



## OFFICE OF THE HON. DR BRAD PETTITT MLC MEMBER FOR SOUTH METROPOLITAN

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4/1 High Street, Fremantle, WA 6160

[brad.pettitt@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:brad.pettitt@mp.wa.gov.au)

(08) 9430 7755

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

Dear Chair,

Re: Petition No. 41 – Southern Link Road Stage 3

I wish to thank the committee for the opportunity to make a submission on this issue.

The City of Canning proposes to extend Southern Link Road by 0.45km from Grey Street to Gerard Street in Canning City Centre. The proposed alignment of this extension with the eastern boundary of Carousel Swamp will impact a Conservation Category Wetland, an endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and several listed species.

I have spoken with members of the community and the lead petitioner, who have all raised concerns about the proposal and its potential impacts on the natural environment. The community does not support the proposal and the further clearing of the endangered Shrublands and Woodlands on Muchea Limestone of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (“the TEC”).

I support the community in opposing clearing in local government areas with less than 30% native vegetation remaining and the further clearing of vegetation types that are found to be at less than 10% of their pre-European settlement extent. The City of Canning local government area has already been cleared to such a degree that only 6.6% of its land area is covered by native vegetation, whilst the TEC impacted by this proposal has been reduced to only 3% of its pre-European settlement extent.

The City’s Canning City Centre Activity Centre Plan acknowledges the importance of this TEC as part of the ‘Conservation (Cannington Swamp) Precinct’. Section 5.2 of the Plan states the following land use and desired character for this precinct:

*“Land use:*

*No development (other than for the purposes of enhancing these assets) will be allowed. Structures such as viewing platforms, walkways may be supported with approval from the relevant authorities.”*

*“Desired character:*

*This Precinct is not suitable for any additional uses or development. These areas are important environmental assets and will be made accessible through sensitive planning and location of paths, low-key fences and boardwalks.”*

Despite the City acknowledging that the TEC is much diminished and worthy of protection, the proposed construction Southern Link Road Stage 3 would destroy another part of what little remains.

The City of Canning has submitted the proposal to the EPA, who are yet to provide their report and recommendations to the Minister for Environment. Despite this, the City has already received funding from Main Roads for the project.

We must recognise and address Australia's land degradation issues and loss of biological diversity. The protection and conservation of biodiversity is essential for the wellbeing of all life on Earth. The reduction of Western Australia's biodiversity has harmful impacts on the resilience and stability of ecosystems, affecting their capacity to cope with human and environmental stressors, including over-clearing. We must do everything we can to avoid further damage to an ecological community that has already been depleted to an unacceptable degree.

We must conserve the existing natural environment and, where possible, repair damage and reverse destructive trends. The conservation and restoration of this, and other, natural area is the only way to protect our biodiversity and threatened species.

I support the petitioner and ask the Committee to call on the City of Canning to abandon the construction of Southern Link Road stage 3.

Thank you for reviewing this petition and ensuring that the voices of the signatories are heard and considered in this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Pettitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Dr Brad Pettitt MLC  
Member for South Metropolitan

Friday, 14 January 2022