



Our Ref: 200607520/BL

Mr M Davies
Stoneville Progress Association Inc
PO Box 33
STONEVILLE WA 6081

Dear Mr Davies

Thank you for your letter dated 20 June about your Association's desire to protect the significance of the Perth Hills. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying to you.

Your letter and the attached discussion document have been forwarded to the Hon Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), for consideration.

In 1997, the WAPC released the State Planning Strategy, which indicates that Perth's population will grow to almost two million in 2029, and that a small amount of this growth should be accommodated in the North Eastern Hills.

The North Eastern Hills Settlement Pattern Plan (NEHSPP) was completed in 2002 following extensive consultation with the City of Swan, Shire of Mundaring, members of the community and other stakeholders. This plan provides general guidance for the region, not only in respect of accommodating population growth, but also to ensure the protection of the unique landscape and ecological qualities of the hills.

The WAPC and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) adopted the NEHSPP to provide guidance in considering future development proposals in the Hills. As you will be aware, the NEHSPP proposes the growth of discrete townsites with a priority for development of existing community nodes, including Stoneville, Parkerville and Gidgegannup. Surrounding these townsites, the NEHSPP provides for a buffer of larger rural residential lots and the areas outside this would be protected for their rural uses and landscape qualities.

All proposed development in the Hills is currently considered in the context of the NEHSPP, which provides a clear direction for growth and, importantly, identifies those areas that are to be protected. I understand that these general intentions received widespread community support.

More recently, the Commission has released *Network city*, a community planning strategy for Perth and Peel. *Network city* responds directly to many of the issues you have raised regarding urban sprawl, increasing car dependence, the use of finite natural resources, and as you have pointed out, proposes a new approach to planning for growth that recognises the social, economic and environmental changes that we are experiencing in the 21st Century.

The WAPC is undertaking a number of initiatives to develop and deliver the strategies outlined in *Network city* and has also resolved to review aspects of existing planning strategies, including the NEHSPP, in light of the *Network city* principles. I understand that the WAPC is currently discussing various priority projects. However, the timing of any review of the NEHSPP is not certain at this stage.

You have also raised a proposal for special legislation to protect the Hills and I have asked the Minister to consider the matter. In considering any further planning policy to reinforce the principles of *Network city*, the Government will look at all options and will ensure that community views and aspirations are taken into account.

I appreciate you drawing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a cursive 'Carpenter'.

Alan Carpenter MLA
PREMIER

- 6 SEP 2006