



**Minister for Planning; Culture & the Arts
Government of Western Australia**

Our Ref: 33-25635
Your Ref: Petition No 38

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council of Western Australia
18-32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

**PETITION NO 38 - OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE SWAN VALLEY PLANNING ACT
1995**

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2014 regarding the above-mentioned petition.

Earlier this year I announced the Government's intention to introduce new legislation to protect the Swan Valley from inappropriate development, and prevent the further subdivision of productive agricultural land. This announcement followed an extensive consultation process that culminated with the release of *The Way Forward – Swan Valley Land Use and Management* by the Department of Planning. A copy is attached for your information.

The Department of Planning is currently preparing the legislation and accompanying planning framework, which will provide detailed guidance on how the area is to be used and the purposes for which it is to be protected.

This work is expected to be completed in 2015, and there will be further opportunities during that time for stakeholders, such as the Swan Valley and Regional Winemakers Association, to provide their input.

In the meantime, I reiterate that the Government does not support the further subdivision of productive agricultural land in the Swan Valley and expects that this will be made absolutely clear in the new legislation.

I appreciate you raising this matter with me and trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN DAY
MINISTER FOR PLANNING;
CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Att 09 JUL 2014