



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 76-17787

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Foster

Peter

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2022 regarding Petition No. 051 – Marine fish kill in Jurien Bay marina.

The Department of Health (DOH) supports the proposal for a Jurien Bay marina reconfiguration, as a means to mitigate recurrent environmental issues that appear directly related to the marina design. The impact of excessive sea wrack is not only unsightly but also has the potential to produce hydrogen sulfide gas (see Hydrogen sulfide and public health¹), which is detectable at extremely low levels. The sea wrack has also contributed to several fish kill events, notably 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2020 which is environmentally harmful and distressing to residents of the district and users of the marina.

The DOH advises against fishing and swimming in waters impacted by fish kills and have liaised with the Department of Transport (DOT) and the Shire of Dandaragan (the Shire) during these events to ensure media statements are issued, health warning signs erected and bacterial water samples collected.

The Shire also collects bacterial samples from two Jurien Bay marina sites as part of the DOH's seasonal recreational water monitoring program (November – May), with satisfactory results recorded since 2009 (see Beach grades for Western Australia²). This in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council, 2008, Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water, although more frequent sampling is required at these two sites.

¹ https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Hydrogen-sulfide-and-public-health

² https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Beach-grades-for-Western-Australia

The DOH will support both the DOT and the Shire as required to monitor water quality within the marina and its immediate surrounds.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Kind regards



HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

24 OCT 2022