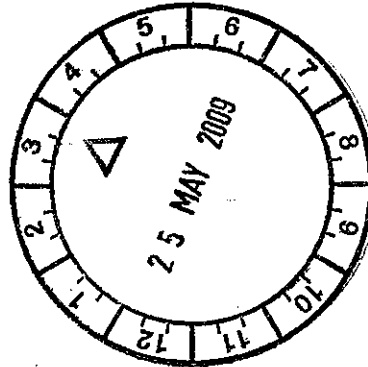


# FRAGYLE

**PUBLIC**



JN/HW084  
May 20 2009

Ms Amanda Gillingham  
Research Officer  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Amanda,

Further to our telephone conversation, I am delighted to hear that the Parliamentary Committee is pursuing their enquiries into our petition.

Since we tabled the petition there have been a number of events relating to FRAGYLE and the Yalgorup Lakes which you may or may not be aware of.

**January 2008** - FRAGYLE held an Information Forum at Preston Beach to which it invited decision makers: all Councillors from Waroona, Mandurah and Harvey Shires; WAPC, EPA, the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. 9 speakers covered topics including the limnology of the Lakes, the Tuart Response Group, the Thromoblite Recovery Team, the Ramsar Wetlands, Birds Australia, Heritage of the Yalgorup Plain and the Hydrology of the Lake system.

As a result of this Forum the EPA set up an audit of the area which they hope to have available for public comment in early May.

**October 2008** - the Chairman, Hilary Wheeler, was invited to present to the Peel Development Co-ordination Committee, the Advisory Committee to the WAPC on the Peel District. As a result of this presentation the WAPC decided that any development in the Preston Beach area would be limited to 1600 dwellings including those already in place. Any increase or decrease in that number would depend on the outcome of the EPA audit. FRAGYLE thanked the WAPC for their decision but expressed their concern regarding the effect on the Lake system should any further development take place. The WAPC informed FRAGYLE that the final decision on the number of dwellings would depend on the audit of the EPA.

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**October 2008** - FRAGYLE wrote to the Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and requested that the Federal Government purchase the land for the benefit of Australia under the National Reserve System.

The Hon Rachel Siewert, Federal Member for West Australia, The Hon Don Randall, Federal Member for Canning and David Templeman, former Minister of the Environment, also wrote to Minister Garrett with the same request in our support.

**December 2008** - Minister Garrett replied that under the NRS scheme the Federal Government would purchase two-thirds of the land but that a third partner would be required. FRAGYLE is presently seeking a third partner.

**13<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February** - FRAGYLE wrote to the Hon John Day, Minister for Planning requesting the Minister to purchase of land in the Yalgorup Lakes area and set up a fund similar to the Perth Metropolitan Scheme.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** - FRAGYLE wrote to the Chairman of the WAPC requesting that the WAPC declare the rural land between the lakes and the coast National Park and incorporate it into the Yalgorup National Park.

**March, 2009** - the EPA Board with their service team flew over the Yalgorup area and drove back from Bunbury to Mandurah stopping at Preston Beach from 12.30 pm – 2pm. FRAGYLE presented to the Board their concerns regarding the effect of any further development on the area and their belief that the best use of the area would be as an Ecological, Educational and Recreational Park for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people of West Australia and indeed the world.

Dr Vic Seminuik gave a presentation on the unique Heritage Values of the Yalgorup Lake System including the lakes and dune system, unique in the world, the thrombolite reef, unique in the southern hemisphere, the Tuart forest, the largest remaining stand in Australia.

**March 2009** - the Chairman of FRAGYLE met with Cameron Bulstrode of the Department of Planning at the request of the WAPC and discussed the Federal offer of purchase of land and the terms of the NRS.

**Currently** - FRAGYLE is writing to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Planning requesting that they assist FRAGYLE to set up an Advisory Committee with Government representation to carry out a Feasibility and Costing Study on the concept of an extended Yalgorup Park opened to the public with appropriate facilities for other interest groups such as Birds Australia, Bushland Societies, educational institutions and recreational groups.

With the new Mandurah by-pass road Perth would be one hour from the Park. Mandurah, Bunbury, Pinjarra, Waroona, Harvey, would be merely half an hour's drive away. An extended Park would provide a Recreational, Educational and interest area within easy reach of those towns. The health benefits for those living in the newly developed areas would be incalculable.

FRAGYLE would very much appreciate it if the Parliamentary Advisory Committee would support their request for this Committee with Government support and Government backing and recommend its instigation to the Government.

Thank you for your work on our behalf and your interest in our project.

Yours faithfully,



*per* **HILARY WHEATER**  
Chairman

Enc



Enquiries: Mr C Bulstrode  
Our Ref: 801-6-10-2 Vol 5

Ms H Wheeler  
Chair  
FRAGYLE  
PO Box 232  
WAROONA WA 6215

Dear Ms Wheeler

### **PRESTON BEACH TOWNSITE STRATEGY**

Thank you for your presentation to the Peel Region Planning Committee regarding the concerns FRAGYLE has in respect to possible future development proposals adjacent to the Yalgorup Lakes system. The committee appreciated the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you.

The committee came to a position in respect to Preston Beach, as expressed below in the draft minutes. I expect the draft minutes will be confirmed at the next committee meeting on 12 December 2008.

The Western Australian Planning Commission resolved:

1. Following consideration of the regional environmental, sustainability and planning issues relating to the expansion of the existing Preston Beach settlement, to adopt the following policy position concerning further urban development at Preston Beach.
  - a. The future population of Preston Beach will be limited, for the long term, by the constraints and assumptions in the Coastal and Lakelands Planning Strategy (WAPC, 1999) and the opportunities and constraints listed below, with the actual planned size of the settlement being determined through a strategic planning process which seeks the optimal outcome based on regional priorities.
  - b. Under the Coastal and Lakelands Planning Strategy (WAPC, 1999) urban development at Preston Beach, in the long term, is limited to a total number of dwellings, including existing dwellings, of 1600 dwellings. The effect of the opportunities and constraints listed below will determine whether this total size is increased or reduced.
  - c. The maximum size of the settlement will be that which achieves material improvements in the quality of surface and groundwater

local planning strategy to be finalised, as opposed to awaiting the final outcome of the Preston Beach townsite strategy project, which may take some time to complete.

4. To agree that a draft environmental policy statement for the coastal areas between Dawesville and Binningup will be prepared in parallel with the draft Preston Beach townsite strategy, principally by the EPA Service Unit, in conjunction with officers from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Department of Water and relevant local governments.

If you have any further enquires regarding the above please contact Mr Cameron Bulstrode at the Peel Region Planning Office on (08) 9586 4606.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Dawkins  
Chairman  
Western Australian Planning Commission

4 November 2008

# FRAGYLE

078 JW:HW  
January 13, 2009

Hon John Day,  
Minister for Planning  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Sir,

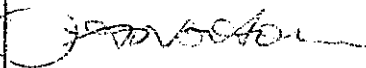
## NECESSITY FOR A PEEL/YALGORUP REGION IMPROVEMENT FUND

We, the members of FRAGYLE, Friends of Ramsar Action Group for the Yalgorup Lakes Environment, believe that the Government should buy back private lands in the Yalgorup Lakes area. We believe this land should be incorporated in the Yalgorup National Park to preserve this scientifically significant and globally unique area for all future generations.

In the Perth Region similar buy backs are facilitated by the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund and funded by a levy on land tax. We understand that this facility does not extend to Peel/Yalgorup although this location contains some of the most sensitive environmental areas in the South West of the State.

We would request that the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund be extended into the Peel/Yalgorup area or that a similar fund should be set up to facilitate the purchasing and preserving of scientifically and environmentally significant areas in and around the Peel/Yalgorup National Park.

Yours sincerely



**HILARY WHEATER**  
Chairman



**Minister for Planning; Culture & the Arts**  
**Government of Western Australia**

Our ref: 33-01644; 33-01863  
Your ref: 078 JW:HW

Ms Hilary Wheeler  
Chairman  
FRAGYLE  
PO Box 232  
WAROONA WA 6215

Dear Ms Wheeler

**NECESSITY FOR A PEEL/YALGORUP REGION IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Thank you for your letters of 13 January and 3 February 2009 regarding the purchase of land in the Yalgorup Lakes area and the establishment of a funding arrangement for such purchases similar to the Perth metropolitan area.

Firstly, in 2003 the Peel Region Scheme (PRS) was established similar to the scheme that applied since 1963 in the Perth metropolitan area. The preparation of the PRS identified land, both private and public for reservation for regional open space including the Peel regional park. Funding for the PRS is provided from annual appropriations from the Consolidated Account (CA), rather than a special land tax as applies in the Perth metropolitan area.

Since the PRS was established, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has purchased 1482ha of land for the scheme at a cost of \$44.8mil. Approximately \$17.7mil of that amount has been spent purchasing regional open space including land at locations such as Preston Beach to widen the coastal reserve, the Peel Inlet, Harvey Estuary, Austin Bay, Paganoni Swamp, Murray River and Erskine.

It is acknowledged that the current CA funding arrangements are subject to annual appropriations and therefore must be considered according to the priorities of the government and broader community expectations. The level of existing property taxes let alone the establishment of new taxes of the type you suggest are a concern to both the government and affected landowners with the government looking to see where these existing imposts might be reformed with an aim to reduce, rather than increase, current levels.

# FRAGYLE

JN/HW085  
May 20 2009

Hon John Day  
Minister for Planning: Culture & the Arts  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the purchase of land in the Yalgorup Lakes area and the establishment of a funding arrangement for such purchases similar to the Perth Metropolitan area.

I would like to request your support in the setting up of an Advisory Committee to undertake a Feasibility study on the cost of initiating an Ecological, Educational and Recreational Park at Yalgorup Lakes. FRAGYLE would take it upon itself to host and guide this committee but the members would value the participation and input from Government Departments. We would suggest a Committee comprising:

- Chair – FRAGYLE
- Vice-Chair – representative from the Department of Planning or the Department of the Environment
- Secretary – Representative from the Department of Planning or the Department of the Environment
- 2 Representatives from FRAGYLE
- A Representative from the Department of Water
- A representative from the Main Roads Department
- A representative from the Tourism Department
- A representative from the State Government
- A representative from the Federal Government
- 2 representatives from affiliated groups, Birds Australia, Bushwalkers Clubs, etc.
  
- 2 representatives from Community Groups such as Over 55 clubs, Young Mother's Clubs to be co-opted as required.
  
- Local Government, would, at this stage, be in a supporting and advisory role.

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At present a number of Ministers and their departments are involved in different aspects of this project and we feel they would function more efficiently with a Committee to co-ordinate their efforts. This Committee could act as a focal point for any queries and at the same time disseminate information to all Departments so that all those concerned are fully aware of what is happening and no time or money is wasted in duplication. FRAGYLE has the knowledge of the area, the interest in and the passion to steer this committee.

The findings of this Committee would, I feel sure, assist Federal, State and Local Governments in their decision-making as to the future use of this area, the cost of acquiring land to include in the National Park, the cost of development of the Park and the ongoing costs of maintenance and upkeep.

A representative from the Federal Government would give a direct link to the Federal Ministry of Water, Heritage and the Arts who has, of course, an interest in the area due to the Ramsar agreement and the consideration taking place at the moment, of classing the thrombolites of Lake Clifton as a Threatened Ecological Community under the EPBC Act.

We feel that the establishment of this committee is a very logical and necessary step in the process of assessment of the area and would very much appreciate your backup and support in setting it up.

Yours sincerely



*per* **HILARY WHEATER**  
Chairman

cc The Hon Donna Faragher, Minister for the Environment  
Mr Eric Lumsden, Acting Chairman, WAPC  
Dr Paul Vogel, Chairman, EPA

BC Amanda Gillingham, Parliament House.



## Minister for Environment; Youth

Your ref: 080 JW:HW  
Our ref: 40-00373/1

Ms Hilary Wheeler  
Chairman  
FRAGYLE  
PO Box 232  
WAROONA WA 6215

Dear Ms Wheeler

### PRESTON BEACH TOWNSITE STRATEGY – YALGORUP LAKES

I refer to your letter of 3 February 2009 enclosing a copy of your letter to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) concerning the Preston Beach Townsite Strategy.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is aware of the value of the area and development pressures and is embarking on a process for better strategic environmental planning. I understand that representatives from your group met with EPA representatives on 12 March 2009 during a field trip to the area to discuss many of the issues you outlined in your letter to the WAPC. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has also commenced the process of revising the Yalgorup National Park Management Plan in light of the increasing development pressures in the area. Both of these planning processes will provide an opportunity for consideration of FRAGYLE's recommendations for the future of the Yalgorup Lakes.

Should you wish to discuss either process in more detail, I invite you to contact DEC's Swan Coastal District Manager, Mr Mike Meinema on 9405 0700.

Yours sincerely

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; YOUTH**

cc: Minister for Planning **21 APR 2009**  
10th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth Western Australia 6005  
Telephone: +61 8 9213 7250 Facsimile: +61 8 9213 7255 Email: Minister.Faragher@dpc.wa.gov.au