



Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

15 November 2014

Dear Chairman *Simon*

Petition No 51 – Housing Conditions Warralong Community

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission in support of Petition No 51 - Housing Conditions Warralong Community that I tabled in the Legislative Council on 24 September 2014.

I confirm that the issues raised in the petition have not been raised with, nor have been the subject of an investigation by, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Residents from the Warralong Community first approached me in August this year to raise their frustrations about the level of service or more appropriately the lack of service they believed they were receiving from government agencies and non-government organisations funded to provide services to the community.

Following this initial meeting I was invited to attend a community protest held in the community on 20 September to hear from residents about their concerns.

At that meeting residents invited me into their homes to see firsthand their living conditions. I was appalled to see that some of these families were living in conditions best described as third world.

I saw examples of serious overcrowding - with cases of up to twenty people living in homes with a single toilet and inadequate hot-water facilities to allow children to shower before going to school.

This community is off the beaten track and it seems to have been forgotten by government agencies and non-government organisations alike

Residents are seeking the urgent assistance from the Department of Housing to help rectify the housing conditions at Warralong Community.

Stephen Dawson

Member for **Mining and Pastoral Region**

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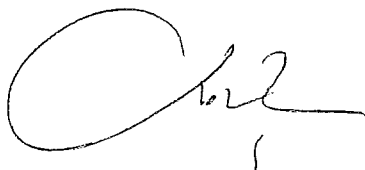


The community is rightly concerned that residents are not provided a clean and safe living environment, they are concerned about overcrowding and they are concerned

that agencies may well be funded to provide services in the community yet the services are not being provided.

I urge the committee to consider further the concerns raised by the Warralong Community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Dawson', written in a cursive style.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
Member for Mining and Pastoral Region