



Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts

Our Ref: 66-02242

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair – Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 August 2017 requesting my comments on Petition No. 14 – Proposed inquiry into the City of Melville.

A number of contentious issues involving the City of Melville have generated a high level of interest and complaints from members of the community, particularly related to the Tompkins Park Wave Park proposal and proposed high rise developments within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan area.

The issues raised by the petitioners related to these proposals are primarily the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Planning, who I trust have also been contacted by the Committee.

The *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) establishes local governments as autonomous bodies and does not empower the Minister or the Department to intervene in lawful Council decisions.

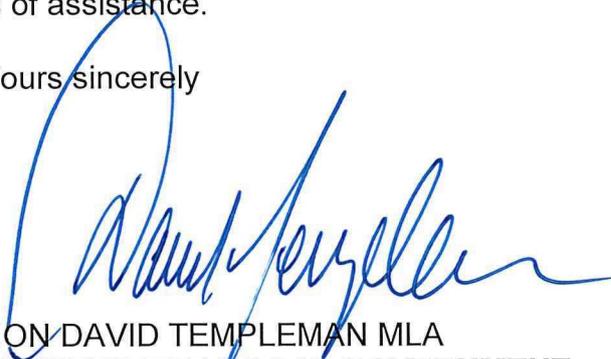
While there has been considerable community interest in these proposals, there is a legitimate assessment process to be followed in both cases, in which many of the petitioners' concerns will be considered. Pre-emptive intervention in this process would not be in the public interest, if the State does indeed have the power to do so.

In relation to the City of Melville's management of these matters, officers of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries have been working proactively with the City to address and improve its governance and administration, and continues to monitor developments and provide advice to staff and members of the public on request.

I note that only one formal complaint under the Act has been made against an elected member of the City in recent years.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this petition, and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA
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7 SEP 2017