



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

Our Ref: 66-03314

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

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 November 2017, inviting my comments on Petition No. 25 – Compensation for small business around Mends Street.

I am advised that Connect South is a \$7.5 million major project being undertaken by the City of South Perth to enhance and invigorate the Mends Street precinct and foreshore area.

Stage 1 of the Connect South project includes Mends Street between Mill Point Road and the South Perth Foreshore, along with parts of the South Perth Esplanade. It will deliver a piazza on the South Perth Foreshore as well as streetscape and amenity improvements, landscaping upgrades and place activation activities.

Over fifty stakeholders and community members attended the Connect South draft concept design presentation and project update at the Old Mill Theatre on Wednesday, 25 October 2017. These designs were to be presented to Council at the meeting held on 14 November 2017 to be endorsed to go out for public comment.

The City has advised that it will be engaging a consultant to assist retailers in the precinct with activation and stimulation initiatives during the project construction period currently happening in the Mends Street area. The City plans to have the engagement in place by early December 2017.

The City has further advised as follows:

- Engagement of the community and stakeholders is a key component of this \$7.5 million major project. The commercial and retail traders and property owners within the Mends Street precinct are important stakeholders and valued partners of the City.

- City representatives have been meeting regularly with the Mends Street Traders group and are working with them on a number of initiatives to support their businesses through this period of transition.
- The City has and will soon be installing additional promotional signage in the precinct to remind shoppers that Mends Street is still open for business and encourage visitation during the construction and transition phase.
- In addition to the City's 'First Hour Free' parking trial on South Perth Esplanade, the City has and is implementing measures to manage parking in the area.
- New permanent wayfinding signage will soon be installed to assist visitors to locate the free short-stay parking in the area, including the one-hour free parking available in the South Shore Shopping Centre undercover car park. A dynamic sign showing the number of available parking bays at South Shore will be installed as part of the wayfinding project.
- Council has approved three new short-term parking bays on Mends Street in place of a previous loading bay.
- In addition, the City has introduced parking for construction and contractor workers on Melville Parade, which will reduce the load that these vehicles have been adding to available parking in the precinct.

Any claim for compensation related to loss of income during the Mends Street works would need to be directed to the City of South Perth for consideration.

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 processes and decisions.

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

Yours sincerely



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

27 NOV 2017