



Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts

Our Ref: 66-06051

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Swinbourn

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew".

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 June 2018 inviting my comments on Petition Nos 63 and 64 – Impact of pesticides on public health/Pesticides in public places.

Under the legislative authority provided by the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), local governments are empowered to make decisions as autonomous bodies.

I am responsible for ensuring that local governments comply with the provisions of the Act and its associated Regulations. As the Minister for Local Government, this responsibility does not extend to being able to direct local governments where they are making decisions in accordance with the Act, or decisions related to the application of other legislation.

The use of pesticides in the community would come under the portfolio responsibilities of the Ministers for Health and Environment. Local governments are individually responsible for the policies and practices they adopt in regard to the proper use of chemicals that have been approved by relevant authorities for local government use.

The McGowan Government is, however, committed to strengthening local government accountability, transparency and performance. The current review of the Act has been initiated to modernise local government operations and position local governments to deliver better services to their communities.

The submission period for phase one of the review closed on 9 March 2018. All submissions received are currently being considered with a view to implementing the review's findings to better empower local governments to deliver for the community.

Phase two will consider ways to increase participation and public confidence in local government elections, increase community participation in local government decision-making and improve financial management. A consultation paper on phase two will be released later this year.

While the subject of pesticide use may not be directly applicable to the review of the Act, I am advised that both petitioners, Ms Jones and Ms Bremmer, have made submissions.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Templeman', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

**HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT;
HERITAGE, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

14 AUG 2018