# Hon Reece Whitby MLA
# Minister for Emergency Services; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Volunteering

Our Reference: 79-02222

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
18-32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Foster

Thank you for your letter dated 14 October 2021 regarding *Petition No. 025 – Preserving the Gnarabup Coastline*. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with information that I trust will assist the Committee in its preliminary deliberations.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) provides advice as a referral agency to decision makers within the land use planning system.

I am advised that DFES has provided pre-lodgement advice on the proposed development within the Gnarabup Coastline on two occasions through the State Development Assessment Unit (prior to the formal lodgement of the hotel, commercial and residential development proposed at Lot 783 Mitchell Drive, Lots 501, 502 and 504 Reef Drive, and Lot 503 Seagrass Place, Gnarabup).

DFES has advised that the status of the hotel, commercial and residential development proposed at Lot 783 Mitchell Drive, Lots 501, 502 and 504 Reef Drive, and Lot 503 Seagrass Place, Gnarabup is currently 'application lodged' under Part 17B of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and there is no timeframe for the application to be determined.

DFES advises that they have yet to receive a referral for this application and therefore cannot confirm if the Department's previous comments in the pre-lodgement process have been adopted. I understand that DFES is unable to provide further comment at this time regarding the proposed development within the Gnarabup Coastline.

I note Petition No. 025 refers to the development proposed within the Gnarabup Coastline, within Bushfire Prone Areas and with limited vehicular access. Bushfire Prone Areas are designated by the FES Commissioner, cover approximately 93% of the State and are identified in the *Map of Bushfire Prone Areas*. Development within these areas is required to demonstrate compliance with *State Planning Policy 3.7 – Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas* that specifically address location, siting and design, vehicular access and water. I am aware that previous pre-lodgement advice provided by DFES regarding the proposed development identified bushfire risk, vehicular access, and the wider road network during an evacuation as the primary concerns.

Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, Western Australia, 6005
Telephone +61 8 6552 6300 Email: Minister.Whitby@dpc.wa.gov.au
https://www.premier.wa.gov.au/Ministers/Reece-Whitby

Once again, thank you for bringing this petition to my attention. I trust my feedback will assist the Committee to evaluate the petition.

Yours sincerely

Reece Whitby MLA
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

03 NOV 2021