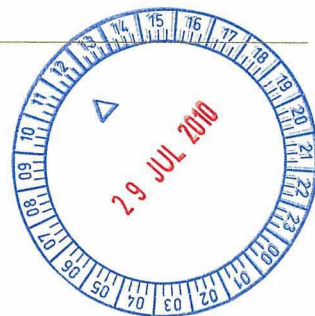


PUBLIC



**Deputy Premier of Western Australia
Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs**



Our Ref: 25-14123

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000


Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter dated 30 June 2010 seeking comment on the terms of petitions 73 (Rezoning of underground water pollution control area – Pinjar South) and 76 (Rezoning of Special Rural Land Mariginiup) and the submissions from the principal petitioner in regard to the Gnangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS).

The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) provided comment on the GSS in July 2009. The DIA response, a copy of which is attached for your information, addresses the issues raised in the petitions with respect to Aboriginal heritage.

DIA strongly urged that more attention is given to Aboriginal heritage and the likely negative impacts at both a social and physical level, particularly indirect impacts like the lowering of the water table, when finalising the GSS. This could be addressed through the incorporation of a cultural heritage management plan into future planning for the GSS.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Kim Hames MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

Enc.

28 JUL 2010