




Minister for Planning; Disability Services

Our Ref: 40-15751
Your Ref: Petition No. 134

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Deputy Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000


Dear Mr Dawson

PETITION NO. 134 - OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF WETLANDS AND LAKE IN HELENA VALLEY

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2016 regarding the above matter.

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), after considering the site's constraints, environmental features and community views, approved Structure Plan No.71 over Lots 2, 3 and 6 Midland Road, Helena Valley and determined not to require the retention of the existing waterbody on the land.

The decision was made on the basis that the waterbody is not a protected wetland and was artificially formed by extensive site disturbances and excavation activities taking place over previous decades. This was confirmed in advice from the Department of Parks and Wildlife and a review of historic aerial photography of the site. However, priority was given to the rehabilitation and improvement of the Kadina Brook, which is a Resource Enhancement Wetland and identified for retention due to its natural and cultural values during the zoning of the land to Urban under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS). Consideration was also given to the significant amount of local and regional open space (a total of approximately 49 per cent) already being provided on the structure plan.

Liveable Neighbourhoods seeks to retain and enhance natural watercourses, wetlands and riparian vegetation as an objective of community design. The approved structure plan is considered to achieve this objective through the protection of the Kadina Brook and its associated wetland buffer. The designation of public open space around the Kadina Brook will allow for retention and enhancement of the watercourse, surrounding wetland and vegetation.

I understand that the WAPC's determination of the structure plan included a provision requiring the preparation of a vegetation survey identifying vegetation to be retained, prior to subdivision being supported. I am further advised there is the opportunity through the subdivision process to require wildlife in the waterbody to be appropriately relocated into Kadina Brook or existing waterbodies in the locality.

I appreciate you raising this matter with me and trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Faragher', written in a cursive style.

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR PLANNING; DISABILITY SERVICES