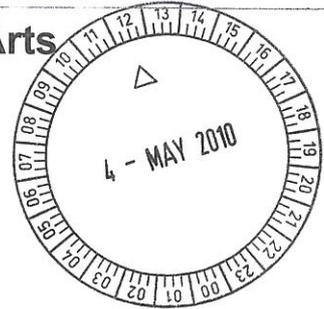




PUBLIC

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



Our Ref: 33- 07279

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
18-32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

PETITION NO 46 – LAND CLEARING IN THE ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL PARK

I refer to your letter of 31 March 2010 seeking my advice on a number of points regarding the above petition.

Before responding to your specific points, I believe it would be helpful to provide some background to this matter.

Access to the Woodbridge Estate, which contains the Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) and Ambulance depot, has always been limited to a single dual carriageway road, Elanora Drive via traffic lights at Ennis Avenue. Commencement of preliminary works associated with the Perth – Mandurah Railway and expansion of the RGH raised community awareness of this and the community questioned whether only one road access was adequate.

In response the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLA) established a Ministerial Working Group to address the provision of an additional access. The Ministerial Working Group comprised representatives from State (including Planning & Infrastructure, Transport and Environment and Conservation) and Local Government and local residents.

Against this background, I offer the following comments in response to the specific points raised in your request for advice.

Update on progress toward a second access way for the Rockingham Hospital

At its meeting on 22 February 2010, the Ministerial Working Group endorsed Northern Option B (over the Perth – Mandurah Railway to Dixon Road) as its preferred option and resolved to submit:

- i. A final report to the Rockingham Kwinana Planning and Development Taskforce for its consideration and advice to Government; and
- ii. An application to the Environmental Protection Authority for approval.

A sketch showing the general route of this option is attached.

Has a proposed route / alignment been decided?

The Ministerial Working Group has recommended a preferred option; however, its report on the matter is yet to be submitted to the Rockingham Kwinana Planning and Development Taskforce, for its consideration. It is unknown when this report will be submitted to the Taskforce for its consideration and recommendation to Government.

Has the project been referred to the EPA for assessment, and if not, when will this occur?

No submission has been made to the EPA as yet and at this time I am not able to advise when this will occur. The EPA assessment cannot commence until the matter is considered by the Taskforce.

When will construction of the road commence?

I am unable to advise on timing at this stage. The Rockingham Kwinana Development Office (RKDO) is working with the City of Rockingham and has agreed to first determine what type of access is needed. This will require a traffic study firstly and then possibly a disaster risk assessment.

Who is responsible for the project – the City of Rockingham or the RKDO?

The City of Rockingham has provided the administrative support to the Ministerial Working Group. The Ministerial Working Group has had its final meeting and the responsibility for this project will now be passed to the RKDO when it receives the final report.

Yours sincerely



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

28 APR 2010

Enc.

Possible Second Access to Woodbridge Estate and Rockingham General Hospital
Northern Option B

