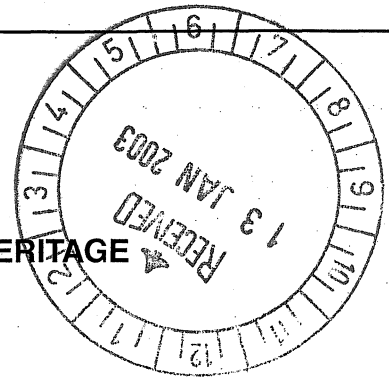




MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



Our Reference: 15336
Your Reference: PO-1-01

Mr Malcolm Peacock
Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Peacock

STANDING ORDER 337 - GNARABUP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Thank you for your letter of 18 and 21 October 2002 regarding a response to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs Report in relation to a petition opposing the Gnarabup Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), tabled on 16 October 2002.

You have requested a response to recommendations 1, 3, 4 and 5 which are provided in attachment one.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Your sincerely

Judy Edwards

Dr Judy Edwards MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

23 DEC 2002

ATTACHMENT 1

Recommendation 1: - *That, in line with the wishes of the majority of the local community, the Treatment Plant be converted into a pumping station and the water be pumped back to the Margaret River Treatment Plant for treatment and re-use on the Margaret River golf course and public open space.*

- I support the recommendation to convert the Gnarabup wastewater treatment plant into a sewage pump station to direct flows to the Margaret River wastewater treatment plant.
- As the existing Margaret River treatment plant has sufficient land disposal area to accept the additional flows from Gnarabup, I believe that it would be more cost effective (and more environmentally acceptable) to dispose of treated wastewater at the existing Margaret River treatment plant woodlot, rather than direct it to the Margaret River Golf Course or back to Gnarabup for public open space watering through a secondary pipeline.
- The Community (section 12.13) accept the operation of the treatment plant in the short term, but seek to have the relocation issue resolved in medium to long term. Accordingly, I believe the Water Corporation/Cedarville Investments should be afforded until 1 January 2005 to convert the Gnarabup wastewater treatment plant into a sewage pump station.

Recommendation 3: *That the Government review its environmental and town planning legislation (and in particular section 32 of the Town Planning and Development Act 1928) with a view to giving greater legislative clarity to procedures required for assessment of public works in a manner that more effectively integrates the State's environment and town planning legislation in keeping with other related Government initiatives.*

- I support the recommendation for Government to review its environmental and town planning legislation under the *Town Planning and Development Act 1928*. I believe the lead agency will be the Ministry for Planning and Infrastructure with the assistance of the Environmental Protection Authority.

Recommendation 4: *As the results of the water quality testing undertaken by the Water Corporation in the vicinity of the Treatment Plant become available they be provided to the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River for public information.*

- I support the recommendation for the Water Corporation to make available monitoring results to the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River for public information.
- Under the existing *Environmental Protection Act 1986* licence, the Water Corporation is required to provide to the Department of Environmental Protection with an annual report containing comprehensive monitoring results each September (covering the previous financial year). These annual reports are publicly available, on request.

Recommendation 5: *That the water quality testing undertaken by the Water Corporation in the vicinity of the Treatment Plant take into account the topography of the area and in particular the cavernous and fractured nature of the limestone.*

- I support the recommendation that water quality testing taken by the Water Corporation take into account the topography and likely geology of the area.
- I believe that monitoring conditions set under the existing *Environmental Protection Act 1986* licence take into account the topography and likely geology of the area. Further, the Water Corporation has agreed to undertake additional monitoring (outside of the licence) this summer to assess groundwater quality at the base of the primary dunes in Gas Bay, especially in the area identified by Mr Lane (section 7.61). Should results of this monitoring indicate elevated contaminant levels, then the licence may be amended to require improvement works and/or ongoing monitoring.

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