



Hon Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands

Our Ref: 69-22120

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Legislative Council Committee Office
18-32 Parliament Place
West Perth WA 6005

Via email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn,

PETITION NO.163 – MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

I refer to Petition No. 163 which was tabled by the Hon Charles Smith MLC on 9 September 2020 in the Legislative Council and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee) pursuant to the Legislative Council's Standing Orders.

The Midland Railway Workshops rail heritage plays an important role in Western Australian History, and, since 2000 this history has played a major role in the \$170 million investment in the Midland redevelopment area, including the former Railway Workshops.

This has enhanced the rich heritage of the area, breathed new life into Midland and supported the growth of commercial, residential and recreational activity within this significant strategic metropolitan centre. The project will ultimately deliver 7,000 new residential dwellings, 18,300 new jobs and more than \$5 billion of combined Government and private investment attraction to the area.

The connection to rail history will continue with the Bellevue METRONET railcar assembly and maintenance facility along with the planned relocation of the Midland railway station opposite the main entrance to the workshops.

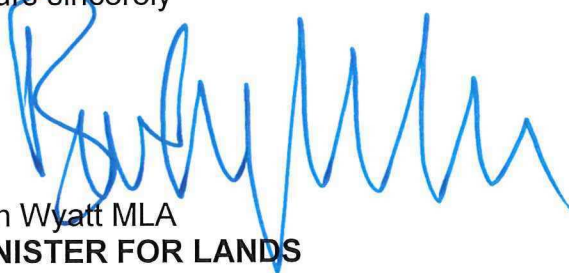
I acknowledge that the Workshops have played an important role in Midland's history. For almost a century, the Workshops workforce built and repaired steam locomotives, carriages, wagons, tracks, and signals. This story is a key part of the redevelopment and has informed the subdivision design, conservation and adaptation works, new built form and landscape design.

Public art, heritage interpretation and wayfinding acknowledge this rail heritage with spaces such as Railway Square, offering community gathering places. A comprehensive history of the Workshops, and inventory of its machinery and equipment has been undertaken and documented, which informs the planning framework that guides development.

The significance of the Workshops is recognised through a permanent listing on the State Register of heritage places, with any future developer needing to respect the significance and values of the place.

The State Government and DevelopmentWA recognises the important role of the Workshops rail heritage in Midland as part of Western Australia's history. Discussions have been ongoing to determine the best model of management of the buildings, in-place heritage machinery and equipment so that community interest groups can be accommodated to protect, celebrate and share the story of the Midland Workshops including the setting aside of an area for a rail interpretive centre.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Wyatt', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Ben Wyatt MLA
MINISTER FOR LANDS

12 NOV 2020