



**Hon John Carey MLA**  
**Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government**

---

Our Ref: 78-11196  
Your Ref: Petition 073

1 MAR 2023

Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Email: [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Foster

Thank you for your letter dated 2 February 2023 regarding a petition in relation to the removal and abandonment of shopping trolleys in Western Australia.

As you may be aware, the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) provides local governments with a general power to establish local laws that apply within their district. I am advised by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries that most local governments in Western Australia have local laws to deal with the abandonment of items in public spaces. This includes the City of Cockburn.

While these local laws may vary in wording, most contain a clause that prohibits the abandonment of trolleys and allows for such trolleys to be impounded. The local laws may also prescribe an offence for trolley owners who fail to collect a trolley when directed to do so. Accordingly, the responsibility for administering and enforcing any local law rests with the local government.

As you know, the State Government is working to deliver the largest package of local government reforms in more than 25 years. A substantial body of work to implement these reforms is ongoing and includes reforms to model local laws for local governments. New model local laws, which may include those which relate to abandoned shopping trolleys, may be considered following the delivery of these significant reforms.

Local governments may also be able to consider the issue of abandoned shopping trolleys in local policies and strategies, and through engagement with landowners and retailers within their district.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition and am happy to provide any further information the Committee may require during its inquiries.

Yours sincerely

  
**HON JOHN CAREY MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**