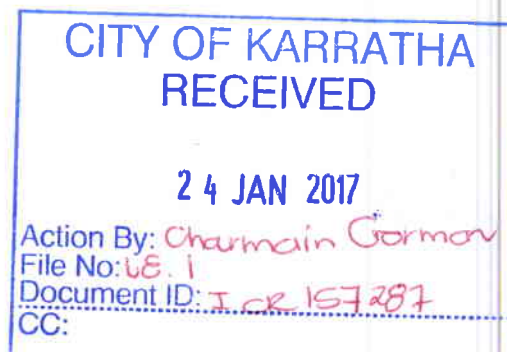




**The Hon Joe Francis MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries;
Corrective Services; Veterans**

Min Ref: 51-12877

Mr Craig Watts
Manager Regulatory Services
City of Karratha
PO Box 219
KARRATHA WA 6714



Dear Mr Watts

Thank you for your letter dated 7 December 2016, advising me of Council's proposal to make the *Repeal Local Law 2017*. I understand one of the intentions of this local law is to repeal the *Shire of Roebourne Bush Fire Brigades Local Law* as published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 June 2003.

Once a local authority has made the decision to establish, maintain and equip a brigade, it falls under an obligation pursuant to section 41(1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (the BF Act) to make local laws to implement the decision. Such local laws should take into consideration the purposes for which the brigade is established.

The local laws should contain practical details as to the manner in which bush fire brigades are to be organised and conducted for the purpose of their activities. It is noted that section 43 of the BF Act states:

43. Election and duties of officers of bush fire brigades

A local government which establishes a bush fire brigade shall by its local laws provide for the appointment or election of a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant, and such additional lieutenants as may be necessary as officers of the bush fire brigade, and prescribe their respective duties.

Whilst it is impossible to draft model local laws which are applicable to all brigades, I consider that the local laws should take into account the following matters:

The name of the brigade and its area of operation; membership details such as qualification for membership, functions of members, enrolment and register of members; the conduct and frequency of brigade meetings; whether brigade officers are to be appointed or elected and the method of appointment or election; any requirement for local authority involvement in the procedures; the appointment or election of positions such as equipment officer, secretary, treasurer and their duties and provision for suspension and dismissal of a member of a bush fire brigade.

I strongly urge the City to carefully examine the brigade laws and only repeal those matters which can be adequately dealt with in another manner and which are not required to be dealt with by way of a local law.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

HON JOE FRANCIS MLA
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;
FISHERIES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES; VETERANS

19 JAN 2017