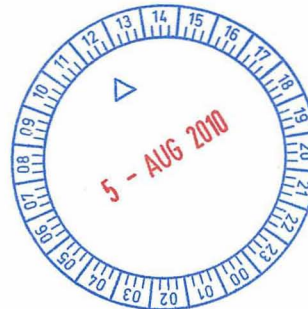


**PUBLIC**



**Minister for Planning; Culture & the Arts  
Government of Western Australia**

Our Ref: 33-08475



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

Dear Mr Ellis

**PETITION NO. 73 REZONING OF UNDERGROUND WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AREA (UWPCA)- PINJAR SOUTH  
PETITION NO. 76 - REZONING OF SPECIAL RURAL LAND MARIGINIUP**

Thank you for your letter dated 30 June 2010 regarding the above-mentioned Petitions No. 73 and Petition No. 76.

The Gnangara system is perhaps the most important, and is certainly most valuable, water source in Western Australia. Less rain over the past decades has led to a range of water security and land management issues for Perth. The Gnangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS) makes recommendations that aim to achieve the best outcome in this changed situation. Modelling has shown that it will be necessary to make some trade-offs to protect the majority of the Gnangara Mound water resource, and most of the key dependent wetlands in this drying climate.

However, the GSS is not a decision making document; the planning investigation areas identified within the GSS have their origin in a series of collaborative planning initiatives by State Government agencies and local governments, and led by the Department of Planning. There is a significant shortage of land to accommodate employment in the North West sub region. During the course of researching and preparing the draft GSS, certain land areas have been identified for further detailed investigation by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the respective Departments of Water, Environment and Conservation and Planning, amongst others.

While I note the petitioners' concerns relating to the risk of degradation and contamination of the groundwater, the GSS recognises the importance of Public Drinking Water Source Areas to protect public water supplies, and clearly states that prior to any decision to proceed the risks and benefits of potential urban and employment generating land use as identified must be investigated, with a view to determining the feasibility of amending the current Priority 1 Underground Water Pollution Control Area (UWPCA) boundary. In addition, these investigation areas are located on Crown land within the State forest, i.e. they comprise previously disturbed land, rather than remnant bushland that forms the core areas of the Priority 1 UWPCA.

This investigation and the consideration of possible changes to the UWPCA boundaries and the land use planning process relating to such investigation areas are subject to a stringent consultation process. Given that the GSS has recommended that these State government authorities and agencies further investigate the risks and benefits of accommodating employment generating uses on these areas, it is proposed that this process will determine the feasibility of amending the current UWPCA boundaries.

Technical investigations to support this process will cover the range of concerns that the petitioners have identified and the results will be released for public scrutiny. Based on these further investigations, a decision will be made as to the technical feasibility of any land use changes.

Following that decision, and if it is determined to proceed, then formal processes including public consultation will take place around any proposed rezoning. Only after that consultation has been completed and the views of the local community properly considered will a final decision be made.

I look forward to the initiation of this investigation by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning, on advice from the Department of Environment, the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Authority, so that the risks and benefits of potential urban and employment generating land use can be determined.

I support the retention of this recommendation in the GSS so that the findings of these investigations can inform decisions concerning the feasibility of amending the current UWPCA boundaries.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN DAY**  
**MINISTER FOR PLANNING;**  
**CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

04 AUG 2010