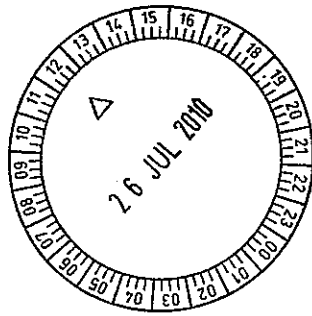


PUBLIC



Mrs Tracey Roberts
1 Exeter Lane
Quinns Rocks WA 6030

16 July 2010

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

Dear Mr Ellis

Re. Petition No. 77 – Infill Sewerage Programme in Quinns Rocks

I write with reference to the above Petition that was tabled by the Hon Ken Travers MLC in the Legislative Council on 22 June 2010, and thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission in relation to the unacceptable situation that residents of Quinns Rocks, who live without main sewerage, have to endure.

The residents face serious health hazards as they are constantly forced to deal with overflowing septic tanks that become clogged up, spilling onto their gardens, and leach untreated sewerage into the groundwater. Also, raw sewerage has been found along the pavements and roads.

Residents are facing significant structural issues that are negatively impacting upon their properties, including verandahs falling down due to the collapse of the ground around the septic tanks.

Families are also restricted to only one load of washing a day, due to the inadequacy of the facility and regular overflowing of the system.

Residents have reported confirmed bacterial infections and hospitalisation of young children after playing in gardens.

It is very clear to see that many properties without connection to deep sewerage are rapidly deteriorating and are putting residents at risk of serious health and environmental issues.

In 1999 the Liberal Government made a promise to residents of Quinns Rocks that deep sewerage connections would occur by 2001. However, this did not occur.

The Labor Government then made a promise to residents and commenced work to connect the residents to deep sewerage by 2005. This construction work ceased when the Water Authority advised that the sewerage plant could not cope with demand. As a result of this delay, residents were promised that the Alkimos Water Treatment Plant would be completed by 2010 resulting in the connection to deep sewerage by 2011

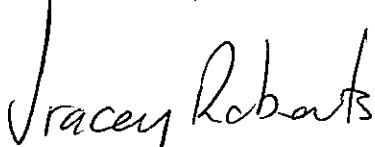
It is appalling that the residents are continually put at risk and their concerns ignored. The risks are serious as a significant amount of nutrient-rich liquid (wastewater) from septic tank drains into the soil and eventually finds its way into our precious groundwater, which can have a detrimental effect on humans and wetlands.

It is obvious that successive Governments have not provided the appropriate funding required to prioritise the Infill Sewerage programme, and this continued lack of priority has placed residents at risk. Young children are not able to play in their own gardens and elderly residents face significant financial burden as they try and repair their disintegrating systems.

This situation is shameful and I implore you to prioritise the Infill Sewerage programme for the old Quinns Rocks area as part of the \$25 million allocation for the forthcoming financial year.

I advise that I have not taken this complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

Yours sincerely



TRACEY ROBERTS

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