



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Your Ref: Petition 098
Our Ref: 62-12768

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

Dear Mr ~~Swinbourn~~ *Matthew*

Thank you for your letter received in this office on 14 February 2019 regarding Petition No 98 which relates to protection of Lake Jasper.

The State Government is aware of the 1994 Government commitments to reinstate the area that was excised from D'Entrecasteaux National Park (now within Crown reserve 44705) if the company that previously held a mining lease in this area did not proceed with its mining proposal. I understand that through 2009 and 2010, when that mining proposal was discontinued, the previous Government chose not to proceed with reinstating this area into the national park.

I am also aware of the environmental and cultural sensitivities of the Gingilup-Jasper wetland system, the reported effects of previous mining operations in the region and community concern for how a proposed mining operation in the locality could affect Lake Jasper and D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

Changing the purpose or class of reserves involves addressing a range of matters, including native title and stakeholder input, and I also note that the area concerned is subject to the South West Native Title Settlement.

Taking these matters into account, I can advise that processing of the mining lease application has been suspended while a greater understanding of the issues is obtained and that the Government's intention is to reinstate this area into D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

Yours sincerely

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

28 FEB 2019