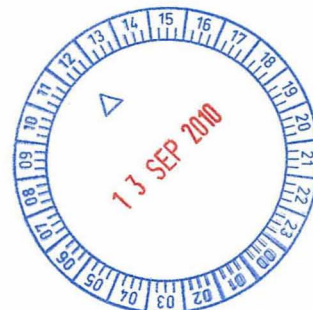




PUBLIC

Minister for Water; Mental Health



Our Ref: 37-08412

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: GNANGARA SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY RELATED PETITIONS NO 73 AND NO 76

Thank you for your letter dated 30 June 2010 regarding the above matter and I apologise for the delay in responding.

As requested, I attach a response (Attachment 1) to the letter forwarded by the principal petitioner, Mrs Glynis Monks JP, dated 15 June 2010. I also include a copy of the response sent to all petitioners addressing each petition individually (Attachment 2).

The draft Gnangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS) was updated to reflect public comment and provided to me in February 2010. The GSS has now been finalised and costed. It is proposed that Cabinet will consider the GSS later this year.

Yours sincerely

DR GRAHAM JACOBS MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER; MENTAL HEALTH

10 SEP 2010

Response to
Petition # 76

Our Ref: 37-07945

[mailmerge]
[mailmerge]

Dear [mailmerge]

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ZONE 2 OF THE GNANGARA SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Thank you for your interest in the Zone 2 recommendations in the draft Gngangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS).

The Gngangara system is perhaps the most important and certainly most valuable water source in Western Australia. Less rain has led to a range of water security and land management issues for Perth. The GSS makes recommendations aimed at achieving the best outcome in this changed situation. Modelling has shown that it will be necessary to make some trade-offs to protect the majority of the Gngangara Mound water resource, and most of the key dependent wetlands in this drying climate.

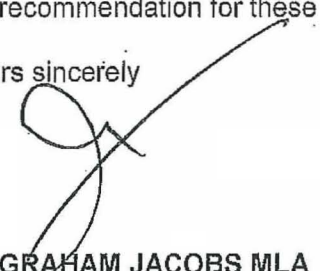
However, the GSS is not a decision making document. The areas in Zone 2 were identified as being preferable for rezoning through preliminary studies and negotiations between the Departments of Water, Environment and Conservation, and Planning among others. However, the GSS recommendations in this area are only to properly investigate the feasibility of rezoning at this stage.

Technical investigations to support this process will cover the range of concerns you have identified and the results will be made public. Based on these investigations, a decision will be made as to the technical feasibility of any land use changes.

Following that decision, formal processes including public consultation will take place around any proposed rezoning. Only after that consultation has been completed and the views of the local community properly considered will a final decision be made.

Given the subsequent stages before decision making, it would not be appropriate to remove the recommendation for these investigations from the GSS.

Yours sincerely



DR GRAHAM JACOBS MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER; MENTAL HEALTH

Response to
Petition # 73

Our Ref: 37-07935

[mailmerge]
[mailmerge]

Dear [mailmerge]

GNANGARA SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REZONING OF THE PRIORITY 1 PROTECTION AREA

Thank you for your interest in the Zone 2 recommendations in the draft Gnamagara Sustainability Strategy (GSS).

The Gnamagara system is perhaps the most important and certainly most valuable water source in Western Australia. Less rainfall has led to a range of water security and land management issues. The GSS makes recommendations aimed at achieving the best outcome in this changed situation. Modelling has shown that it will be necessary to make some trade-offs to protect the majority of the Gnamagara Mound water resource, and most of the key dependent wetlands in this drying climate.

However, the GSS is not a decision making document. The GSS identified that an amendment of the Priority 1 Underground Water Pollution Control Area boundary may occur if rezoning of the overlying land is supported.

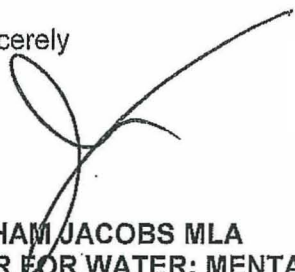
The draft GSS recommends a reduction in public water supply allocation from 165 GL/yr to an average of 110 GL/yr from the Gnamagara Mound recognising the reduced rainfall recharging the system. Given this reduction, the Underground Water Pollution Control Area (UWPCA) that was designed for the 165 GL/yr abstraction could be reduced, as not all bores or potential bore sites will be needed anymore.

However as identified above no decision has been made and the GSS has indicated a proper process will begin to sort out the feasibility of such a rezoning. This process will include scientific reporting and public consultation before any decision is made. These investigations and reports will include full assessment of any pollution risks to drinking water supply.

Given the subsequent stages before decision making and the careful considerations of options as part of the GSS development, it would not be appropriate to remove the relevant recommendations for review of the UWPCA.

I take your concerns seriously and will pass them onto the Department of Water which is responsible for this recommendation, in consultation with the Department of Planning. I also encourage you to remain involved and provide your views to assist the investigation and future consultation processes in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

DR GRAHAM JACOBS MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER; MENTAL HEALTH