

Hon Kate Doust MLC

Member for South Metropolitan Region

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations; Commerce; Small Business; Trade; Electoral Affairs



6 October 2014

Hon Simon O'Brien
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837



Dear Simon

Petition No 60 – Ocean Gardens Retirement Village

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission in support the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village petition.

My understanding is that the residents of Ocean Village have presented their concerns about the operations and structure of the Board of Ocean Gardens Retirement Village to the Local Council and Mayor of Cambridge, their local MLC, Mr Sean L'Estrange, Consumer Protection and the Ombudsman but have not had an appropriate response to allay their concerns.

The two matters they would like the committee to inquire into is firstly whether the current makeup of the Board reflects the spirit of the *Ocean Gardens (Inc.) Act 2004* given the significant changes made to the nature of individuals selected for the Board and the gradual removal of the residents capacity to participate or have representation on the Board. This has led to the request in the petition to not repeal the *Ocean Gardens (Inc.) Act 2004* as it currently proposed in the Statutes (Repeals) Bill 2013 until the committee is satisfied that the current Board is operating appropriately and in compliance with the Act.

The second matter of concern to the residents which flows from the first is the manner by which decisions have been made by the Board about the proposed expansion of the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village. I do not believe the residents are opposed to the development on site per se, but more about how the decisions have been made without any real capacity for input by residents. They are opposed the current proposed location of the new development and I am sure they will articulate their concerns about location and potential disruptions to the village in their own submission.

The retirement village has had a colourful history of Board management and relations. The *Ocean Gardens (Inc.) Act 2004* was meant to resolve a range of problems at the time. The residents are of the view that ongoing changes to the constitution of the Board (but not the Act) are not in the best interest of the village nor within the purpose or spirit of the Legislation and ask the Environment and Public Affairs Committee to support an inquiry into matters outlined in the petition.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kate Doust MLC