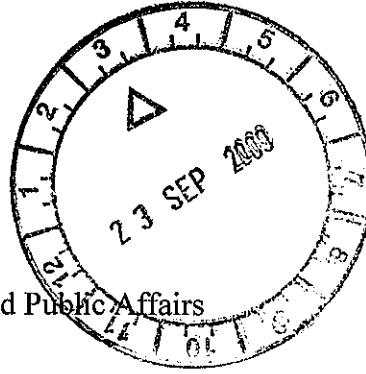


# PUBLIC

Gary Norden  
1 James Street  
Dunsborough  
WA 6281



Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
Perth  
WA 6000

18 September 2009

## **Re Petition No 39 – Busselton Hospital – Immediate Construction of a new Hospital**

Dear Mr Ellis,

Please find enclosed documents that the Busselton Hospital Community Action Group received from the Minister for Health under our Freedom of Information application as requested by the Committee through your Research Officer Ms Gillingham.

The first document is the 'Document Schedule'. This is stated to be the full list of correspondence and reports that the Minister's office has in relation to the new Busselton Hospital. The Committee may wish to note that while there are references to reports such as environmental and contamination in the briefing notes that we have, the actual reports themselves are not included or listed in the Schedule. Our Group was certainly surprised that the Minister apparently did not receive these.

Document No 27 shows the range of options that the Government considered before deciding to build at Mill Road rather than Vasse. Unfortunately the Recommendations have been exempted which we find disappointing as we believe they are a matter of Public Interest.

The Government's announcement that their preferred model includes Private involvement as well as a Private Aged Care facility has led us to the conclusion that Option B4 is the preferred one. This is because it is the only option that includes Part Public/Part Private and Aged Care. Our assessment of the cost and other issues are based on that option. It should be noted however, that these costs are likely to be for construction at that time rather than in a few years time as will now be the case. We believe there will be cost escalations in the future particularly now that there are a number of major infrastructure projects planned for commencement around the same time.


Document No 28 is A Briefing Note and while there is no date on it, I was informed by the Minister's office that it is from April 15 2009. It has been written following some further studies and notes the possum concerns as well as the site contamination issues

with the recommendation that "...excavations deeper than 1m on the site are not recommended."

This Note also states that the Community Health Centre will need to be demolished in order to accommodate the Aged Care facility. This is a large and well used Centre and it is stated that there are no funds for its replacement. The community health services are to be provided out of "...a new Medical Suite" until a new Centre can be built. We believe this is a significant downsizing of the community health services with no certainty of when a new Centre will be built.

As you will see from the Schedule most of the rest of the documents are simple letters which we do not believe are related to the matters in our Petition. However if the Committee would like any of them, I would be more than happy to forward them.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary Norden', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Norden