



Our Ref: PRO 8/16  
Your Ref: 129  
Enquiries: Jeremy Hubble

31 October 2011

The Hon Brian Ellis  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

**SHIRE OF  
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Attention: Mark Warner  
By email – [council@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

**Petition 129 – Lack of Reticulated Electricity to Remote Communities such as Windy Harbour**

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2011 seeking comments from the Shire of Manjimup in respect of the terms of the petition and the submission from the principal petitioner.

The Shire of Manjimup supports the general intent of the petition in so far as Windy Harbour is a substantial settlement that is deprived of core State infrastructure (such as reticulated power) provided to other coastal settlements.

The lack of reticulated power to Windy Harbour has been an ongoing issue for the last 26 years as evidenced in the Windy Harbour Power Chronological of Events.

Windy Harbour is a reserve vested in the Shire of Manjimup for holiday accommodation. It also supports a commercial fishing industry.

The settlement contains 220 leasehold properties, public boat ramp, a public camping ground, Sea Rescue and Bush Fire services, public toilets, playgrounds, waste facilities etc. The population can range throughout the years from a low of about 20 to a peak in excess of 1,500. Windy Harbour also provides public facilities for visitors to the Department of Environment and Conservations attractions within the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. General public use is trending upward.

Currently there is no State supplied electricity to Windy Harbour with the closest connection opportunity near Northcliffe.

It is feasible for Windy Harbour to be connected to the State's south west interconnecting grid by laying a three phase underground cable along the road reserve and reticulation of that power throughout the Windy Harbour reserve. The Shire of Manjimup has previously indicated it was prepared to take responsibility for a single point of power supply at the

reserves boundary and to assume responsibility for management and maintenance of the power infrastructure within the reserve.

Environmental studies and designs have been completed indicating the project is achievable. The only obstacle to such a project proceeding is Western Power's reluctance to invest (Western Power have confirmed they were willing to undertake such a project if the required funding was made available).

The "Windy Harbour Management Plan 2007-2017" is a formal indication of Council support. The Management Plan was adopted on 8 November 2007 and has been endorsed by the State Government. The plan is a public document available from the Council web site.

Statement 12 of the Windy Harbour Management Plan: Infrastructure (Power)' outlines the following recommendations.

- A** *In the absence of a reticulated power system that is connected to the grid, Council supports in principle alternative power supplies whether individual or collective subject to addressing matters including amenity, character, noise, landscape values, management, financing and statutory approvals.*
- B** *All power supply systems should be designed and managed to not detract from the amenity and character of the area particularly in terms of noise and landscape values. Examples of this may be from generators operating late at night or the noise and appearance of multiple wind turbines.*
- C** *Council will introduce provisions relating to individual power generation systems within a proposed Local Planning Policy and, if considered necessary, will examine the introduction of a Local Law to address development and management of power supplies.*
- D** *If any potential community power scheme is contemplated, Nelson Location 13304 is considered to be a potential location for the infrastructure.*

The Windy Harbour Management Plan therefore contemplates the potential for reticulated power whilst acknowledging alternative options given the remote likelihood of the necessary funding being made available.

The Council last formally considered reticulated power on 11 December 2003 (prior to adoption of the Windy Harbour Management Plan), and resolved as follows: (emphasis on point 4):

That Council:

1. Note the revised estimated cost of \$13,241 per service for the provision of reticulated power to Windy Harbour.
2. In accordance with the Shire of Manjimup's Principal Activities Plan 2003 – 2007, undertake a review of the "Windy Harbour Management Plan" (scheduled for Mid 2004). If in the course of that review, pressure arises for Council to consider collective alternative energy options, that



Council engage an independent professional to assess those options against the mainstream reticulated power benchmark and eligibility for alternative energy grants.

3. In accordance with the Shire of Manjimup's Principal Activities Plan 2003 – 2007, undertake a "Structure Plan" for Windy Harbour to identify the possibility of releasing additional lease lots as a means of financing the demands for infrastructure improvements at Windy Harbour.
4. Reconfirm Council's previous resolution to defer taking any further action on the provision of mainstream reticulated power until such (unlikely) time additional external funding is identified.
5. Notify Windy Harbour lessees of the status of funding alternatives Council's decision in this matter.

Given the State's current prosperity, an investment in such infrastructure may be warranted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9771 7777 should you have any queries or require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Jeremy Hubble**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Shire of Manjimup**