



KEN TRAVERS MLC

2/129 GRAND BOULEVARD (BEHIND ANZ BANK)
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Phone: (08) 9300 3422

Fax: (08) 9300 3424

PUBLIC

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

Dear Chairman

Petition No 77 – Infill Sewerage Program in Quinns Rocks

My submission on these important issues is as follows.

In May 2009 the Infill Sewerage Program was deferred in a number of areas around the State in order to make \$85 million in savings. This petition concerns three of those areas in Quinns Rocks (known to the Water Corporation as Quinns 4E, 8A and 9A) which were set to cost the Water Corporation \$7.8 million.

I am appreciative of the excellent work carried out by this Committee to investigate and resolve the issues with sewerage in Spearwood. The Committee's report in December 2009 on the deferral of the Infill Sewerage Program was particularly illuminating and helpful.

This Committee has already heard a vast amount of evidence from departments about the health concerns of inadequate sewerage. In Report 18 of last year, the committee heard evidence from the Department of Health regarding the impact of deferring the infill sewerage program on areas like those in Cockburn.

Complaints have been received about effluent surfacing and pooling in backyards and children's play areas, following down roads and via storm drains into local creeks and rivers. Effluent is also still being disposed of onsite in some areas which rely on shallow aquifers for drinking water supplies."

Since the report, my constituents have informed me that there have been incidents in Quinns Rocks which are strikingly familiar to the issues experienced in Cockburn. For example, in houses on Hickory Road and Ashley Avenue sewerage has leached into the groundwater and overflowed into residents' gardens. This has apparently resulted in a number of children developing bacterial infections. There is also a concern amongst constituents about the welfare of elderly residents, who are vulnerable to the effects of bad smells.

MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION

The social, environmental and health risks posed to Quinns Rocks from pooling raw sewerage is of great concern for affected residents. People are concerned that they may have to live with the stench and risks resulting from inadequate sewerage facilities.

Planning and mapping for sewerage infill was already completed by the State Government when the first stage of Quinns Rocks was developed. While it is understandable that all areas of Government are under pressure to reduce spending, sewerage infill is without doubt an expenditure item of priority. The concerns of the Department of Health, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the WA Local Government Association and the Department of Water at the deferral of the Infill Sewerage Program appear to be a reality for my constituents in Quinns Rocks.

The State Government has pledged \$100 million over four years to restart the Infill Sewerage Program. However, it is extremely important to my constituents that the Infill Sewerage development is implemented as soon as possible. Residents in areas suffering from septic tank overflow, such as Quinns Rocks, are crying out to receive funding from the first round of \$25 million.

409 signatures were collected from residents concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed changes. They should be given the opportunity to present their views to the Committee and the Government on decisions that will impact their quality of life in the future.

On behalf of my constituents and residents of the area, I encourage the Committee to further investigate this important issue.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Travers', written over a circular mark.

KEN TRAVERS MLC
MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN

11 August 2010

CC: Tracey Roberts, principal petitioner