



Department of **Planning,
Lands and Heritage**

Your ref: A1031140
Our ref: DG-2023-1725
Enquiries: [REDACTED]

Mrs Lisa O'Malley MLA
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament House
Via email to: lapac@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mrs O'Malley

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE INQUIRY

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2023 regarding the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry on how the Western Australian Government's progress towards achieving Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) outcomes is assisting to secure international investment.

I note that part of the terms of reference of the inquiry is to consider how the State Government is actively engaging Aboriginal and young people in decisions to improve ESG outcomes. Through the range of legislation and regulations under the Department's responsibility, and through our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, our agency is committed to actively engaging Aboriginal people in decision-making on statutory and regulatory approvals which broadly help to provide certainty and secure international investment.

Proponents are expected to consult the right native title party for any activities that may impact Aboriginal heritage under the former, current and future framework for protecting and managing cultural heritage. Proposed amendments to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* are currently before Parliament and will ensure the inclusion of Aboriginal people in decision-making in matters that impact their cultural heritage.

Additionally, from a planning perspective, the Western Australian Planning Commission is currently preparing Regional Planning Strategies for each of the State's regions. These planning instruments help guide future growth and unlock economic potential where appropriate. Engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders on each of these regional strategies is being guided by a bespoke engagement plan for First Nations people prepared by consultants, *Indigenous Professional Services Pty Ltd*, who are also assisting with consultation services.

The Department continues to ensure Aboriginal people are at the forefront of our decision-making by actively involving them in consultation across all of our business areas. If you have any specific queries, please contact Vaughan Davies, Assistant Director General, Heritage and Property Services, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Anthony Kannis PSM
Director General

29 August 2023