



Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth

Our ref: 75-19877

Your ref: A987732 Petition No. 60

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Foster

PETITION NO. 60 – SEWERAGE PROVISIONS ADJACENT TO KENWICK TRAIN STATION

Thank you for your letter dated 17 October 2022 requesting comment on Petition No.60 tabled by the Honourable Kate Doust MLC on the 9th of August 2022.

The State Government commenced the Infill Sewerage Program in 1994 with the aim to provide wastewater connections to as many residential areas of metropolitan Perth and regional towns as possible, where the use of septic tanks represented a potential threat to health and the environment.

The program was completed with more than 100,000 septic tanks decommissioned in areas considered high risk at a total cost of \$1.2 billion.

I note the tabling Member's reference to the December 2009 'Inquiry into Deep sewerage in the Cockburn Area.' I am informed the aforementioned petition tabled in the Legislative Council, which led to the Inquiry, specifically called on the Government to release funding which was deferred in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis, to continue and complete the program in the City of Cockburn.

However, I am advised that the unsewered areas that form the basis of Petition No. 60 were never included in the previous program, as the size of the lots were larger than standard urban residential developments. When ranked against the program's public health and higher environmental criteria, these properties were considered to pose a lower risk as they are large enough to safely manage domestic wastewater via appropriately operated and maintained septic tanks and leach drains.

With regard to the provision of wastewater services to this area of Kenwick, the option still remains for the establishment of a developer contribution scheme for the area by the City of Gosnells. This scheme would see the landowners contributing proportionately to the benefit they receive.

If a proponent requires network extensions in order to develop a property, it is their responsibility to fund the necessary works. This longstanding approach to development is an integral part Water Corporation's Infrastructure Network Funding Model, which was developed in accordance with the Western Australian planning framework.

Kenwick is not the last remaining suburb in Perth, there are 17,836 properties in the Perth metropolitan area currently not connected to deep sewerage.

Water Corporation previously provided the City of Gosnells with a detailed breakdown of costs and a conceptual design to construct the necessary wastewater infrastructure to enable the developer contribution scheme to progress.

Water Corporation has also committed to construct a section of wastewater main under Albany Highway and the Armadale Train Line to connect the area the petition refers to into the wider wastewater network. This work would comprise of approximately \$2 million of the estimated \$7.25 million cost of extending the wastewater network to the area in question (2019 estimates).

Although I appreciate this is not the advice the petitioners would be hoping for, successive State Governments have considered this longstanding model to be the most equitable way of sharing the cost of water services infrastructure among those who will benefit from it.

Thank you again for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dave Kelly MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER

07 NOV 2022