

Our Ref: F210027 & DA7684
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Brian Robinson



5 May 2023

Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Attention: Hon Peter Foster

Dear Sir,

PETITION NO 77 – LITTER BISECTING THE WALPOLE WINDERNESS

I refer to your correspondence dated 17 March 2023 regarding the above matter and apologise for the delay in reply.

The purpose of this correspondence is to confirm the Shire of Manjimup's support of the petition.

Elected Members and Shire Officers at the Shire of Manjimup have both supported and admired the efforts and wonderful volunteer work of Mr Michael Filby to address litter along the South West Highway between Denmark. Residing in Walpole, Mr Filby has travelled the South West and South Coast Highways removing litter for nearly 20 year.

Shire Officers estimate that Mr Filby has been removing approximately 26m³ of litter per year, dramatically improving the appearance of the Highways and significantly reducing the impact on the environment. To do this, Mr Filby has been travelling a considerable distance. Estimates of this distance are as follows:

Year	Distance
2003 to 2018	5,000km travelled per year (Nornalup-Middleton Road, 80km)
2019	12,000km travelled (various section of South West Highway, Vasse Highway and Pemberton-Northcliffe)
2020 - 2023	15,500km travelled (Peaceful Bay Road to Mersea Road – 160km)

Although the Shire is not responsible for litter within Highway Reserves outside of townsites, it has since 2014 financially supported Mr Filby's efforts to the tune of \$1,500 per year. In addition the Shire has auspiced annual Keep Australia Beautiful Campaign grant fund applications, along with other

grants. This level of financial support however still results in Mr Filby meeting significant costs out of his own pocket.

With Mr Filby now being 77 years old, there is significant concern that unless alternative arrangements are put in place roadside litter volumes will substantially increase, detrimentally impacting of the visual amenity environment, including the Walpole Wilderness area being 377,714 hectares that contains some of the world's most ecologically rich areas.

As you may appreciate given the State Decision in respect of logging native timber, the tourism industry's importance to the local Shire of Manjimup economy has been elevated and it is anticipated that tourist numbers using the Highways will continue to grow.

Whilst the Shire of Manjimup acknowledges that Main Roads has an extremely extensive road network to manage, currently no roadside bins are provided by Main Roads within the Shire. The Shire shares Mr Filby's view that the soon to be established Main Roads presence in Manjimup provides an opportunity exists to address the need for long term litter management of the Highway, but appropriate ongoing funding is required.

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Robinson
Acting Chief Executive Officer