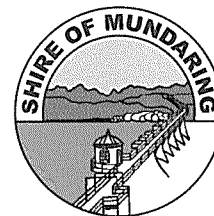


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Shire of Mundaring



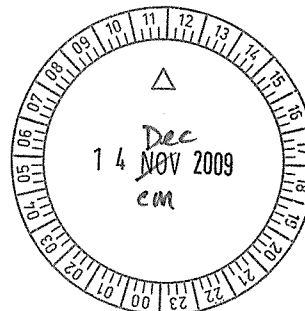
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Office of the Chief Executive
Our Ref: JT:ar 111209
ID:

PUBLIC

11 December 2009

Ms Cassandra Stephenson
The Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council of Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Ms Stephenson

INQUIRY INTO RECREATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCE AREAS

I understand that the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration extended the closing date for submissions to the above Inquiry until December 4 2009. Further to your conversation yesterday with the Shire of Mundaring Economic Development Advisor agreeing to accept a late submission, I would be pleased if the Committee will consider the following.


The Shire of Mundaring is home to the Helena River, Mundaring Weir and Lake CY O'Connor, one of Western Australia's most significant and iconic public water sources. Much of the Mundaring Weir Catchment Area and the Mundaring Weir Surface Water Area are also within the boundaries of the Shire of Mundaring.

Mundaring is home to many recreation activities in natural bush settings, particularly walking and cycle trails. The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail, the Munda Biddi Trail and the Bibbulman Track are examples of recreational facilities that traverse the Shire. The Munda Biddi Trail and the Bibbulmun Track both pass quite close to Lake CY O'Connor.

Given projected population growth and land-use pressures in Perth, Mundaring is increasingly becoming a key provider of recreational opportunities to the broader Western Australian community, as well as for tourists in search of these activities. There are significant planning and land-use constraints on additional residential, commercial or industrial development in Mundaring. Much of the geographical area of the Shire is protected in water catchments and conservation estate. This provides both the opportunity and the necessity for Mundaring to position itself as a key provider of recreational opportunities, by enabling additional use of the available natural assets. This emerging industry sector may present itself as one of the few opportunities that Mundaring has to create sustainable local jobs.

The Shire of Mundaring does not support recreational activities in Public Drinking Water Source Areas that would potentially compromise water quality. Neither does the Shire support any changes to allowable activities in Reservoir Protection Zones that would compromise water quality. There may be, however, opportunities to expand the nature and scope of recreational opportunities on offer by allowing low-key activities such as walking and cycling in the upper catchment areas. With improved water treatment processes, some recreational activities may also be allowed on surface water bodies. Providing that water quality protection remains the primary consideration, and providing that the Shire is not required to provide additional infrastructure or services in areas over which it has no control or tenure, it supports access for low-key recreation in appropriate parts Public Drinking Water Source Areas in principle.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Throssell', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Throssell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER