



**Hon Sue Ellery MLC**  
**Minister for Education and Training**  
**Leader of the Legislative Council**

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Your Ref: Petition Nos 48, 49, & 51 (A686145)  
Our Ref: 61-10473

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Email: [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr *Math* Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2018 regarding petitions 48, 49 and 51 – Bridgetown, Pemberton and Point Peron Camp Schools.

I acknowledge that the programs offered at Bridgetown, Pemberton and Point Peron Camp Schools have been well received and appreciated over a number of years. They offer activities that help develop important social and life skills.

There are other recreation facilities throughout Western Australia that offer similar programs. For example, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has similar recreation facilities for students that offer comparable facilities and programs. These are located at Bickley, Hillarys, Point Walter, Quaranup and Woodman Point.

There are also a number of privately operated camp sites that schools can access. Many public schools already choose to use non-government run camp sites to deliver school camp experiences.

A process is currently underway to identify alternative operators to lease and operate the camp school sites. The conditions of use stipulated in the Registration of Interest and Request for Proposal documentation require proponents to continue to provide public school students with access to camp experiences at an affordable cost. In addition, proponents must retain an educational focus and use of the camp sites. An announcement regarding the final decision about alternative operators is expected later in 2018.

The Department does not expect any significant changes to the current services provided at each camp site. Operators must provide affordable camping experiences, including accommodation, meals and activities. Any increases in costs will be kept to a minimum. The Department has ensured that operators with significant experience in running camps for school-aged students will be considered.

The management of camp schools started to change from school administrator to public service positions in around 2004. It is no longer the Camp Manager's role to develop curriculum programs, to provide excursion management plans or to complete teacher checklists of observable behaviour. These are responsibilities of the school staff who accompany the students. As an example, Broome Camp School does not currently have any staff with a teaching background.

Camp school staff in fixed-term contracts will have their contracts honoured. Permanent staff will become registrable employees under Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management (Redeployment and Redundancy) Regulations 2014*. A registrable employee can be transferred to another permanent position in the Department or, where this is not possible, to a position in another public sector agency.

Staff at the camp schools may be offered a redundancy where they have lodged an expression of interest for the scheme, and the Department has deemed an individual's skills and/or qualifications are not transferable to another suitable position. All offers are subject to the Director General's approval.

All government agencies were asked to contribute to budget repair measures by finding savings within their existing budgets. The Department has analysed its budget and determined where services could be provided more efficiently. The decision regarding camp schools demonstrates responsible financial management without compromising access to quality education.

Although the camp schools will cease to be run by the Department, the land and infrastructure assets will be retained by the Department. The camp sites will be leased to private operators to provide similar camping experiences for public school students.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



SUE ELLERY MLC  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

5 JUN 2018