



# Alyssa Hayden MLA

Liberal Member for Darling Range

7 October 2019

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

Dear Chair,

*Maat*

**Re: Petition No. 129 – Araluen Residential Estate**

I am writing to you and the Committee in regards to the above petition tabled in the Legislative Council by Hon Donna Faragher MLC on 19 September 2019.

One of the concerns that residents of Roleystone have consistently raised with me is the safety issue caused by there being just one exit in and out of Araluen Estate. I raised this matter in the Legislative Assembly on 19 September 2019 and have also previously raised it directly with the City of Armadale.

The current access and egress arrangements are insufficient and could pose a serious threat to the residents and visitors of Araluen Estate and the Golf Resort. There are emergency exits from Wymond Road and Armenti Road, with both having lockable gates, and the evacuation plan is to unlock the gates in the case of an emergency. However, this can mean losing valuable time when even minutes can make a real difference.

The Estate and Resort are in a fire prone region and were in close proximity to the 2011 Roleystone-Kelmscott bushfire, which destroyed 71 homes nearby. The inquiry and report following that fire highlighted the need for the State to be more adequately prepared for the potential for future fires in the Perth Hills.

While the risks posed by the insufficiency of the current access and egress arrangements during a bushfire remain an ongoing concern, residents have also shared with me that these arrangements have created unnecessary obstacles to paramedics during medical emergencies. In these incidents, paramedics have been directed by their navigation systems to the emergency exits on Wymond or Armenti roads as being the fastest way into the Estate, however the gates were locked and they were forced to turn around and gain entry through Heritage Drive, leading to the loss of precious time.



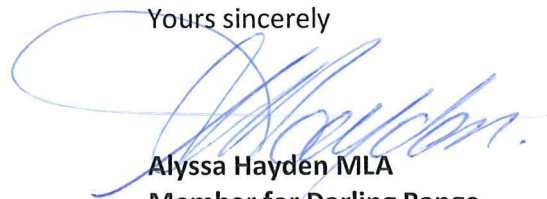
Residents of the Estate have always believed that the planning and safety problems associated with having just one entry point was temporary and that a second route would be opened during a later stage of the development, which would resolve these issues. Maps and advertising material associated with the development had previously indicated two primary roads into the Estate, however there are no current plans to open such a route. The City of Armadale have acknowledged that a residential development such as this would not receive approval under current planning requirements, as a second access point is required.

In light of the safety concerns, planning issues and previous bushfires in the area, the provision of a permanent alternative exit route is necessary.

I encourage the Committee to support the request of the petitioners and consult with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to fully understand the current safety concerns of this community, as well as the actions that may be taken to rectify this situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on this important safety matter and if I can assist further in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Alyssa Hayden MLA**  
**Member for Darling Range**  
**Shadow Minister for Tourism; Small Business**  
**Opposition Whip in the Legislative Assembly**