



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Your Ref: Petition No. 14
Our Ref: 62-03239

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr ~~Swinbourn~~ *Matthew*

Thank you for your letter dated 17 August 2017 seeking advice on a number of matters relating to Petition No. 14 for a proposed landfill in Esperance at Lot 12 Kirwan Rd, Merivale (Lot 12). I advise the following:

- Proximity of the proposed facility to RAMSAR listed wetlands:

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has advised me that the proposed premises is located within two water catchment areas; the northern part is in the surface water catchment of the Lake Warden system RAMSAR site and the southern portion is in the catchment of Doombup Lake, a wetland of regional significance. The Lake Warden System RAMSAR site is located approximately 3.8 kilometres west of Lot 12.

- Current status of the proposal

I am advised that the proposal has not been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), to date.

Landfills accepting more than 20 tonnes per year of putrescible waste are subject to the works approval and licensing provisions under Part V of the EP Act, which is administered by the DWER. The Department has not received an application for a works approval or licence, to date. However, staff from the Department met with the Shire of Esperance and its consultants on 15 March and 28 July 2017 regarding the proposed landfill development.

Based on preliminary discussions, the Department understands that the proposed landfill is intended to be constructed with an engineered hi-density polyethylene composite lining system, accept up to 20,000 tonnes of Class III putrescible waste per annum, and have a lifetime of approximately 60 years. It is understood that detailed investigations and design details are being prepared by the Shire of Esperance to support an application for a works approval. It is understood that the Department may receive the application by November 2017.

The DWER also understands that the Shire of Esperance is considering referring the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the EP Act prior to submission of the works approval application.

- Potential impacts on RAMSAR wetlands/geology of the premises

I am advised that as no submission has been received by the Department, its assessment of the proposed landfill has not commenced.

I am aware that the Shire of Esperance has published information relating to the proposal site on its public website, including a Phase I Hydrogeological Risk Assessment, a Due Diligence and Landfill Capability Assessment, a Flora and Fauna survey and a series of summary/information sheets. This information has not been assessed by the DWER.

I have requested that the Department review the information in order to provide you with its preliminary assessment of the proposal based on available information, by 30 September 2017.

Should your Office require further information in the interim, please contact the DWER's Senior Manager, Industry Regulation (Waste), Ms Ruth Dowd, on 93337416 or ruth.dowd@dwer.wa.gov.au.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on this Petition.

Yours sincerely



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
1 1 SEP 2017