

Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
By email – env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair *Matthew*

Submission re Petition 146 – Subiaco approved local planning scheme No. 5

I am writing to you to echo a number of the issues that have been raised with me by my constituents in the Subiaco local government area.

The recent updates to the local planning schemes in the Western suburbs have been unnecessarily contentious. In the cases of both Nedlands and Subiaco, the residents have clearly been able to see that the revised plans provided by the WAPC and approved by the Minister do not match the requirements of the strategic documents applying to their areas.

I appreciate the compelling need to provide for increased infill in areas close to the city and especially those areas with good transport links. However, I cannot support the actions of the WAPC in working so far outside the community expectations that had been set by nearly a decade of strategic planning activity.

I appreciate that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is continuing progress to reform the planning system and I hope that this will assist in avoiding these kinds of unnecessary conflicts in the future.

Unfortunately Perth has numerous examples of areas where infill has been done with little sensitivity to the surrounding context. While I appreciate that the intent of Design WA is to minimise the chances of these kinds of inappropriate developments occurring, there remains concern that building in accordance with the changed density codes will occur before the safeguards that will hopefully be part of Design WA's precinct and neighbourhood plans are finalised.

The level of concern in the community about the way that these process has been handled is very real and it is very justifiable.

I encourage the Committee to consider the petitioners' requests.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Alison Xamon MLC
Member for North Metropolitan

12 March 2020