

13/10/2009
John Cunai
(Acting Chairperson)
Spearwood community association.

Further submission on behalf of members&residents of Spearwood,
Hamilton hill, Coogee.

RE:INQUIRY INTO INFILL SEWERAGE IN THE COCBURN AREA.

This is the second time we the community of cockburn have petitioned the Legislative Council, regards to delays/deferments and ultimately cancellation all within three years. The first being back in May 2006, where the then Honourable Barbara Scott MLC tabled a petition before this state upperhouse. The former labour government, lead by Alan Carpenter met with the S.C.A group where we put forward evidence and accounts of the dire situation. The then minister for water hon; John Kobelke initiated a review plus survey regarding infill sewerage priorities on health grounds.

This review became a desktop study conducted by the department of health in conjunction with Water Corp.

This report revealed major onsite effluent disposal problems.

December 7th 2006, A joint media statement released by Alan Carpenter (MLA Member for Willagee) & Jim McGinty (MLA Member for Fremantle) stating allocated monies of approx \$12million were to be added to the Water Corp budget to bring forward infill works in the cockburn area.

January / February of this year 2009, Water Corp mailed out approximately 500 letters to residents informing them of infill works commencing June 2009. There were also Water Corp employees knocking on residents doors advising them of infill pipe routes and connection points.

The anticipation amongst the community was buzzing with joy, after many years of government delays/deferments.

Finally being able to flush their toilets without FEAR.

May 2009 the Barnett government announces the cancellation of the infill programme a further four years. Citing THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS.

PUBLIC

Feelings of joy turned into Rage , Despondency including Depression.

Residents have since been reporting to the Spearwood Community association on a weekly basis of their continual septic tank system failures as well as their unorthodox practices.

INEQUITABLE SITUATION.

There are eight or so streets within these areas that have enjoyed infill connection for over a decade.

Some 4300 local properties. Yet opposite sides and ends of suburban streets are still experiencing problems.

Authorities advising the remaining 763 lots to continue maintaining their thirty plus year old septic systems.

Many of these residents are elderly and on a government pension. Costs on maintaining / pumping out blocked septic systems are becoming more expensive, as this waste management industry is dying out and is not competitive.

Other reported situations both to local/state government representatives plus our association, is of a dozen or so property buyers in the cockburn area purchasing homes after contacting Water Corp as to infill works commencement. Which was to be June 2009.

Devaluation not only for these recently Purchased properties, our whole established areas are now losing market value.

HEALTH ISSUES.

There has been some reports to committee members of community associations regarding skin conditions, anxiety (despair) plus other, However no one as yet to our knowledge has presented with direct major health implications.

JOB LOSSES.

During our researching on this infill cancellation, I have been informed by several contractors about their employee sackings approx 400 direct workers across six infill drainer companies. Also specific infill equipment are being sold off in order for some of these businesses to financially remain afloat.

Should the infill sewerage programme be reinstated say in three to four years time surely this state would have lost specialised expertise workers along with equipment.

No doubt future costs would then double or triple as we enter another WA resources lead Boom. Mobilisation of these existing contractors will also then be a huge challenge for the government of the day.

PUBLIC

ECONOMIC/Planning issue.

The 763 lots are predominately in an area currently undergoing a revitalisation/redevelopment strategy undertaken by the Cockburn shire. This would mean in the very near future larger parcels of land will be able to be subdivided, therefore returning dividends to local, state and Federal government coffers by way of water headworks fees, stamp duties, other associated building costs including GST, an increase in Ratepayer funds. As well as the benefits of job creation.

CONCLUSION.

Right here in Cockburn we have the wastewater treatment plant at Woodman point only five kilometres away from these affected 763 lots, servicing the south metropolitan urban / industrial areas of approximately 460 square kilometres including towns as far away as Kalamunda, Midland, Byford. Yet this pocket of Spearwood, Hamilton Hill, Coogee are still not connected to INFILL SEWERAGE. A social justice issue perhaps at its worst ? .

The Spearwood community association requests this Legislative Council Standing committee on environment & public affairs, Inquire thoroughly by calling relevant players & witnesses Including:

Julie Phelps (senior scientific officer dept health)
Wastewater management & author of 2006
Infill health priority metro areas.

DR Graham Jacobs (MLA Water minister)

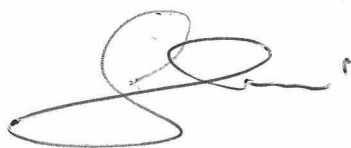
Francis Logan (shadow water minister, Cockburn MLA)

John Day (MLA Infrastructure minister)

Jim McGinty (Former labour health minister)

Alan Carpenter (Former State Labour Premier)

THANK YOU ALL FOR THIS INQUIRY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' or 'G' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.

PUBLIC



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dear Ms Jenkins

Petition No 28 - Regarding Infill Deep Sewerage for Spearwood, Hamilton Hill and Munster

This letter is to confirm receipt of the above petition, which was tabled by Hon Barbara Scott MLC in the Legislative Council on 2 May 2006. The petition has been referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (the Committee) under the Committee's terms of reference.

The Committee would appreciate a 1-2 page written submission regarding the issues raised in the petition in order that the Committee can decide whether the matter can be raised further.

The tabling member has also been invited to make a submission.

If the Committee does not receive a submission within 30 days it will assume that you do not wish the Committee to inquire into the matters raised in the petition and the petition will be finalised.

If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact the Committee's Advisory Officer, Vincent Cusack on 9222 7406 or the Committee Clerk, Mark Warner on 9222 7410.

Yours sincerely

Hon Louise Pratt
Chair

10 May 2006

Coolbellup Community Association Inc.

Email: Coolbellup@cockburncommunity.asn.au

10th October 2009

Submission into deep sewerage in Spearwood

This letter is recognition of formal support for the proposed infill sewerage works for the community of Spearwood.

The Coolbellup community benefited from the completion of sewerage works in 2002. Residents consider the project to have delivered significant environmental benefits with the reduction of pollutants entering the environment through septic systems. Economically the project removed the need for expensive maintenance works on ageing systems avoiding subsequent health risks.

In terms of social equity all residents in Western Australia should have an expectation that Government will undertake important works such as infill sewerage within their communities in a timely manner.

The Spearwood infill sewerage project should be given highest priority by the Government of Western Australia. Spearwood residents are entitled to the same infrastructure as those that benefit residents of surrounding suburbs. The project has significant environmental and health benefits and is considered a basic social requirement.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Paterson
President, Coolbellup Community Association Inc.

PUBLIC



Harvest Lakes Residents Association Inc.

Email: harvestlakes@cockburncommunity.asn.au

To Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs

Re Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn area

I am writing to you on behalf of the Harvest Lakes Residents Association Inc to support residents in the Spearwood, Hamilton Hill, and Coogee areas of Cockburn in their battle for deep sewerage in their suburbs.

We have followed with horror newspaper accounts of overflowing septic tanks, spoilt outdoor areas, and continuing odours endured by residents of these areas for many years. Like them, we were relieved when we heard that funds had finally been allocated to rectify the situation.

Now that funding has been reallocated, even though the problems caused by inadequate sewage have worsened over time. It seems that the residents in these areas are expected to put up with the situation indefinitely. This is not acceptable.

All citizens have equal rights to basic services, and deep sewerage is just as important in these areas as it was in the other older suburbs where septic tanks have been replaced with deep sewerage. Social justice demands that residents in Spearwood, Hamilton Hill and Coogee are provided with the same service. We urge you to recognize their plight, and ensure that funds are provided to enable deep sewerage works to commence as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Manfred Heske

Manfred Heske

President Harvest Lakes Residents Association Inc
C/o 27 Windchime Terrace
Atwell, 6164

12 October 2009

PUBLIC



Bibra Lake

Residents Association (Inc)

To Spearwood Community Association

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn Area

I am writing to express our strong support for the Spearwood Community Association in its submission to the Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs in its inquiry into Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn Area.

As a Resident's Association in the City of Cockburn we are very concerned that the health and wellbeing of a section of our Community is being jeopardised because the basic requirement of deep sewerage is being withheld due to budgetary cuts.

We look forward to hearing that you have been successful in achieving a positive outcome.

Yours Truly



Elaine Langley (Secretary)



PUBLIC



AGRA will support and promote pride in our home s and suburb, building on the community spirit through social activities whilst supporting the interests of the residents of Aubin Grove

To: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Committee on Environment & Public Affairs

DEEP SEWERAGE IN THE COCKBURN AREA

11th October 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Our residents association wishes to express our concern regarding the lack of funding for this project.

We are fortunate to live in a new suburb which has deep sewerage running past our front doors.

The owners of the 763 lots (mainly elderly) in the Spearwood, Hamilton Hill and Coogee area that are waiting for government funding to provide them with this basic fundamental service are suffering unnecessary hardship.

We can't believe that these residents and neighbours are being subject to: stench, serious disease and air pollution

What will it take for the government to wake up to the dangers of not implementing this project for these 763 Home owners?

- home owners being admitted to hospital from breathing in foul air every day
- children being admitted to hospital from being exposed to sewerage leakage whilst playing outdoors or on their way to school.
- a major epidemic due to the sewerage leakage in the whole neighbourhood

This is not a third world country it's Australia.

These poor home owners are being held captive by our own government in their own homes, they can't even sell and Move elsewhere, who'd buy these sewerage contaminated lots. Whats more their homes are now so devalued due The inaction of our government.

What will it take to get the beaurocrats out of their offices to check this out first hand and do something

We wish to register our support to our fellow community association (Spearwood) in their endeavours on this matter

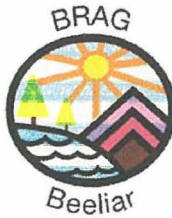
Yours faithfully

Terry Cain
President



Proudly Sponsored by Harcourts Gateway &
Suzie D. - "Your local Resident & Agent - working with you..."

PUBLIC



BEELIAR RESIDENTS ADVANCEMENT GROUP

12th October 2009

To whom it may concern;

The Beeliar Residents Advancement Group; BRAG, wishes to support its neighbouring community group; the Spearwood Community Association, in seeking the continuation of funding, roll out and installation of the Infill Sewerage Program and for the residents of Spearwood, Hamilton Hill and Coogee.

BRAG would ask that the Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs inquiry into Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn area would continue with its program utilising all facilities already in place.

Sincerely

Daniel Sutorius – BRAG Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Coxon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

On Behalf of Gordon Coxon – BRAG President

PUBLIC



Mr John Cunai
Spearwood Community Association

Dear John

Re: Installation of Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn Area

The Coogee Beach Progress Association is aware that your association is preparing a submission for the Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs inquiry into Deep Sewerage in the Cockburn Area.

This is a very important matter that deserves the urgent attention of Government. There are some hundreds of homes in the Cockburn area that are not connected to deep sewerage. In a great number of cases the residents are elderly and severely impacted upon by the ongoing delay in completion of the programme which has had periods of interruption and now needs to be finalized.

The Coogee Beach Progress Association supports the efforts of the Spearwood Community Association in bringing important facts relating to this matter to the attention of the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely

Glen Diggins
President
October 13th, 2009

**Correspondence to Secretary
PO Box 422 SOUTH FREMANTLE WA 6162**

PUBLIC