

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 4014  
Enquires:

**PUBLIC**



19 October 2009

The Hon. Max Trenorden MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Trenorden

**Inquiry into "Wooden Power Poles" – Shire of Yilgarn Submission**

I refer to your letter dated 24 September 2009 in which you advised Council that the above Inquiry was being undertaken and inviting Council to provide a submission on the subject to the Standing Committee.

Council considered the Terms of Reference associated with the Inquiry at its most recent meeting. The following issues were highlighted by Council as matters that the Standing Committee should give due consideration when assessing the overall submissions:-

- **Current Age of Existing Wooden Power Poles** – The current age of the majority of existing poles in the Wheatbelt area of Western Australia is 30 -50 years and they need replacement immediately. The attempt by Western Power to prevent these aging poles from falling by installing steel supports at the base of the pole has failed as the poles are snapping above the supports.
- **Western Power to Revenue Driven** – Western Power is too focused on its revenue raising capacity and the provision of new services to clients rather than concentrating and maintaining its existing infrastructure. Whilst providing power to new industries is important, there needs to be a balance and neglecting existing infrastructure will only exacerbate the current problem.
- **Pine Poles** – The use of pine for power poles is not considered an appropriate timber for the Wheatbelt area even if it is treated and that a harder wood should be considered, especially for longevity.

I trust that the Standing Committee will consider the above points in the Inquiry process.

Yours faithfully  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Clarke".

Peter Clarke  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**