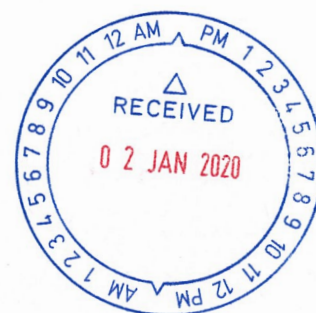


20 December 2019

Honourable Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
4 Harvest Tce  
West Perth WA 6005



**REF: Petition No. 140 – Royalties for Regions Environmental Project Allocation**

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to further explain my reasoning behind the Petition.

Having observed the trends of allocations for environmental works for both the private and government sectors become a lot more competitive for what would seem a diminishing dollar.

I have witnessed firsthand friends and work colleagues train in the environmental fields only to leave and retain in other more stable fields of employment. Recently I worked with a young man that could not get work in his chosen field of Environmental Science whom graduated with honours leave the industry to become a shelf stacker at Bunnings. Another work colleague who had been in the industry for 15 years leave and retrain as a Health Surveyor for local government because they could not find full time work within the industry.

To allocate 10% of Royalties for Regions funding would have many benefits for both the state's economy the environment and would lessen the intensity of bushfire within the affected areas. By allocating these funds you would improve the situation of the whole state. It would,

- boost the employment in regional centres which in turn would have the monies spent stay in the regions and improving the regional economy,
- also assist in the biosecurity of the state by combating weeds that have the ability of overcrowding and out competing our endemic species, which in turn drives the native animals away,
- lower the impact of wildfires as the thickets of introduced species burn hotter and faster than our native plants.
- Protect our native animals and plans from extinction as many of the introduced weeds alter the soil structure to suit their own growing requirements.

Recently Australia has seen the hottest start to summer on record, it is a well-known fact that planting trees will assist in storing carbon, they assist in the fight against wind and water erosion in our primary producing areas. Trees also assist in the lowering of the water table in salt affected areas.

With the threat of global warming and rising sea levels it will be plants and trees that assist in preventing coastal erosion.

I recently had the pleasure or displeasure of undertaking a roadside weed survey for the Shire of Plantagenet and within the Oyster Harbour Catchment area. As I cannot provide a copy of the report, I will summarise the findings.

Out of 490 kilometres of roads surveyed there were over 20 species of environmental weeds surveyed. With over 35% or more than 170 kilometres of roadside affected, multiply this by two as all roads have two sides which equates to over 340 kilometres affected. This result could similar over many different regions across the state.

I would be happy to provide a copy of the report as it was recently adopted by the Shire of Plantagenet at its ordinary council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, Item 9.2.1.

In summary having more available fund for our environment is not only economically beneficial it will benefit all mankind by improving our environment.

Yours Sincerely

Robbie Monck