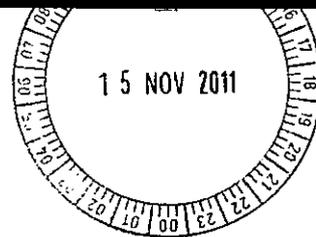




HON JON FORD MLC

MEMBER FOR MINING AND PASTORAL REGION

Your ref: Petition 138 - Bassett Rd Senior Village, Karratha



11 November 2011

Hon. Brian Charles Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837

Dear Chairman

Petition 138 tabled in Parliament by the Hon Helen Bullock MLC

Thank you for your letter dated 24 October 2011, as the Honourable Member table the petition on my behalf, as I was unable to, she has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The petition was created after some attempts by the Karratha Autumn Club and some residents of Karratha Seniors Village to gain address to issues they have raised with their local government, this included a petition to local government of some 2512 signatures which gives some indication of the local interest in this matter.

Objections to the proposed relocation of the seniors village raised with me include but are not limited to the following issues:

- The current location is beside the shopping centre, between the church and the police station offering both spiritual and physical security and safety.
- It is walking distance to doctors, chemists and all emergency services.
- The proposed road is not just about a road, it is claimed the Shire President stated at the special electors meeting that it was more about the commercial value of the property which will run alongside the road. It is believed a government department had designed and costed a road that will bypass the village.

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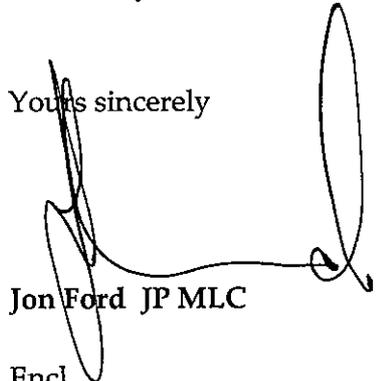
- There is currently a waiting list for senior accommodation, which does not seem to be taken into account as the new proposal is for 7 units, not even replacing the current 12.
- It is claimed that the village residents who to date have indicate they agree with the proposal did so under duress after approaches by the Shire President and Members of Parliament.
- Not all residents have been involved in all proposal meetings with concerns that some residents may have been deliberately excluded because they strongly objected to the move.
- The proposed Warambie site is much further from the town centre; i.e. too far for elderly people to walk. Most residents are past age 70.

○ The new site is claimed to be situated inside the Kelly line which is about three meters above the highest recorded astronomical tide for the Karratha/ Dampier area. Is on the salt flats and is subject to midges and mosquito infestation, which is thought by some to be a health risk to seniors considering Murray Valley encephalitis and Ross River fever are caused from infected mosquito bites.

I have included a letter to me as an example of the issues raised with me on this matter (I would appreciate it if the committee would consider the correspondent as private). Also enclosed for your information is a copy of the Minister for Regional Development's recent media statement mentioning the relocation of the seniors village.

The seniors living in this complex feel vulnerable and powerless and would appreciate your committee's assistance in gaining access to information that would help them in clarifying issues they have, whether the committee draws similar conclusions to the residents or not.

○ Yours sincerely


Jon Ford JP MLC

Encl.

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Brendon Grylls
Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development

Mon 07 November, 2011

\$65m to kick-start Karratha town centre

Portfolio: Regional Development, Lands

- \$65m to create new main street, enhanced streetscapes, seniors' village
- First step to developing a city of 50,000 people

The State Government today announced \$65million of Royalties for Regions funding will be allocated to complete the first two stages of the Karratha City Centre Infrastructure Works.

Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said the funding reinforced the Government's Pilbara Cities vision to revitalise key towns in the Pilbara.

"The Karratha City Centre Infrastructure Works project will help deliver significant town centre upgrades to support its development as a city of more than 50,000 people," Mr Grylls said.

The \$65million will go towards the creation of a new main street along Sharpe Avenue; the realignment and upgrade of other town centre roads, including tree-lined streetscapes with shaded walkways and landscaped public spaces; and the relocation of the existing Karratha Seniors' Village to its new location in the Warambie Estate.

"This is an important project for Karratha in developing it into a world-class city and become the premier City of the North in Western Australia," the Minister said.

"It will provide a greatly improved public amenity, create a number of commercial development lots which in turn provide opportunities for private sector investment and commercial development."

Mr Grylls said some boundary realignments and facility relocations would be required to implement the project, including the relocation of the Karratha Seniors' Village.

"To facilitate this project, a major community engagement program led by LandCorp and the Shire of Roebourne was conducted to work with the seniors and their families," he said.

"Through consultation we are confident we have now reached a desirable solution that all parties are happy with."

Fact File

- The transformation of town centres into contemporary city areas is a key component of the Pilbara Cities project
- Works and the relocation of the seniors' village have been endorsed by the Shire of Roebourne

Minister's office - 9213 7000

Page last revised: 25 Mar 2008

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