

SUBMISSION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REGARDING THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF THE OLD WARREN DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

SUBMISSION FROM THE HON PAUL OMODEI.

ATT: Hon MATHEW SWINBOURN MLC. Chair

Dear Sir

I write this submission as a person having lived in the Manjimup/Pemberton area all of my life, who was born in the Warren District Hospital but also as the Manjimup Shire President and having spent 44 years in Local Government and as Parliamentary Representative for the Warren District (19years 7months).

I have an intimate knowledge of the District, its' infrastructure and the people who live within. In particular knowledge of the Warren District Hospital and all its' forms over the years (once a 72 bed facility).

The Hospital which is currently a building deemed suitable for the delivery of 'Health Services' is proposed to be demolished as part of the contract to build a new Hospital with 16 beds. **If the building is not a suitable building for this purpose then the question should be asked as to how long has this been the case.**

It is my contention that this building should be used for purposes ancillary to the proposed new hospital (mentioned in the petition).

Having been a member of Parliamentary Select Committees and a Standing Committee I am aware that your deliberations and the calling of papers and evidence will reveal correspondence from Ministers and Government Departments i.e. Health Department, Treasury and Forward Estimates. One such letter by the Minister for Health will reveal that there is an estimate of \$6 million dollars to bring the building up to 'Fit for Purpose' but does not indicate what that purpose would be. Assessments will refer to plumbing, electrical wiring etc., etc. **(if so one could ask why has this maintenance not occurred in the past).**

I FIND IT INCONGRUENT IN THE EXTREME THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT FIND SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE STATES 28.4 BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET TO KEEP THIS FACILITY OPEN.

It is my most sincere wish that the STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS visit Manjimup and inspect the Hospital with an Independent qualified Person/s to ascertain for yourselves as to whether this facility should be retained for Public Purposes.

I humbly contend that this is a money saving exercise by the current and previous governments with inadequate consideration for the needs of people who require a bed for, Respite, Post-Operative Care, Hospice Care, Crisis Care and many other uses. It is well known that Hospital Beds are scarce both in the Metropolitan and Regional centres.

Rather than act precipitously why not cancel the Demolition until such time (12-18 months) as alternative uses have been investigated.

It is most unfortunate that I cannot provide photographic evidence for the perusal of COMMITTEE members as we have been prohibited from doing so. We can visit relatives and friends but not Photograph things like the fully Commercial Kitchen, Operating Theatres, Ensuite rooms, Allied health rooms, Offices etc. Expansive Gardens, Condition of Bricks/Roof and so on.

Government will give all the reasons why the building should be demolished. The truth of the matter is that in a situation where there is an outbreak of Flu or Golden Staff or similar how will the patients be housed in the 16 bed new Hospital? (The current Hospital is a fully functional Medical Facility capable of housing a large number of patients for a relatively small cost in the overall scheme of things).

I respectfully request that if the STANDING COMMITTEE is unable to visit Manjimup to inspect the Hospital then I be allowed to address the COMMITTEE in person.

This complaint **has not** been sent to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

Yours faithfully.



Hon Paul Omodei

Manjimup Shire President