



Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations

Our Ref: 71-09692
Your Ref: Petition No. 098

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

By email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Matt
Dear Chair

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REGARDING
PETITION NO. 098 - PROTECT LAKE JASPER**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 14 February 2019 regarding the petition from the Hon Diane Evers MLC seeking to protect Lake Jasper from any type of mining activity and reincorporate the land surrounding the lake into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

I confirm that on 6 August 2018 the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) received an application by Strategic Sands Pty Ltd for Mining Lease 70/1385 (M70/1385). I am advised by DMIRS there were no objections lodged to the application and it was compliant with the *Mining Act 1978* (Mining Act).

The application includes the Jangardup South deposit which is recognised as a significant heavy mineral sand resource. The land containing this resource was excised from the D'Entrecasteaux National Park to create Conservation and Resource Management Reserve 44705 (CR44705) to facilitate mining of the deposit.

CR44705 is managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and therefore the application for M70/1385 was referred to DBCA seeking the recommendation of the Minister for Environment in accordance with the reserved land provisions of the Mining Act. DBCA is currently considering the matter, and while that consideration is undertaken, progress on the application has been suspended.

Once the recommendation from the Minister for Environment has been received, further consideration can be given to the application.

I can reassure you that the determination of resource tenure within sensitive areas of the State is undertaken in conjunction with the appropriate regulatory authorities. This consultation and referral ensures that the grant of mining tenure can only proceed where appropriate levels of protection are afforded to safeguarding the environment.

If a mining lease was to be granted over the area, the proposal would still need to be considered and assessed under the relevant environmental and heritage laws of Western Australia, including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, before any mining was allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill Johnston MLA

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6 MAR 2019