

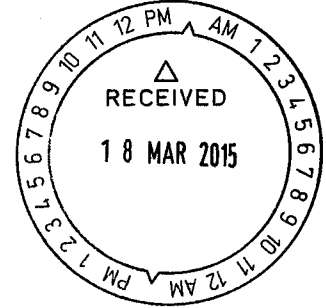


Sue Ellery MLC

Member for South Metropolitan Region



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Simon

Re: Petition No 79 – High Road Hotel, Parkwood

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in support of the petition No 79 that I tabled on 24 February 2015.

The issues relate to a decision by Coles as owners of the site of the High Road Hotel on High Road in Parkwood to demolish it and replace it with a Coles Supermarket and a takeaway liquor store.

I have been contacted by constituents who are very upset about two elements of this decision. In the first instance, there is a process issue that has caused concern. That is that Coles originally made an application to the Metro Central JDAP – City of Canning to redevelop the site by way of a proposed Shop (supermarket and liquor store) and additions and alterations to the existing hotel. In pursuing this application the community advise me the applicant undertook the required consultation and the hotel patrons and the community were relatively happy with the proposals and approval was then granted. Subsequently however the applicant made application to modify the existing approval such that the hotel would not be added to or altered but completely demolished and the supermarket and liquor store would go ahead. Hotel patrons and residents feel that the consultation on the modification was much less and that this should not have been treated as a modification as it has a substantially different outcome for the community.

The second issue is the loss of the hotel itself. The High Road Hotel is a community meeting place, it has a popular dining facility used by families, it has two outdoor beer garden type areas and is well frequented. It is not a "beer barn" type hotel and does not have a reputation for unruly or anti-social behaviour. Importantly, in the local area over the past few years another similar local amenity the Lynwood Arms has also been closed. There are social clubs who use the High Road Hotel and it really is a community hub. Residents who contacted me feel quite betrayed and cynical that the demolition of the hotel was perhaps Coles' intention all along and that the

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“modification” application was so far from the original application, it should have been the subject of a brand new application and consultation period. Residents also feel quite aggrieved that there is no capacity for them as third parties to be party to or even to be heard in consideration of these applications.

I have explained to the residents that the Committee has no power to direct the applicant or the planning bodies to take certain action but I have also explained the Committee might be interested in their views in whether the laws allow their voice to be heard.

I have attached a copy of the information they provided me with from the Development Assessment Panels for the assistance of the Committee.

I hope the Committee gives favourable consideration to hearing from the residents directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Ellery', written in a cursive style.

SUE ELLERY MLC
Member for South Metropolitan Region

16 March 2015