



## STATE RECORDS COMMISSION

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Our Ref: Chris Field, Chairperson  
Enquiries: [chris.field@ombudsman.wa.gov.au](mailto:chris.field@ombudsman.wa.gov.au) or 9220 7579 (Direct)

11 December 2017

**By Email:** env@parliament.wa.gov.au

The Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
18-32 Parliament Place, West Perth

Dear Mr Swinbourn

### **Petition No 22- Independent State Records Office**

Thank you very much for your letter dated 6 December 2017 and attached de-identified petition and submission from the principal petitioner upon which you have invited my comment. I am delighted to comment as follows.

Part 8 of the *State Records Act 2000* (**the Act**) is entitled 'State Records Commission' and, among other things, creates a body called the State Records Commission (**the Commission**), its members, its functions, its resourcing, its capacity to submit annual and special reports to Parliament, its powers, including the powers of special inquirer under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and that the Commission is to be generally independent of the Minister. Part 9 of the Act is entitled 'Administrative matters' and, among other things, provides for an office known as the State Records Office (**the SRO**), subject to direction of the Minister.

I note that the letter and the submission refer almost exclusively to administrative arrangements regarding the SRO, rather than the Commission.

It is the view of the Commission that, in accordance with the Act, any administrative arrangement relating to the SRO is not a matter upon which the Commission should, or does, have a view.

Accordingly, as the letter and submission relate to these administrative arrangements regarding the SRO, the Commission does not express any further view regarding the matters canvassed in either the letter or submission.

If I can be of any further assistance to the Committee in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Chris Field  
Chairperson, State Records Commission