



Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts

Our Ref: 66-02248

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair – Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 August 2017 requesting my comments on Petition No. 14 – Proposed landfill in Esperance.

The issues raised by the petitioners are primarily the responsibility of the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Water and the Minister for Planning, who I trust have also been contacted by the Committee.

The *Local Government Act 1995* creates local governments as autonomous bodies, able to make decisions believed to be in the best interests of the community. As the Minister for Local Government, I do not have the authority to intervene in lawful council decisions.

While there has been considerable community interest in this landfill proposal, there is a legitimate assessment process to be followed, in which many of the petitioners' concerns will be considered. Pre-emptive intervention in this process would not be in the public interest, if the State does indeed have the power to do so.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Templeman', written over the typed name and title.

HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT;
HERITAGE; CULTURE AND THE ARTS

7 SEP 2017