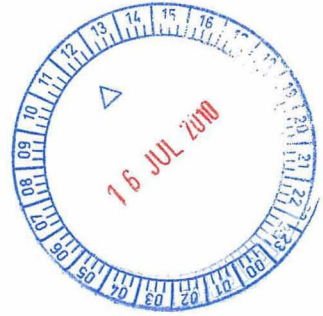


PUBLIC

95



Submission on Inquiry into Shack Sites in WA

by

The Simons Family

to

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Legislative Council

Parliament of Western Australia

June 2010

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
-------------------	---

Executive Summary

15th July 2010

25 years ago we drove the rough bush track to the place they called Grey. A small sustainable village, nestled on the windy coast of Western Australia.

A first visit to our settlement is an eye opener for anyone. A few see nothing more than humble shacks, but to many they are masterpieces of architecture but most importantly the basis of strong family and community ties.

We are a large family eight children in fact, that have spent the past 25 years enjoying magical weekends and holidays. Where there is no TV, no telephone or computers just the opportunity to spend quality time together. As our children grow they are also looking forward to having the opportunity to share with their children, our great Australian heritage.

Many friends have enjoyed our humble dwelling often sad to leave; they have commented that after a weekend they feel a sense of belonging. Those faces are also now regular visitors. It's the baby bathing in the basin on the table, the kids singing in their newly formed band, the men learning Thai dancing around the pot belly and the women re- working the recipes that mum did in the old stove. These are some of the things that make this place so special.

Fancy hotels, restaurants and stage shows are not for everyone. The shacks offer a true holiday to many West Australian families, looking for a special something.

As a community we work hard at maintaining the land and the environment around us. Many weekends have been spent assisting in re-establishing the vegetation on the moving sand dunes; busy bee's where laughter and tears have been shed. No shack member would pass a piece of rubbish without stopping to pick it up; we truly have been the guardians of the area.

It seems unimaginable that we are faced with the thought that this may all end, and for what?

Please consider this sub mission.

The Simons Family
Rhett & Sue Simons



Sue Simons