



MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; WATER

Our Ref: 42-14079

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

Dear Mr Ellis *Brian*

Thank you for your letter concerning the above petition. I note that you have also requested responses from the Ministers for Transport, Planning and Heritage. The letter accompanying the petition mentions a number of matters more relevant to those portfolios as well as the issue of possible impacts of the proposed development on the Swan River. Specifically, the concerns raised in relation to the river are siltation and flushing of the inlet. As the letter mentioned, the flushing characteristics were modelled by a specialist consulting firm and were found to be well within acceptable limits. At the time the project team understood that flushing would be a major concern and in order to add rigour to the process engaged another consultant to peer review the modelling. The review confirmed that the modelling was appropriate and the results were within acceptable limits.

In relation to siltation I am advised that the Swan River Trust specifically asked the project consultants to give consideration to the matter. The response was that sediment accretion rates in the inlet would be similar to those around the Barrack Street jetties and on that basis maintenance dredging was unlikely to be required more often than at 10 year intervals and possibly longer. The assertion in the letter that there is an existing major siltation problem around the Barrack Street jetties is not borne out in fact and the area has not required dredging for over 10 years.

Yours sincerely

Bill Marmion

**HON BILL MARMION MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; WATER**

11 MAY 2012

PUBLIC