



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Your reference: PA17/958: HR:wj
Our reference: LUP 907
Enquiries: Leon van Wyk

Ms Heather O'Brien
Coordinator Statutory Planning
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
6 Paterson Street
MUNDIJONG WA 6123
info@sjshire.wa.gov.au

6 August 2020

Dear Ms O'Brien

COMMENT: Lot 2, 206 Firms Road, Serpentine - Proposed Dams and Orchard

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed dams and orchard at Lot 2 (206) Firms Road, Serpentine.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) does not object to the proposed dams and orchard for the production of truffles at the abovementioned lot. DPIRD assessed the available information and would like to make the following comments:

- DPIRD does not have a role in the design, supervision or construction of (farm) dams in either an advisory or a regulatory capacity and will therefore not be commenting on this aspect of the application.
- The property is not situated in the Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment Area and the Peel-Harvey EPP does therefore not regulate the use of fertiliser.
- More than 50 percent of the soils in the 16.9ha to be planted with either oak or hazelnut trees have a very high capability for perennial horticulture, while the remainder have a moderate to high capability.
- Inoculated trees will be planted to ensure the production of truffles. The truffle fungus have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) association with the host trees. The fungus supplies the tree with nutrients from the soil, while the tree provides the fungus with a place to live and supplies carbohydrates (sugars) for growth. For this reason, only moderate quantities of nutrients are required in the soil.
- The annual requirement for nitrogen and phosphorous is very low as an excess of nutrients in the soil can cause the truffles to die. The proposed multiple applications of small quantities of fertiliser will ensure that there is not an

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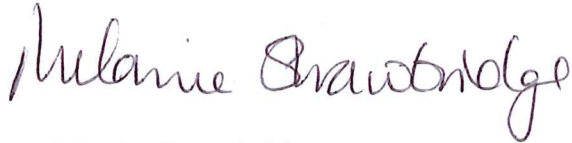
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abundance of nutrients in the soil at any specific time. This will allow the truffles to develop and limits the possibility of nutrients leaching or being transported off-site due to high rainfall events.

If you have any queries regarding the comments, please contact Leon van Wyk at (08) 9780 6171 or leon.vanwyk@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Melanie Strawbridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Dr Melanie Strawbridge
**Director Agriculture Resource Management Assessment
Sustainability and Biosecurity**