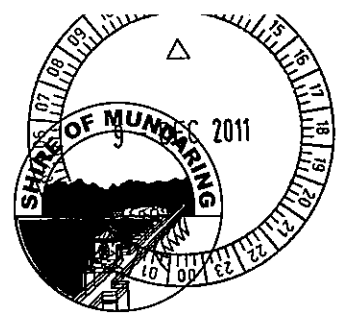


Shire of Mundaring

7000 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY MUNDARING WA 6073 TELEPHONE (08) 9290 6666 FACSIMILE (08) 9295 3288
ABN: 204 3148 7930 WEBSITE: www.mundaring.wa.gov.au EMAIL: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au



Our Ref: Mu 3 (375) ID 148510

Your Ref: Mu 3(375)

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Attention: Ms Gillingham & Mr Warner
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Ms Gillingham & Mr Warner

RESPONSE TO PETITION NO. 126 – CHOSEN LOCATION OF MUNDARING WATER TREATMENT PLANT – PART OF LOTS 1 & 375 MUNDARING WEIR ROAD, MUNDARING

Thank you for your correspondence dated 29 September 2011 regarding the abovementioned. To this regards, I provide the following.

In your correspondence, you attach a petition, which, in summary mainly raises issues relating to:

1. The chosen location for the proposed Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Mundaring Weir Forestry Settlement, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) site;
2. The long term implications for the loss of social and cultural values at the above said location. None of these negative impacts would be associated with the Firewood Road site.
3. The integrity of decision-making being compromised by vested interests. The Water Corporation determinedly pursued the DEC site long after the information showed that the plant would have much less impact at the Firewood Road site.

As a point of background information, the Shire notes the WTP is a vital piece of water supply infrastructure for Western Australia (WA) which services the goldfields and the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS). The new plant will ensure the increased water demands and the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines criteria will continue to be met.

PUBLIC

The selection process itself for the location of the new WTP was complex and lengthy. The assessment process had a very strong focus on consultation with the community and key stakeholders. Within a period of 18 months, 11 community forums were held to gather information and comments, shortlist and assess all the proposed sites. Four sites were shortlisted for detailed assessment as a result. A total of 11 assessment criteria together with criteria weightings and the relative significance were developed in consultation with the community.

In February 2008, the Water Corporation announced the DEC Perth Hills Office and Depot site had been selected as the new location for the WTP. This site was chosen, based on research conducted by the Water Corporation, and from the feedback provided during the consultation stage.

Since this time, the WTP project has obtained all statutory and regulatory approvals which include the planning approvals from the Shire of Mundaring and the State Government. All Federal environmental approvals have also been issued including a Works Authorisation. The submission of such applications for approval included comprehensive supporting documentation, conducted by consultants. These for the Shire of Mundaring included, but were not limited to; Traffic Management Plans, Environmental Impact Assessments, Health documents, Landscaping Strategies, and Stormwater Drainage Plans. These documents demonstrate the WTP can be managed.

Additionally, the Heritage Council of Western Australia has provided support to the Water Corporation's efforts in managing the significant heritage of the Mundaring Weir area, including the works associated with the Portagabra Site.

As a further point on the Shire's position of consultation and keeping the community informed; at its meeting of 23 August 2011 Council provided a report with its background stating:

"...Since the completion of the site selection process, certain community members have been unhappy with the selection of the DEC site which was approved for the construction of the WTP..."

The report itself highlighted the consultation process, and Council resolved to:

- “1. *Request the State Government review the process that led to the site selection of the DEC site at the Mundaring Weir Forestry Settlement Village for the WTP; and*
2. *Communicates this resolution to the relevant Minister.”*

Correspondence sent to the Shire from the Water Corporation indicates the contract to construct and operate the new WTP has been executed, with works having been commenced on site as of 4 October 2011.

Should you require any clarification on the content of this letter, do not hesitate to contact Celina da Costa of the Shire’s Planning Services on **9290 666**.

Yours sincerely



Mark Luzi
DIRECTOR STATUTORY SERVICES

Date: 7/12/2011.

Enc. Council Minutes report 23 August 2011

PUBLIC

Item 11.3 cont'd 5

2. That Council defers further consideration of the following policies until more information is provided:

- LR-01 Short Term Use of Ovals Reserves for Accommodation
- EV-01 Protection of Local Native Vegetated Road Reserves
- PS-09 Public Comment on Planning Proposals

CARRIED 11/0

7.32pm Manager Health and Community Safety left the Council Chamber

7.34pm Manager Health & Community Safety returned to the Council Chamber

12.0 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

12.1 Notice of Motion – Cr Daw – Mundaring Water Treatment Plant

File Code	UT.WSP 4
Date of Report	19 August 2011
Location / Address	Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring
Applicant	N/A
Author	Mark Luzi – Director Statutory Services
Senior Officer	N/A
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil

SUMMARY:

Cr Daw has advised of his intention to move the following notice of motion:

“That Council supports a review by the State Government of the water treatment plant at the Mundaring Weir forestry settlement DEC site”.

This report seeks to provide Councillors with advice relating to this issue.

BACKGROUND:

No further information has been provided in support of this motion.

Since the completion of the site selection process, certain community members have been unhappy with the selection of the DEC site which was approved for the construction of the Water Treatment Plant, and included a new DEC depot being constructed on adjacent land.

Item 12.1 cont'd 2

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

A member may bring forward at a meeting such business as that member wishes in the form of a motion of which due notice has been provided in accordance with clause 1.5.5 of the Standing Orders local law.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staffing costs associated with research and preparing correspondence.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Water Corporation's highest priority is the provision of a safe and reliable water supply for all Western Australian homes; businesses and industry. The Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme (GAWS) supplies water to over 100,000 people from the Perth Hills right through to Kalgoorlie. The provision of a water treatment plant in Mundaring is part of that commitment.

CONSULTATION:

The decision to locate the Mundaring Water Treatment Plant at the Department of Environment and conservation Perth Hills District Office and Depot site was announced in February 2008.

This decision was the result of detailed examination of site options for environmental, social and economic impacts which occurred over an 18 month period involving a detailed consultation process

COMMENT:

Council at its meeting held in November 2007 resolved as follows:

"That –

- 1. Council advise the Water Corporation that its preferred option of a water treatment plant is Option 2 (Pine Plantation);*
- 2. Council considers that the process to determine the suitability of Site 3 (DEC Depot) is incomplete and it does not consider the possible options for relocation of the present activity elsewhere within the Shire;*

Item 12.1 cont'd 3

3. Council advise Water Corporation that the process to determine the suitability of Site 3 (DEC Depot) is incomplete as it does not consider:
 - a. the possible options for relocation of the present activity elsewhere in the Shire, or
 - b. The social, economic and environmental impact of that location;
4. DEC be requested to provide information on any intention to relocate from its existing site;
5. DEC re requested to provide information on the impact to community amenity of all sites being considered as part of any relocation plans, and what community compensation would be provided to the local area to ensure no loss of amenity”.

The Water Corporation has advised that works on the Water Treatment Plant are due to commence in October 2011, noting the work on the construction of the new DEC Perth Hills office and Depot relocation project is well advanced.

During the site selection process for the Mundaring Water Treatment Plant, Water Corporation committed to the establishment of a water interpretive facility in Mundaring. With stakeholder input, this facility has progressed into an Interpretation Precinct.

The objective is to enhance the Mundaring Weir area as a visitor destination by interpreting the story of water and the theme. The concept designs have been completed.

Federal and State government environmental approval was granted for the water treatment plant project in December 2009. Federal and State approvals were obtained on behalf of the DEC to relocate its Perth Hills district office and depot facilities at the southern end of the site.

All required approvals for the water treatment plant works have now been received. The water treatment plant is scheduled to be operational in 2013 and the new DEC Depot is expected to be ready for use by September 2011.

Helena Water, private partner, has just received financial close on the contract for this work, who will effectively fund, design, construct, operate, maintain and upgrade the Mundaring Water Treatment Plant over the next 35 years.

It is clear that the project is well advanced beyond the site selection process. Mr Frank Alban, Member for Swan Hills, has advised he does not intend to take the matter further.

Council may form the view that due to the works which have been carried out and the imminent commencement of the treatment plant no further action by the Shire is warranted.

Item 12.1 cont'd 4

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple majority

MOTION

That Council supports a review by the State Government of the water treatment plant at the Mundaring Weir forestry settlement DEC site.

Councillor Daw moved the following amended motion.

**COUNCIL DECISION
AMENDED MOTION**

C16.08.11

Moved by: Cr Johnson Seconded by: Cr Daw

That Council:

- 1. Requests the State Government review the process that led to the site selection of the DEC site at the Mundaring Weir Forestry Settlement Village for the Water Treatment Plant; and*
- 2. Communicates this resolution to the relevant Minister.*

CARRIED 10/1

For	Against
<i>Cr Cuccaro</i>	<i>Cr Dullard</i>
<i>Cr James</i>	
<i>Cr Marjanovic</i>	
<i>Cr Jones</i>	
<i>Cr Fox</i>	
<i>Cr Pilgrim</i>	
<i>Cr Bertola</i>	
<i>Cr Clark</i>	
<i>Cr Johnson</i>	
<i>Cr Daw</i>	

**13.0 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY
PRESIDING PERSON OR BY DECISION OF MEETING**

Nil

13.1 Elected Members

Nil