



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**

Your Ref: Petition No 141
Our Ref: 62-19092

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn ^{Matthew}

Thank you for your correspondence, received in this office on 14 February 2020, regarding the North West Gas Development (Woodside) Agreement Amendment Bill 2019 (Amendment Bill).

I note that the Amendment Bill is currently being debated in the Legislative Council, and many of the issues raised in this petition are being discussed as part of that debate.

I also note that some of the issues raised in the petition are currently under consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). A period of public consultation on the North West Shelf Project Extension was completed on 12 February 2020. The EPA will provide its Report and Recommendations on this proposal to me later this year, after which it will be subject to a two-week public appeal period.

The Amendment Bill has not yet passed through Parliament and the EPA is yet to conclude its assessment of the North West Shelf Project Extension. I consider that both of these ongoing processes are transparent, robust and provide significant opportunity for input into decision-making. In addition, I consider the conclusion of these current processes will appropriately inform the issues raised by this petition.

Yours sincerely

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

09 MAR 2020