

Hon. Dr. Steve Thomas MLC B.V.Sc

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Small Business
The South West Liberal



The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

6th October 2021

Dear Committee,

Re: Petition No. 026 – Bio-security levy imposed on residents of Boyup Brook

Please accept this letter as my submission to Petition number 026.

This petition, which is a replicate of a petition submitted to the previous committee of the 40th Parliament, reflects the anger and frustration many people throughout Western Australia feel over the inadequacy of this state's biosecurity process. Most importantly they are furious that the failure of Government action on biosecurity is being handballed to local community volunteers who are under-resourced to do the job, and that they as landowners are being charged separately for this inadequate action. This system is an abrogation of the state's responsibility.

Local Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) do the best they can with the resources they have, and they are dedicated to their cause. They deserve far more state support, instead of being hung out the dry by a state that is intent on shifting the responsibility for biosecurity

This is a multi-government failure that deserves a proper investigation, and I would urge the committee to do a full and proper investigation. If you do, I look forward to seeking to present far more information.

Yours truly,

The Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC
Member for the South West