



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs  
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Your Ref: Petition No 112  
Our Ref: 62-14305

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr <sup>Matth</sup> Swinbourn

Thank you for your correspondence, received in this office on 10 May 2019, regarding Petition No 112 – Walpole Wilderness and Marine Park (the Petition) and the proposal between Water Corporation and ManukaLife to sharefarm at Walpole. I understand that you have also written to the Minister for Water, Hon Dave Kelly, MLA as the responsible Minister for the Water Corporation.

In relation to my portfolio, the Petition has specifically requested information on:

- planning processes under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) including required applications for this type of project;
- whether this project was classified as a plantation and if not, what are the criteria for a plantation; and
- any assessment carried out to evaluate the environmental impacts the project would have on the surrounding areas including the spread of dieback and any plans to reduce the risk.

I note that the proposal is to establish tea tree plants within Water Corporation owned land for the production and collection of honey. Cleared land is proposed to be planted with tea trees and bee hives to be installed to produce honey. The proposal stated that the specific long-term aim is to protect water quality, reduce erosion and reduce runoff effluent waste from livestock in the catchment, as the land is within Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

The EP Act requires that proposals identified as being 'significant proposals' under Part IV of the EP Act are required to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for consideration of environmental impacts. The EP Act defines a significant proposal as a proposal likely, if implemented, to have a significant effect on the environment. Any person can refer a significant proposal to the EPA for consideration. I am advised that this proposal has not been referred to the EPA.

I understand that under the EP Act the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has no role in the granting of approvals for this proposal at this stage.

The proposal has been referred to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) for assessment due to potential impacts to threatened Black Cockatoo habitat. The DotEE is yet to make a decision on whether or not the proposal is a controlled action and requires assessment. There is no specified timeframe for when the DotEE will make a decision.

The proposal area is zoned for General Agriculture under the Shire of Manjimup Local Planning Scheme No.4. Accordingly, I understand that this proposal may require consideration under the Scheme and a development approval from the Shire. As these are planning matters for the Shire, I would encourage you to liaise directly with the Shire of Manjimup.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

06 JUN 2019