



Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands

Our Ref: 72-07539
Your Ref: A654698 (Petition No 34)

Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
lcco@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourne

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS - PETITION NO. 34 - MRS AMENDMENT 1271/41 - LOT 59 WILKINS ROAD, KALAMUNDA

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2017 advising that the above petition was tabled in the Legislative Council and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee).

You advise that the Committee is undertaking preliminary enquiries and requests advice on the petition and submissions from the principal petitioner and tabling Member. In relation to the grievances, I respond as follows:

“We firmly believe that the Integrated Aged Care Facility planned for Wilkins Road should proceed, for it is desperately needed.”

I am aware that the provision of aged care facilities in Kalamunda remains an ongoing issue of significant importance to the local community. In this respect, and after careful consideration, the State Government concluded that the Wilkins Road site is not suitable for aged care accommodation as it is constrained by bushfire management requirements and there is a need to obtain Federal environmental approval. The site is also subject to unresolved native title issues. These factors would have required considerable time to overcome, meaning the site would not address the need for an aged care facility in the short-term.

In July 2017, I approved Local Planning Scheme Amendment No. 57 to the City of Kalamunda (City) Local Planning Scheme No. 3, which rezoned Lot 500 Gavour Road, Wattle Grove from “Special Rural” to “Special Use - Residential Aged Care”. The amendment was supported as it will facilitate the provision of an integrated aged care facility to be built in Wattle Grove.

I have also requested that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) investigate other locations within the City to determine suitability for the provision of aged care accommodation as a matter of priority.

“Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to recommend that the Minister reconsider her opposition and support this Amendment.”

On 9 October 2017 the Governor revoked her approval to MRS Amendment 1271/41 – Lot 59 Wilkins Road, Kalamunda. The Governor’s decision was gazetted on 13 October 2017. The MRS amendment process has concluded and the *Planning and Development Act 2005* does not provide the ability for an amendment to be reconsidered.

I can assure Mr Pember and the other petitioners that the provision of aged accommodation in the Perth Hills remains of strategic importance to this Government.

I appreciate the Committee raising this matter with me and trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rita Saffioti', written in a cursive style.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

19 JAN 2018