



## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-544301/JH; 24-544305/JH

Mr Vince Puccio & Mr Merv McDonald AFSM  
Co-Chairs  
Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc.  
PO Box 69  
YARLOOP WA 6218

Dear Mr Puccio and Mr McDonald

Thank you for your letter dated 20 May 2015 regarding the Wagerup Cogeneration Facility and enclosing a copy of a letter you sent to Mr Jason Banks, Director General, Department of Environment Regulation.

The Wagerup Cogeneration Facility provides electricity to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) during peak times as required. As you note in your correspondence, during 2008 there was a significant state-wide natural gas shortage. As it is critical that the supply of electricity not be interrupted, the proponent requested permission to temporarily allow the Wagerup Cogeneration Facility to operate in an unlimited capacity to maintain the load requirements of the SWIS.

Changes to proposals may only be approved under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) if the change does not have a significant detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the original proposal. In the assessment of the requested change, the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority noted that the change did not significantly alter or increase the assessed air emission rates for the project and determined that the change could be implemented in accordance with existing environmental management controls. As such, on 18 June 2008 the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority, under delegated authority, approved the change.

I understand that as this change was not significant further consultation with the Department of Health was not considered necessary, beyond that which was already undertaken during the original assessment of the proposal. I also note that the change to the proposal was a temporary change and since 1 January 2009 the hours for distillate use returned to the maximum level of 100 hours per year.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Colin Barnett MLA

**PREMIER**

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