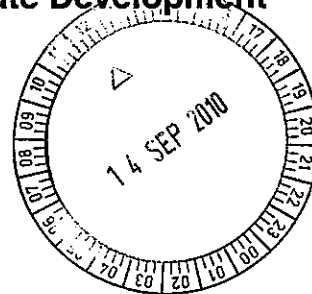




**PUBLIC**

**Minister for Regional Development; Lands;  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport;  
Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development**

Our Ref: 27-12638



Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Brian

**PETITION NO 86 – PRESERVING PART OF BUNBURY’S TIMBER JETTY**

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2010 regarding preserving part of the Bunbury Timber Jetty and the petition tabled by Adele Farina MLC.

By way of background to assist the Standing Committee’s deliberations, the Bunbury Timber Jetty, listed on the State Heritage Register, was transferred under license to the City of Bunbury in 1997 together with \$1 million to be used for demolition or contribution towards its restoration. The City, as licensee, pays an annual license fee to the State in addition to all rates, taxes and any other outgoings or service charges as per the license agreement.

The City has sub-let the operation of the jetty to the Bunbury Timber Jetty Environment and Conservation Society and periodically approved the release of funds to the Society which has raised additional funds and undertaken some limited repair work. However, the restoration of the entire jetty (550 metres long and up to 30 metres wide) is well beyond the capabilities of a small community group. The jetty’s condition has continued to deteriorate and is now a navigational and general safety hazard.

In October 2006, Cabinet approved a proposal for Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Bunbury Waterfront and the associated funding strategy. The Cabinet approval required Stage 1 to be cost neutral, with revenue gained from land sales funding the cost of the development and the associated community infrastructure.

Stage 1 of the project to be funded by LandCorp included land development precincts, the provision of marina facilities and a contribution of \$3.5 million for the demolition/restoration of the jetty – to match a \$3.5 million contribution from the City. The Stage 1 development of the Bunbury Waterfront was held up by planning approvals with the introduction of the Greater Bunbury Region Scheme and

community opposition to the initial structure plan for the foreshore land development. The additional planning requirements have delayed project implementation until at least 2012 hence the Cabinet decision in October 2009 to decouple the funding for the Jetty from the Bunbury Waterfront project.

In addition, to try and expedite jetty works LandCorp sought expressions of interest (EOI) in November 2007 from appropriate contractors experienced in jetty works, shortlisted the preferred contractors and prepared the required tender documentation to undertake the demolition and restoration of the timber jetty. This documentation sought the successful contractor to retain and refurbish as much of the jetty as possible within the budget of \$7 million including the cost of consultant and construction fees.

The tender process was not progressed beyond short-listing as a result of lack of certainty regarding the overall Bunbury Waterfront project, however, after the October 2009 Cabinet Decision and at the request of the City, all work done to date (including the contractor shortlist and tender documentation) was provided to the City.

In an effort to assist the City, who is responsible for the jetty, and with an awareness of the community position on and the condition of the Bunbury Timber Jetty, the State Government in October 2009 at the Regional Parliament in Bunbury committed \$3.5 million to the demolition/part restoration of the Bunbury Timber Jetty. This funding was no longer tied to the Bunbury Waterfront project and was available immediately to the City upon confirmation of the City's matching funds and the preparation of an ongoing business case for the maintenance of any restored portion.

To date, the City has not sought the State's funding portion nor has it provided a business case for the ongoing maintenance of any restored portion as such the State takes no responsibility for cost escalation as a result of the City's inaction.

In July 2010 the Minister for Transport and I met with Mayor of the City, David Smith regarding the issue of the Bunbury Timber Jetty and the City's request for additional funding from the State beyond that agreed to by Cabinet in October 2009. At that meeting the City was advised that they should call for an EOI on the demolition or part demolition/part restoration to identify what portion of the jetty can be realistically retained and refurbished and to see if the market costs are within the budgeted allocation. We confirmed to the Mayor the State's continued provision for and availability of its \$3.5 million portion of the previously estimated cost.

I also advised the Mayor of the City of Bunbury the States priority was to ensure the combined funding should allow demolition of the unsafe structure and it is acknowledged the funding is likely to result in minimal refurbishment or retention of any remaining jetty.

I am also aware any works on the jetty will require the approval of the Heritage Council of Western Australia and any formal advice from the Heritage Council cannot be provided to the City until the final scope of work is determined. It is important to note however, this government has made a major investment in timber jetty heritage protection through our \$24 million investment in the Busselton Timber Jetty project.

**PUBLIC**

Finally, I can confirm that the State's funding commitment is still conditional on the preparation by the City of a sustainable business plan for the ongoing management and maintenance of any remaining portion of the refurbished jetty and the City matching the State's contribution of \$3.5 million. The State has requested this ongoing management plan regularly since 2006 and it has still not been provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendon Grylls', written in a cursive style.

**HON BRENDON GRYLLS MLA  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; LANDS**

**10 SEP 2010**

**PUBLIC**