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**Hon Reece Whitby MLA**  
**Minister for Emergency Services; Racing and Gaming;**  
**Small Business; Volunteering**

Our Reference: 79-01609

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
18-32 Parliament Place  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Foster

Thank you for your letter dated 5 August 2021 regarding *Petition No.014 – Moratorium on subdivision in bushfire prone areas*. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with information, which I trust will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) delivers advice as a referral agency to decision makers within the planning system and has no comment regarding a moratorium on subdivision approvals in bushfire prone areas.

I note *Petition No.014* refers to development within 'high' Bushfire Prone Areas. Bushfire Prone Areas are designated by the FES Commissioner, cover approximately 93% of the State and are identified in the *Map of Bushfire Prone Areas*. There is no distinction as to the level applied to a designated bushfire prone area. Therefore, if a moratorium was implemented, it could affect all areas of the State designated as bushfire prone.

I understand that *Petition No.014* cites bushfire issues associated with the North Stoneville Structure Plan. I am advised that the Structure Plan is currently undergoing mediation before the State Administrative Tribunal and I am unable to provide further comment in relation to this matter.

In regard to the matters raised in the *Petition* on an inquiry into the Wooroloo Bushfire, I can advise that the State Government has launched an independent review into the Wooroloo Bushfire. The inquiry will be led by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), which recently conducted an independent review into the Tasmanian bushfires. The inquiry panel includes a community member.

The independent inquiry will analyse information gathered during the first stage of the review of the Wooroloo Bushfire. It will examine a range of areas including the bushfire response, fuel management and mitigation activities and communications. I have enclosed the Terms of Reference for the Committee's perusal. The State Government will consider the findings of the review in the context of our commitment to the continuous improvement of emergency services across the State.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention. I trust my feedback will assist the Committee to evaluate the petition.

Yours sincerely



Reece Whitby MLA  
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

27 AUG 2021