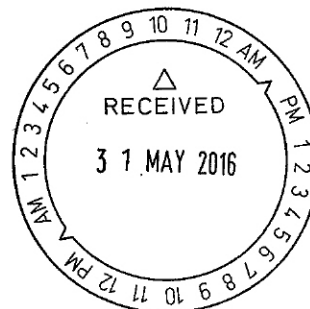




The Hon Terry Redman MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Lands;
Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development

Our Ref: 39-34246

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



Dear *Simon* Chairman

PETITION NO 111 – KALBARRI POWER SUPPLY

Thank you for your letter dated 7 April 2016 requesting input into your inquiries into the above petition.

Within the Regional Development portfolio, the Regional Development Commissions monitor issues such as the one raised here with respect to Kalbarri electricity supplies, engaging the community and stakeholders in order to assist in driving positive outcomes.

In August 2015, I launched the Mid West Development Commission's Mid West Regional Blueprint which highlights the many challenges the Region faces with respect to critical infrastructure requirements, including that which services the communities energy needs and more specifically in this case, electricity.

The MWDC has commenced forming an Energy Development Strategy under its Regional Blueprint, which with respect to Kalbarri and the many other communities in the region who face very similar challenges, specifically seeks to highlight and address many of the issues raised by the Member for the Agricultural Region.

Through this process, Western Power has been proactively engaged by the Mid West Development Commission and encouraged to seek new and innovative solutions to the Kalbarri power situation and I understand their efforts in this regard contributed very significantly to the decision to progress the feasibility study announced by the Minister for Energy in March this year.

While Kalbarri's isolated location with respect to the electricity network does present a substantial challenge, through Royalties for Regions we are making significant investments into the very important tourism sector within the Kalbarri area and share the Member for the Agriculture Region's desire to see improvements in the reliability of electricity supplies to the area.

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As with each of the Development Commissions, the Mid West Development Commission continues to engage and advocate on behalf of the region to secure any possible opportunities for improvement which will benefit the community, including the potential for development of the Kalbarri micro grid.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Terry Redman', with a stylized, flowing script.

HON TERRY REDMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

26 MAY 2016