



Hon John Carey MLA
Minister for Housing; Local Government

Our Ref: 78-02301
Your Ref: A907708; Petition No. 006

2 SEP 2021

The Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Foster

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 August 2021 regarding a petition in relation to camping on private property.

All camping in Western Australia is currently regulated under the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* (the Act). This Act ensures that camping within the State occurs in a safe and responsible manner.

The primary objective of the Act is to facilitate tourism and the much-valued Australian tradition of the camping holiday. The restrictions of the Act ensure that camping grounds are safe, provide adequate facilities and are subject to sufficient levels of oversight by local councils.

The Act recognises that there are situations where people may live in caravans on a permanent basis. For this reason, the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997* (the Regulations) provides a general restriction limiting caravan use to licenced caravan parks. These parks must comply with a variety of standards to ensure that the facility is safe and appropriate for permanent habitation.

The Regulations do provide certain exemptions for people seeking to use a caravan outside of a licenced park. A person may use a caravan for up to three nights on private land with the landowner's approval. The length of stay can be extended to up to three months with local government approval, or for up to a year or longer with the approval of the Minister for Local Government.

If the length of stay requires the person to obtain approval, the Regulations state that this approval only be granted if it will not create health and safety issues. This ensures that caravans are used on private land in a safe and appropriate manner.

There may be cases where a person seeks approval to use a caravan on private land and this approval is denied. This is likely to be a situation where the camping was deemed inappropriate on health or safety grounds.

In addition to the requirements of the Regulations caravan and camping is also subject to planning legislation which may prohibit the land use and an approval under the caravan legislation would not overrule a decision under the planning framework.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition and I am happy to provide any further information the Committee may require during its inquiries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

HON JOHN CAREY MLA
MINISTER FOR HOUSING; LOCAL GOVERNMENT