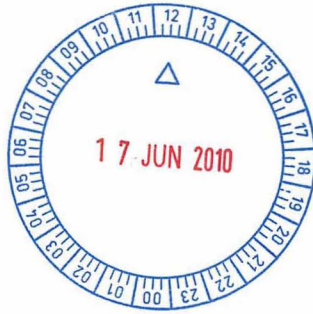


PUBLIC



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
18-32 Parliament Place
West Perth WA 6000

Petition No 73- Rezoning of underground water pollution control area- Pinjar South

Dear Mr. Ellis

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission regarding the issues raised in the petition pertaining to the above matter.

I wish to advise that I have not taken my complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

I attach my written submission.

Please could you confirm acknowledgment of my submission.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glynis Monks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Mrs. Glynis Monks JP
June 15th 2010

Pinjar South is situated within the Priority One Public Resource Drinking Water of the Gnangara Mound

The priority 1 (P1) public drinking water source area of the Gnangara Mound is a valuable and relatively inexpensive source of high quality drinking water for Perth.

Many residents regard setting a precedent of placing industry on a current P1 water area and potentially jeopardizing this asset as poor planning and economically irresponsible

Protection of the Gnangara Mound by supporting appropriate land use and development that minimises water use, maximizes recharge and avoids groundwater contamination is critical.

Placing industry on the mound will in fact not support appropriate land use and development, because water use will not be minimised; water will be directly drawn from the very area of the mound that they say water usage must be restricted.

Industrial development on the South Pinjar site will also pose a real risk of the contamination to that very groundwater. There has been a history of consultation with government agencies, the public and local residents on matters of the P1 Boundary of the Gnangara Water mound and proposed natural flora enhancement around the Pinjar site at least as far back as 1994. Why are the previous recommendations now being reinvented and at what cost to the community.

Placing industry within the priority one public drinking water resource area (P1) also sets a bad Legal precedent. If the boundary lines of a P1 area can be changed in order to accommodate Industry, then surely a case for more industry to be placed on P1 areas can legitimately be made.

Demands will then be made by other sections of the community for changes to be made to the P1 Water areas of the Gnangara Mound on the basis that their proposed land use would be less polluting than industry.

Detailed investigations and studies need to be undertaken to address all the environmental issues, including those relating to groundwater, wetlands, acid sulphate soils and impacts on adjacent communities, before any decision is made for this project to proceed. If those matters cannot be properly resolved then this site should not be identified for future industrial use.

The South Pinjar site has its own wetlands and during the late autumn, winter and spring, water lies on the top ground. Any development would have to include a process of de-watering which will produce the known effects of oxidation and then acidification of the acid sulphate soils resulting in an acid plume in the ground water.

In the case of this happening due to de-watering on the South Pinjar site and the land between and around lakes south of the site due to the proposed urban development, would mean the destruction of the surrounding high value geomorphic wetlands, Lake Mariginiup and the toxification of resident's bores.

Previous studies have been carried out and have come to the conclusion that this area needs to be retained as Priority One to ensure the water quality does not become degraded

The Gnangara Groundwater Mound is the largest source of water for the Perth Metropolitan area and the groundwater stored in the Gnangara System provides us with 60% of Perth's Scheme water requirements. The priority one classification on the Mound ensures protection from contamination.

That being the case, why then were the detailed investigations and studies which had been previously undertaken to address all the environmental issues, including those relating to groundwater, wetlands, acid sulphate soils and impacts on adjacent communities been ignored .

In order to protect this location on the mound we must recognise the need to carefully manage the abstraction of groundwater from the Gnangara Mound. It encourages the sustainable management of this water resource plus this management should include uses that contribute to the wellbeing of the local community, including recreational uses, while protecting the significant natural resources.

In the Industrial Land Strategy it clearly states that other types of "special industry" other than 'Strategic Export/Knowledge Based Industry' are planned, see ILS page 29. On this page it states it clearly gives the green light to industries that require a one plus kilometer buffer because of their emissions/discharges, noise, dust and smells

In the GSS no measures, no regulations or governments structures are in place to protect the Gnangara Mound from the risk of pollution through wildfire in the surrounding bushland combusting the industrial site, industrial accidents and arson. That recent examples of toxification of ground and water in the Perth area from industrial accidents demonstrate the unacceptably high risk of exposing the South Pinjar ground water, surrounding vegetation and suburbs.

During the consultation period for the GSS Aboriginal Consultation took place in the form of The Gnangara Sustainability Strategy Indigenous Consultation Project (Dec 2008) which aimed to raise the awareness to the Aboriginal people and what are some of the thinking and options in the future management of the Gnangara groundwater system. It also provided an opportunity for the Aboriginal people to provide input in how the future management of the Gnangara groundwater system should be structured. The question was asked "When the pines are removed, what sort of land uses or landscapes do you feel would be suitable replacements and would contribute to improved long-term groundwater management?"

The response quite clearly stated that in summary that all are in agreement that any new land use and landscapes should retain or put back as much of the natural environment as possible. Participants also suggested there needs to be more Aboriginal people in the present and future management of the Gnangara groundwater system. Cultural designing should be incorporated into to future planning by doing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

There is sufficient Industrial land within the City of Wanneroo to provide for future requirements, as such the priority one status should be retained and only uses compatible with this be allowed on the South Pinjar Site.