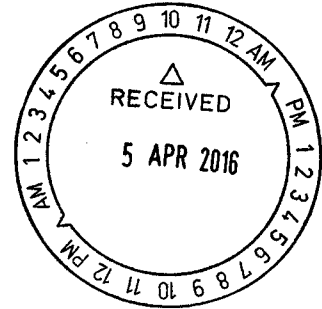




**Minister for Planning; Culture & the Arts
Government of Western Australia**

Our ref: 33-32095



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS –
PETITION NO 102 – AGED CARE FACILITIES**

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2016 regarding Petition No 102 that was tabled in the Legislative Council and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

You advise that the Committee is undertaking preliminary inquiries and request comments on the petition and submissions from the principal petitioner and tabling Member, the Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC. As requested, I have provided comments below regarding the petition in relation to the aged care facilities in the City of Swan.

The 10.6 hectare Swan Districts Hospital site is located at 1 Eveline Road, Middle Swan, and is zoned 'Urban' under the Metropolitan Region Scheme and reserved for 'Public Purposes' under the City of Swan Local Planning Scheme No. 17. In the event that the site be used as an aged care facility, it is likely that a local planning scheme amendment would be required, which would include a public consultation process.

The Swan Districts Hospital site is surplus to government requirements and is being prepared for disposal as part of the Land Asset Sale Program by the Department of Lands through LandCorp. The Minister for Lands is the responsible Minister for this matter.

I'm advised that a market sounding report was undertaken by LandCorp in 2015 to further understand the market need for the subject site in its current state, or in an alternate form. A number of industry groups were consulted during this research, including aged care providers.

LandCorp is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from proponents to master plan a development at the site, which may include the reuse of all, part or none of the existing buildings. Expressions of Interest close on 25 May 2016. A town planning scheme amendment will be considered once the future use of the site is confirmed.

It is acknowledged that the challenge of providing aged care accommodation is likely to increase, given the Department of Planning's demographic advice with regard to the ageing population. The Government is utilising this data in its forward planning for population growth and the Planning portfolio will continue to require new and revised local planning strategies and schemes to identify land for aged care accommodation.

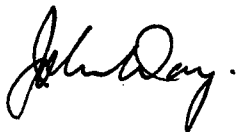
The City of Swan's efforts to facilitate more residential aged care facilities are supported, and where possible, the Government will assist in progressing the development of land for this purpose. The City has adopted an Urban Housing Strategy and has prepared its draft Local Planning Strategy, which detail the future housing needs of the community and will form the strategic basis for future amendments to the City's town planning scheme.

The draft Local Planning Strategy identifies an ageing population as a key issue in relation to the provision of housing within the City of Swan. The Strategy proposes incentives for the provision of single bedroom homes, aged persons' housing and facilitating 'aging in place' through the provision of increased housing opportunities for people who wish to remain in their communities.

In July 2015, the City released its 'Strategy for the Ageing Population', which provides a strategic response to engage in opportunities and overcome challenges associated with an ageing population in the City. I am advised that the City of Swan is also considering a local planning policy to promote the provision of dwellings for aged persons' dwellings.

I trust the above information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN DAY
MINISTER FOR PLANNING;
CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

3 0 MAR 2016