

1st February 2018

20 Elderberry Circle
Halls Head
Western Australia 6210

Chair Person
Local Government Act Review
Department of Local Government
GPO Box R1250
Perth W.A. 6844

RECEIVED

06 FEB 2018

Department of Local
Government, Sport &
Cultural Industries

Dear Sir/Madam,

I respectfully ask you to please accept the enclosed copies of correspondence as my submission to the Local Government Review. This submission outlines personal experience of attempts to communicate with the City of Mandurah and its cultural attitude and approach to matters of residential interest.

The subject matter in the main is Wisteria Park, a tract of land between Wisteria Gardens and Elderberry Circle in Halls Head left over from residential development in the mid 1980's. Thirty years later the City still shows no interest in improving this backwater but is content to allow it to be continually polluted by excessive tree debris which I devote hours weekly clearing from my property. Ten years ago I raised the matter of its obvious lack of maintenance but to date nothing has changed. Meanwhile, many original trees have died and been removed while the remainder clearly need attention.

I see this local government authority in a dysfunctional state. It will not communicate with residents and ratepayers, preferring to remain unaccountable and intransigent. Its own Councillors appear to be treated likewise. The Works Director was approached twice by a Councillor requesting him to contact me directly but he failed to do so. I think most ratepayers will take exception to the State Government appointing and remunerating a Minister for Local Government without the power to perform the responsibilities expected of him by the community.

I believe an investigation of the way the City of Mandurah manages its Works commitments should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. Recently it took over two years to replace a verge tree dying from stunted growth. The concept of one person working while a further five look on still prevails; it takes three vehicles and four workers to change a light bulb. Peelwood Sports Ground, in particular, suffers extraordinary behaviour where there are up to fifty trees each with a white circular mark on the trunk and I am told no one can say why this is so. In addition, traffic & parking congestion in Mahogany Drive at the junction with Peelwood Parade at times creates a danger to all users.

Yours sincerely,

