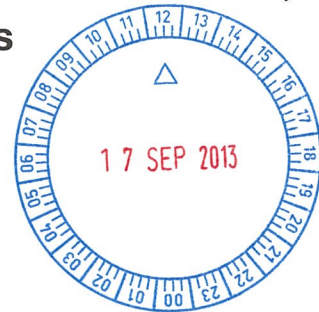




**The Hon Joe Francis MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services;
Small Business; Veterans**



Our Ref: 51-01275

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

Dear Mr O'Brien

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS –
PETITION NO. 2 - BASSENDEAN FIRE STATION**

Thank you for your enquiry of 13 August 2013 regarding a petition from Ms Wouterina Klein opposing the sale of the Bassendean Fire Station and the proposed gifting of the station and its core assets to the people of Bassendean.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is in the process of finalising the construction of a new career fire and rescue service facility in Kiara to replace the existing Bassendean Fire Station. As it will become surplus to operational requirements, DFES will undertake disposal of the Bassendean property.

In accordance with the Government's Strategic Asset Management Framework, proceeds from the sale of assets are used to offset the cost of new capital and/or reduce debt. Gifting of the premises would therefore have a negative effect on DFES's capital funding capacity and its future delivery of services to the community.

DFES is also obligated to comply with the provisions of the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process and accordingly it will liaise with the Heritage Council to complete any requirements related to potential heritage issues with the property.

DFES have been involved in discussions with the Bassendean VFRS about where their trophies and memorabilia could be housed at an agreed location, that would have public access, even though there is none at the moment at their current premises.

A committee – made up of current Bassendean VFERS members and DFES has been formed to determine the best location for the memorabilia to be housed and has been meeting monthly to discuss this and a range of issues to ensure the volunteers are comfortable with the whole process.

I appreciate you writing to me on this matter and I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



HON JOE FRANCIS MLA
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;
CORRECTIVE SERVICES; SMALL BUSINESS; VETERANS

16 SEP 2013