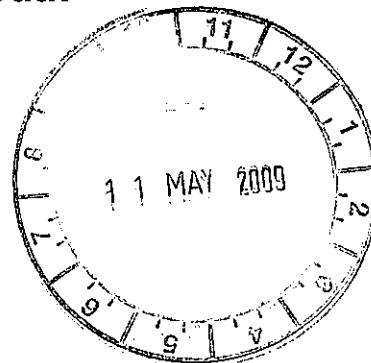




Our ref: 40-02964



Hon Sheila Mills MLC
 Chair
 Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6000

Sheila
 Dear Ms Mills

PETITION NO 23 – DALYELLUP BEACH ESTATE

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2009 regarding the Dalyellup Beach Estate petition, and the related conservation agreement between the Satterley Property Group (SPG) and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage titled '*Research and monitoring of the Western Ringtail Possum in urban development areas of Busselton and Bunbury*'.

There are two main elements to the conservation agreement between the Commonwealth and the SPG. The first is an agreement with SPG to undertake Western Ringtail Possum monitoring and surveys on SPG owned properties at Bunbury, Busselton and other sites to be developed by SPG in the south-west of Western Australia. I have been advised that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has been providing advice to SPG to assist in the development of this monitoring and survey program. I understand that the program may involve university student projects to:

- identify habitat parameters determining Western Ringtail Possum presence (occupancy) and abundance;
- conduct a pilot project to assess the fate and habitat use of Western Ringtail Possums left *in situ* at development sites where habitat is modified; and
- assess the conservation value of reconstructed habitat for the Western Ringtail Possum.

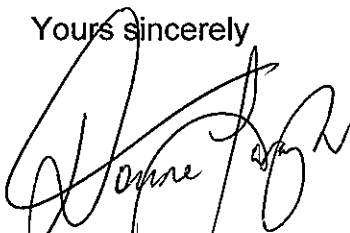
The second element of the agreement relates to the provision of funding by SPG to DEC for habitat assessment, biological surveys, identification of movement corridors

and development of risk management strategies for use in the Bunbury and Busselton areas.

I have been advised by DEC that the first phase of this program, habitat assessment, has been undertaken and a report is in the final stages of preparation, but has not yet been released to the public. In broad terms, the report will identify Western Ringtail Possum habitat in the Busselton area, and identify conservation strategies to halt the decline of Western Ringtail Possum populations and lead to a recovery of populations in the Busselton area. The second phase of the program will commence on 1 July 2009 and will involve detailed floristic and habitat structure assessments and corridor identification using computer modelling techniques.

The work undertaken by DEC will result in the production of a strategic Western Ringtail Possum habitat management document which can be adopted and incorporated into existing land use planning schemes and strategies used by local shires, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Faragher', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; YOUTH

- 7 MAY 2009