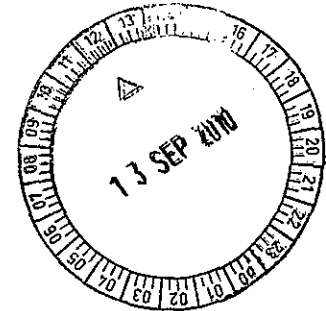




PUBLIC

Minister for Water; Mental Health

Our Ref: 37-08950



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

Dear Mr Ellis

PETITION NO 77 - INFILL SEWERAGE PROGRAMME IN QUINNS ROCKS

Thank you for your letter dated 18 August 2010 regarding the infill sewerage program in Quinns Rocks.

Quinns Rocks was an area of the infill sewerage program that was being undertaken when funding was deferred in May 2009.

The submissions to the petition suggest that Quinns Rocks should be a priority for health reasons.

In 2006, I understand the Department of Health (DoH) undertook a *Review of Infill Sewerage Priorities on Health Grounds*. In this review, Quinns Rocks ranked as low priority on health grounds, as in this location there are sandy soils that are free draining and a long distance from groundwater sources. DoH noted there are a number of areas that are higher priority for infill sewerage for health reasons.

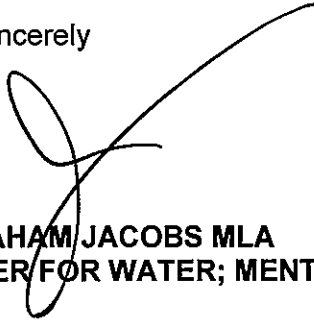
Upon receiving this request, the Department of Water (DoW) sought advice from the DoH on any recent health incidents in Quinns Rocks related to septic tanks, particularly with reference to the incidents referred to in the petition submissions. DoH provided that they had no knowledge of any septic tank related health incidents in Quinns Rocks. DoH confirmed this with the Environmental Health Officer in the City of Wanneroo.

You also sought advice on whether a review of the infill sewerage program had been undertaken and a new priority list had been drafted. Since the 2010/11 State budget commitment of \$100 million over four years towards the infill sewerage program, I have sought the advice of the DoW and Water Corporation (Corporation) on infill sewerage priorities.

I have announced infill sewerage in Port Hedland and Dawesville, and \$2.1 million in funding to allow the Corporation to undertake investigation and design works in other infill project areas.

Thank you for bringing the issues in Quinns Rocks to my attention. Quinns Rocks will continue to be considered as part of determining priority areas for the infill sewerage program. I hope to announce other infill sewerage priority areas in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line that loops back to the top of the 'G'.

**DR GRAHAM JACOBS MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER; MENTAL HEALTH**

10 SEP 2010

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