



## Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports

Your ref: A1012677 Petition No. 077

Our ref: 72-42995

Hon Peter Foster MLC

Chair

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

[env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Foster

### LITTER BISECTING THE WALPOLE WILDERNESS

I refer to your correspondence dated 17 March 2023, regarding the Petition that was tabled in relation to litter bisecting the Walpole Wilderness.

I acknowledge the volunteering work undertaken by Mr Filby across the South West and Great Southern Regions. Main Roads has worked closely with Mr Filby over many years.

Main Roads is continuously working to improve the condition and appearance of Western Australia's vast State road network within its available budget

Main Roads followed an approach instigated by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, where bins were removed from a number of stopping/rest areas in order to reduce the ground litter in the area. This strategy proved to be successful and there has been a significant reduction in ground litter with less bins. With increased signage and continued advertising campaigns, people are getting used to taking their rubbish with them.

Main Roads is continuing to work with Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) in a bid to reduce litter along our state road network. KABC has implemented a number of programs designed to reduce littering including the 'Bin It' campaign, which sends the message that littering is not acceptable. Main Roads, in consultation with KABC, has been successful in prosecuting people for dumping household rubbish at roadside rest areas.

KABC are also tackling roadside litter alongside the Australian Packaging Covenant and Main Roads through the 'WA Naturally Thanks You' initiative. This project encourages motorists to use vehicle litter bags to help manage rubbish while travelling, which are provided free at roadhouse locations along major highways. The messaging urges motorists and passengers to 'do the right thing' with their rubbish and consider our environment.

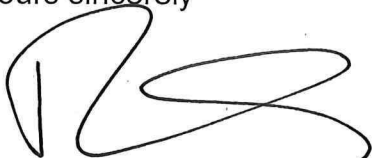
KABC also provide advice on Community Clean Ups so that everyone can play their part in keeping a nominated area tidy, in a more sustainable way. Similarly, Keep Australia Beautiful Week raises awareness about what we can all do to reduce the impact on the environment. I encourage the Shire to consider supporting KABC's Community Clean Ups or Keep Australia Beautiful Week, with further information available at <https://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/>.

As mentioned by Mr Filby, our Government announced a major initiative whereby road maintenance and some minor road improvement projects will be delivered by Main Roads employees. The move to in-house delivery by Main Roads will create 660 permanent jobs within Main Roads, with 490 in regional WA.

Main Roads is progressively transitioning its maintenance workforce back inhouse, with Wheatbelt and Mid-West regional staff now directly employed by Main Roads after almost 25 years. In October we will see staff transition in the Goldfields-Esperance region, Metropolitan region and Pilbara region, with staff from the South West and Great Southern regions on board by the end of December 2023.

One of the benefits of this model is not only the \$25 million per year in costs savings and directly managed staff, but also the ability for Main Roads to directly engage local sub-contractors who are regionally based. This will allow Main Roads to respond more quickly, deliver a wider range of services and increase the overall capacity and capability of Main Roads.

Yours sincerely



**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

04 APR 2023