 petitions, 19 petitions lapsed when the Parliament was prorogued on 7 August 2008, and there were 18 petitions before the Committee at the end of December 2008.
- 7.9 Of those 18 petitions, seven were among the former lapsed petitions that were re-tabled in the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

## **8 PETITIONS FINALISED BY THE COMMITTEE BETWEEN 31 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 2008**

- 8.1 The following list of petitions were finalised by the Committee between 31 January and 31 December 2008:

Petition No 36 – South Cardup Landfill (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 65 – Wanneroo Road Upgrade (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 66 – Whitfords Road Reserves and Bus Services (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 68 – Multipurpose Taxies - People with Disabilities (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 78 – State Government Proposal to Amend the Prostitution Act 2000 (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 79 – Human Reproductive Technology Amendment Bill 2007 (Finalised on 20 February 2008).

Petition No 82 – Smoking Ban at Graylands (Finalised on 19 March 2008).

Petition No 86 – Real Estate and Business Agents Amendment Bill 2007 (Finalised on 20 March 2008).

---

<sup>10</sup> Western Australia, Legislative Council, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, Report 5, *Overview of Petitions*, 24 August 2006; Report 6, *Overview of Petitions*, 6 December 2006; and Report 10, *Overview of Petitions*, 27 September 2007; Report 12, *Overview of Petitions*, 20 March 2008.

Petition No 22 – Utilities Consumer Hardship (Finalised on 2 April 2008).

Petition No 75 – Legislation to Improve Cat Welfare (Finalised on 2 April 2008).

Petition No 81 – Teacher Supply and Salaries and Allowances (Finalised on 2 April 2008).

Petition No 88 – Prostitution Amendment Bill 2007 - Oppose (Finalised on 9 April 2008).

Petition No 73 – Allenswood and East Greenwood Primary Schools Proposed Amalgamation (Finalised on 9 April 2008).

Petition No 90 – Assaults Against Public Officers - Mandatory Imprisonment (Finalised on 9 April 2008).

Petition No 69 – Development of Foreshore Land in Busselton (Finalised on 14 May 2008).

Petition No 72 – Siting of a New Busselton Hospital (Finalised on 14 May 2008).

Petition No 94 – Shenton Park Bushland - University of Western Australia (Finalised on 4 June 2008).

Petition No 71 – Regarding Alcoa’s Compensation Arrangements (Finalised on 18 June 2008).

Petition No 77 – Relocation of Governor Stirling Senior High School (Finalised on 18 June 2008).

## **9 PETITIONS THAT LAPSED UPON PROROGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT ON 7 AUGUST 2008**

9.1 The following petitions were the subject of ongoing inquiries by the Committee which lapsed when the Parliament was prorogued on 7 August 2008:

Petition No 47 – Proposed High Voltage Transmission Lines - Muja to Wellstead. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 20 March 2007 [TP#2382].

Petition No 59 – Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’ Brien MLC on 26 June 2007 [TP#2835].

Petition No 63 – The Rezoning of A Class Reserve in Claremont. Petition tabled by Hon Peter Collier MLC on 28 August 2007 [TP#3023].

Petition No 64 – Western Power Transmission Lines - Narrikup. Petition tabled by Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC on 28 August 2007 [TP#3024].

- Petition No 76 – West Coast Demersal Scalefish Management Plan Metropolitan Fishing Zone. Petition tabled by Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC on 20 November 2007 [TP#3510].
- Petition No 80 – Western Power Eastern Terminal Substation. Petition tabled by Hon Helen Morton MLC on 4 December 2007 [TP#3574].
- Petition No 83 – Lead Exports Through Port of Fremantle. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’ Brien MLC on 19 February 2008 [TP#3640].
- Petition No 84 – Dalyellup Beach Estate - Remnant Bushland. Petition tabled by Hon Sally Talbot MLC on 26 February 2008 [TP#3694].
- Petition No 85 – Yalgorup National Park - Extension and Consolidation. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 17 June 2008 [TP#4073].
- Petition No 87 – Construction of Showrooms on Ewen Street Woodlands. Petition tabled by Hon George Cash MLC on 19 March 2008 [TP#3791].
- Petition No 89 – Shire of Augusta Margaret River - District Planning Scheme. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 1 April 2008 [TP#3832].
- Petition No 91 – Meat Industry - Shortage of Abattoir Capacity in WA. Petition tabled by Hon Brian Ellis MLC on 9 April 2008 [TP#3879].
- Petition No 92 – Subiaco China Green Site Development. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’ Brien MLC on 10 April 2008 [TP#3902].
- Petition No 93 – Design Scenarios for the Fremantle Harbours Policy. Petition tabled by Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC on 13 May 2008 [TP#3975].
- Petition No 95 – Emu Point Albany - Redevelopment. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 17 June 2008 [TP#4071].
- Petition No 96 – Busselton Hospital Site Recommendation. Petition tabled by Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC on 19 June 2008 [TP#4106].
- Petition No 97 – Proposed Upgrade of Millinup Road - Shire of Plantagenet. Petition tabled by Hon Matthew Benson-Lidholm MLC on 26 June 2008 [TP#4167].
- Petition No 98 – Proposed Dam on the Spots Brook Tributary of the Ferguson River. Petition tabled by Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC on 26 June 2008 [TP#4168].
- Petition No 99 – Requesting Increased Funding to the Social and Community Service Organisations. Petition tabled by Hon Sue Ellery MLC on 26 June 2008 [TP#4165].

---

**10     REPORTS TABLED**

10.1    During 2008, the Committee tabled the following four reports in the Legislative Council:

- Report 11: Annual Report 2007 (tabled on 27 February 2008).
- Report 12: Overview of Petitions Report (tabled on 20 March 2008).
- Report 13: A Petition on Consumer Utility Hardship in Western Australia (tabled on 10 April 2008).
- Report 14: Overview of Petitions Report (tabled on 4 December 2008).

*Special Reports*

10.2    On 5 June 2008, the Committee tabled a *Special Report - Resolution to Commence an Inquiry into the Petitions Process of the Western Australian Legislative Council*.<sup>11</sup> Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC, Deputy Chairman, informed the Legislative Council of the reason for the special report with the following:

*I am directed to present a special report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs advising that on 4 June 2008, the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the petitions process of the Western Australian Legislative Council with the following terms of reference:*

*(1) Clause 1.3(c) of the committee's terms of reference provides that it is the function of the committee to inquire into and report on petitions.*

*(2) Considering that the committee's inquiries into petitions assume a considerable part of its workload, the committee resolved to inquire into the petition process of the Legislative Council to consider;*

*(a) the current practice and procedures for referring tabled petitions to a committee;*

*(b) the committee structure, operations, process and procedures;*

*(c) community expectations of the petitions process;*

*(d) electronic petitions—e-petitions; and*

---

<sup>11</sup> See Western Australia, Legislative Council, Tabled Paper No 4061.

*(e) any other relevant matters related to the committee's effective inquiry into petitions.*<sup>12</sup>

10.3 The Committee intends to table its report on its inquiry into the Petitions Process before the winter recess in July 2009.

10.4 On 27 November 2008, the Committee tabled a *Special Report – Municipal Waste Management Inquiry Advice – Tabling*.<sup>13</sup> Hon Sheila Mills MLC, Chair, informed the Legislative Council of the reason for the special report with the following:

*Considering the ongoing community concerns about the odour emanating from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale (RRRC) the Committee resolves to use the issues surrounding the RRRC as an illustrative practical case study to conduct a broader inquiry into .*

*(1) Current municipal waste management practice and methods in Western Australia, and in particular.*

*(a) the function, effectiveness and efficiency of rural and metropolitan regional councils with respect to the management of waste; and*

*(b) the role of the Waste Authority under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 in municipal waste management.*

*(2) Resource recovery technologies; and*

*(3) Any other relevant matter.*<sup>14</sup>

10.5 The Committee intends to table its report on municipal waste management, in the Legislative Council, towards the end of 2009.

## **11 SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES**

11.1 Between 23 and 25 July 2008, all Committee Members and staff attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Public Works and Environment Committees of Australian

---

<sup>12</sup> Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC, Western Australia, Legislative Council, *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)*, 5 June 2008, p3528.

<sup>13</sup> See Western Australia, Legislative Council, Tabled Paper No 386.

<sup>14</sup> Hon Sheila Mills MLC, Western Australia, Legislative Council, *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)*, 27 November 2008, p562.

---

Parliaments 2008 in Sydney.<sup>15</sup> The total cost of attendance at the conference was \$29,010.

11.2 The overarching concept underpinning the conference was Sustainable Urbanisation and the focus was on three main themes. These were:

- Sustainable urban design and architecture within environmental planning and management in a way which improves living considerations and addresses issues of inequity and exclusion;
- How to achieve sustainable design in urban areas and how to plan for ‘smart growth’;
- Improved energy efficiency in buildings and clean energy technologies as a response to climate change.

11.3 The agenda is extracted below:

- Sustainable Public Infrastructure;
- Jurisdictional Committee Reports;
- Financing Public Infrastructure;
- Improving Energy Efficiency in Public and Private Buildings;
- Government Urban Planning Strategies;
- The Energy Challenges of Climate Change: and
- Field trips.

11.4 The morning of the day-long field trip was divided into two streams, with one set of site visits having a public works focus, and the other set, more of an environment focus. The Committee also divided into two in order to avail of both streams.

11.5 A majority of the Committee went on the environment stream and traveled to Penrith City Council and received a briefing about their sustainability programmes. They then examined the energy efficient renovations to the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, which is in close proximity to the Penrith City Council chambers.

11.6 The group then traveled to Penrith Lakes and took a tour of the largest quarry in Australia. The quarry is on a 2000 hectare site and it provides 55 per cent of the sand

---

<sup>15</sup> New South Wales, Legislative Assembly, Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change), Report 54/02, *Conference Report, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Public Works and Environment Committees of Australian Parliaments*, September, 2008.

and gravel used in Sydney. The site has a limited life and the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation is rehabilitating the site stage by stage for environmental, recreational and residential use.<sup>16</sup>

- 11.7 The Committee noted that Penrith Lakes is now a major aquatic recreation area in the Penrith Valley; is home to the Sydney International Regatta Centre; Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre; Penrith Whitewater Stadium; Simply Skydive and the Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre.
- 11.8 One Member and the Advisory Officer traveled with the public works group to Parramatta, where again the site visits were working examples of sound planning and policy outcomes that were based on integrating the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainability.
- 11.9 The public works group inspected the Parramatta Transport Interchange, which is the result of a complete redesign and upgrade of Parramatta Train Station, that includes an integrated bus interchange, and pedestrian connectivity to retail and entertainment facilities.
- 11.10 The group took a tour of the Justice Precinct which comprises four campus style buildings including a combination of Children and Trial Courts, Attorney Generals Department, Legal Administration and various community focused legal support services. The Justice Precinct building(s) is the first New South Wales Government building to have achieved the 5 Star Green Star office design rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.
- 11.11 The buildings incorporate energy-efficient measures such as rainwater harvesting, solar hot water, low energy consumption light fittings, solar shading and the use of chilled beam cooling technology. The latter completely eliminates the need for any form of air conditioning and as such provides significant energy savings.
- 11.12 The Justice Precinct site has a history that dates back over 200 years. Historical artefacts have been uncovered, interpreted, retained and incorporated into the new buildings and surrounds, to tell the story of the colonial heritage and the three convict hospitals.

## **12 ONGOING PETITIONS OF INQUIRY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

- 12.1 The following petitions were the subject of ongoing inquiries by the Committee:

Petition No 01 – Reintroduction of TransPerth Bus Route 155. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’Brien MLC on 11 November 2008 [TP#225].

---

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p10.



- 
- Petition No 02 – Exportation of Lead through Fremantle Port. Petition tabled by Hon Kate Doust MLC on 11 November 2008 [TP#226].
- Petition No 03 – Social and Community Services Organisations. Petition tabled by Hon Kate Doust MLC on 11 November 2008 [TP#227].
- Petition No 04 – Speed Zones Around Western Australian Schools. Petition tabled by Hon Ed Dermer MLC on 11 November 2008 [TP#228].
- Petition No 05 – ING Development Victoria Quay Fremantle. Petition tabled by Hon Paul Llewellyn MLC on 11 November 2007 [TP#295].
- Petition No 06 – Legal Aid Funding. Petition tabled by Hon Barbara Scott MLC on 11 November 2008 [TP#236].
- Petition No 07 – WA Biomass Pty Ltd Proposal. Petition tabled by Hon Barry House MLC on 12 November 2008 [TP#281].
- Petition No 08 – Maroon Bush Picking – Commercial Licenses. Petition tabled by Hon Brian Ellis MLC on 12 November 2008 [TP#282].
- Petition No 09 – Protection of Mature Trees on Public Land. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 12 November 2008 [TP#283].
- Petition No 10 – Shire of Augusta-Margaret River – District Planning Scheme. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 12 November 2008 [TP#284].
- Petition No 11 – Genetically Modified Food Free State. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 13 November 2008 [TP#305].
- Petition No 12 – Rezoning of A Class Reserve in Claremont. Petition tabled by Hon Peter Collier MLC on 25 November 2008 [TP#363].
- Petition No 13 – Meat Industry - Shortage of Abattoir Capacity in WA. Petition tabled by Hon Brian Ellis MLC on 25 November 2008 [TP#364].
- Petition No 14 – Yalgorup National Park. Petition tabled by Hon Sally Talbot MLC on 25 November 2008 [TP#365].
- Petition No 15 – Royal Perth Hospital – Retention. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’Brien MLC on 26 November 2008 [TP#371].
- Petition No 16 – Protect Kimberley Coast – LNG Processing Hub. Petition tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC on 26 November 2008 [TP#372].
- Petition No 17 – Regional Resource Recovery Centre – Canning Vale. Petition tabled by Hon Simon O’Brien MLC on 3 December 2008 [TP#409].
- Petition No 18 – Western Australian Electoral Commission. Petition tabled by Hon Ken Travers MLC on 9 December 2008 [TP#424].
-

Petition No 99 – Requesting Increased Funding to the Social and Community Service Organisations. Petition tabled by Hon Sue Ellery MLC on 26 June 2008 [TP#4165].

**13 GENERAL COMMENTS**

- 13.1 The Committee's work during 2008 occurred primarily in the first half of the year. The Committee was able to conclude its inquiry into the petition on Consumer Utility Hardship in Western Australia and table its report on 10 April 2008.
- 13.2 Because of the prorogation of the Parliament on 7 August 2008, the Committee was unable to complete its inquiries into Petition No 59 – the odour emanating from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale.
- 13.3 The Committee remained aware of the ongoing controversy involving the odour from the RRRC and commenced an own motion inquiry into municipal waste management in WA, on 26 November 2008, using the issues surrounding the RRRC as an illustrative practical case study. The Committee intends to table its report on municipal waste management, in the Legislative Council, towards the latter part of 2009.
- 13.4 The Committee considers that through the process of conducting its inquiries into petitions, matters are brought into sharper focus in the public arena, and that government responses and action often occur prior to the tabling and publication of reports containing findings and/or recommendations.
- 13.5 The Committee is continuing its two main inquiries referred to above and its inquiries into a number of petitions received. The Committee looks forward to continuing its work in 2009.



---

**Hon Sheila Mills MLC**  
**Chair**