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## Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports

Our Ref: 72-34262  
Your Ref: A905721; Petition No. 014

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
[env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Foster

### **PETITION NO. 014 – MORATORIUM ON SUBDIVISION IN BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS**

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2021 regarding Petition No. 014 – Moratorium on subdivision in bushfire prone areas.

In 2019 State Government endorsed a Bushfire Action Plan, which requires the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to review the current bushfire policy framework. This includes the preparation of a new Map of Bushfire Prone Areas (Map) by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The existing Map does not identify the likelihood of a bushfire event, rather only if the land is bushfire prone or not. Under the current mapping, 93 per cent of Western Australia is identified as being bushfire prone.

You are likely aware of the current pressure on housing, and the difficulties that many Western Australian families are facing due to rising rental costs and limited supply of houses. A moratorium on subdivision in bushfire prone areas will have a significant impact on the provision of land supply for housing, particularly in the Perth, Peel and Greater Bunbury Regions.

As you may appreciate the consequence of proceeding with this course of action would be very significant. As a result, it is not considered appropriate or just, to landowners and prospective home buyers across the State that would be impacted by a moratorium on development as proposed.

Government is aware of the increase in natural hazard events, due to the impacts of climate change. The new bushfire prone mapping that CSIRO has been engaged to prepare seeks to identify key areas of extreme bushfire hazard and incorporates

climate change scenarios. This will allow for the risk from bushfire to be considered with any proposal for rezoning, subdivision or development.

The draft Map will inform the review of the *State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* and associated Guidelines. This revised State planning policy will continue to set the standards for the design of subdivisions and development in bushfire prone areas, giving consideration to the level of risk identified by the new Map. The protection of human life will remain the key priority of the revised policy and it is anticipated that the new Map and policy framework will be released for public comment in early 2022.

Thank you for seeking my comments on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a long, sweeping tail that curves back towards the left.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

**30 AUG 2021**