

2 August 2010

The Hon Colin Barnett
Premier
Government Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Dear Premier

Waterfront Development and World Centre for Indigenous Culture

As you are aware, the Committee for Perth exists to encourage the development of a more vibrant and globally competitive Perth metropolitan area. We see enormous potential in Perth maturing to be the city in Australia that acknowledges, respects and celebrates its Indigenous culture. As you are also aware, our aspirations were supported through large scale consultation undertaken in 2008 which resulted in our landmark document *A Cultural Compact for Perth, the 10 year challenge*.

The Committee applauds your announcement last year to include a centre for Aboriginal art and culture as part of the overall Perth Waterfront development project and understands that the business case for the detailed planning stage for the Waterfront project has recently been considered by Cabinet.

In relation to the establishment of a World Centre for Indigenous Culture, it is a shared view that the centre should include displays of Aboriginal culture from both a curatorial perspective as well as through live cultural expression. Our view on the purpose of the centre is that it should be a place for cultural exchange, reconciliation, and cultural re-connection.

Having completed our research into other Indigenous cultural centres in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US, we concluded that a centre of this kind does not exist. Subsequently we commissioned a further study to identify centres that use an experience-based approach in order to understand how these places bring culture to life in a way which can create attitudinal shift.

With key governance arrangements being determined to guide the project to the next stage, during the next period of Cabinet deliberation we ask you to continue to consider the importance of an active waterfront with a centre that celebrates Indigenous culture as the icon building.

It is therefore timely to request the opportunity to meet with you, together with leading representatives from our member organisations, to discuss the Waterfront project and the development of a World Centre for Indigenous Culture to further inform your deliberations.

May I suggest that your office liaise with Holly DeVaney from the Committee on 9481 5699, to arrange a suitable briefing time.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely

Marion Fulker
CEO