



Enquiries:
Your Ref:
Our Ref: R0002538608 | R0002536434 (MRN:klg)

24 September 2019

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir

Thank you for your correspondence inviting the City of Mandurah to make a submission to the "Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Drug Testing Trial) Bill 2019.

Unfortunately it is not possible for Council to prepare a formal position by the due date – 27 September 2019.

As Council is in the lead up to its Ordinary Elections in October 2019 it observes a period of caretaker government where no major policy or expenditure decisions are made.

It has been some time since Council considered the proposal to introduce a drug testing trial for new welfare recipients on Newstart and the Youth Allowance. At the time of the original proposal in August/September 2017 Council did receive a report from officers and adopted for the following resolution:

That Council:

- 1 Recognises that communities across Australia have a significant issue with people in their communities using illegal drugs and Mandurah faces the same issues.*
- 2 Would support community based initiatives that work on reducing drug use in Mandurah where those initiatives have been:
 - a. Subject to consultation with the community*
 - b. A treatment pathway has been developed in consultation with a local provider**
- 3 Supports a program for Mandurah that assists people transition into work like the Career Transition program announced for the northern areas of the Perth metropolitan region.*
- 4 Reiterates that its top priority is the creation of jobs in the region, and reminds parliamentarians of the job creation projects outlined in the 2016 Federal Election Candidates' Briefing Paper.*

~ 2 ~

- 5 *The City to write to the local Member for Canning, Western Australian Senators and House of Representative members informing them of the Council decision.*

Although this was the most recent, and only, consideration of the matter by Council it was from a Council of different membership and in reaction to a proposal which had offered no opportunity for community comment.

This communication should not be considered as the City of Mandurah's formal submission as unfortunately the current caretaker period does not allow this to be considered. This communication instead puts on record the City's position at September 2017 when the original Bill was being proposed.

Yours sincerely

Mark R Newman
Chief Executive Officer