



## NATURE RESERVES PRESERVATION GROUP

KALAMUNDA WA 6926

[www.nrpg.org.au](http://www.nrpg.org.au)

President : Tony Fowler 9293 2283

Vice President : Steve Gates 0400 870 887

Secretary: Katharine Outten 9257 2489

**To:** Hon. Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

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Parliament House

4 Harvest Terrace

West Perth WA 6005

[env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

**Topic: Petition No. 034 – Aged Care Facility on Wilkins Road Kalamunda.**

As President of Nature Reserves Preservation Group in the City of Kalamunda, representing members opposed to the above proposal, I write to correct, or comment on statements in the submissions of Neil Pember, the petitioner and The Hon Donna Faragher MLC, the tabling member for the petition.

Mr Pember's submission contains inaccuracies, listed below, with my comments.

- *Bethanie Group final approval.* Their proposal was never more than a concept. The concept was a thinly-disguised Lifestyle Village with (perhaps) a token high care unit.
- “...we only want to shave 10 hectares off the side.” Those 10.7 ha are valuable bushland (>90% of which is in excellent to very good condition) and an essential green wildlife corridor, linking significant areas of bushland along the ridge.
- *Lack of support from new Government.* Following the change of Government, whilst both Minister Saffioti and local member Matthew Hughes, refused to support the amendment, both were and still are, working hard with the City, to find alternative sites. The Member for Kalamunda made this perfectly clear to Mr Pember. As you are aware, the revocation could come only from the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister.
- *Bushfire and Native Title issues.* The bushfire risk still exists, regardless of the Management Plan and the Native Title issue has NOT yet been concluded. It awaits the registering of the South West Settlement Agreement.
- *No other sites available.* This is incorrect. Shire of Kalamunda Local Planning Strategy 2010, contained a list of six potential aged care sites, listed in the “order in which it is considered development may proceed first”. Wilkins Road was number five on that list. In July 2013, Shire of Kalamunda and then Minister John Day,

discussed six sites for consideration, half of which were supported. City of Kalamunda has several sites under investigation, as Mr Pember well knows.

- *Approve Wilkins or wait another six years.* Mr Pember fails to recognise that, the Federal Department of Environment had yet to make a ruling on this proposal. A reversal of the Minister's decision will still involve a lengthy process, which may take several years. Any aged care proposal takes time. In 1996 a rezoning, for aged care was approved in High Wycombe. In 2011, Hall and Prior proposed a facility on that site. Employing 180 people and providing "long-term complex dementia care for residents", it was to cost around \$40 million. In March 2015, Shire of Kalamunda Council recommended approval for a Hall and Prior development, at a cost of \$56 million, with work likely to begin early in 2016. Work has not yet started.

Whilst the tabling Member's submission contains no factual errors, her Hansard statement is open to challenge and, her interpretation of the City of Kalamunda community attitudes warrants comment.

Asserting that the signatures on the petition reflect purely an opposition to the Minister's decision is naïve. The petition reflects an acknowledgement by that community of the growing need for aged care within the city. Most signing the petition would have had no knowledge of the case against the rezoning, would never have visited the site, nor have realized that this was to be yet another Lifestyle Village.

The City of Kalamunda CEO, when claiming overwhelming community support for the rezoning failed to acknowledge that, whilst there was overwhelming support for the provision of aged care, that degree of support did not extend to aged care **on that site**.

This petition and its tabling before your committee, unfortunately illustrates, rather dramatically, that provision of aged care within the City of Kalamunda, has become a political football. Should the City of Kalamunda acquiesce to the lobbying of its Aged Care Community Advisory Committee and launch a Supreme Court challenge to Minister Saffioti's decision, little will have been gained to solve the aged care problem.

Many thanks for the opportunity to present brief details to your committee. Given the convoluted history of this particular amendment, should you wish to receive any more information or, have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Tony Fowler

President.