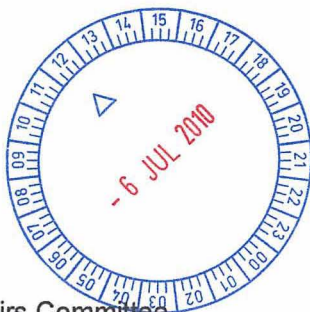


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Dear Chair

INQUIRY INTO SHACK SITES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) takes this opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry surrounding shack sites in Western Australia. The Wedge Island and Grey settlements are of specific interest as they are located within the administrative boundaries of the Commission.

The WDC is a State Government agency that has been involved with coastal planning for many years, including input to the State Government Squatter Policy 1999 and the Central Coast Planning Strategy during their formulation. We have also had a long involvement in encouraging completion of Indian Ocean Drive.

The State has long promoted that the planning for the future of the areas of Wedge and Grey would be completed, ready for implementation, by the time that the section of Indian Ocean Drive between Lancelin and Cervantes was complete. This road completion is now proposed by the end of 2010.

It is paramount that the State Government form a clearly stated position promptly in order for all parties to formulate plans for the future uses of these sites. This planning needs to include broad stakeholder consultation. This not only includes the shack owners and the land manager (Department of Environment and Conservation) but relevant State agencies (such as Regional Development and Lands), the Shire of Dandaragan and the communities of Cervantes and Jurien Bay. This is required to ensure the responsibilities, expectations and needs of all land users can be taken into consideration in determining future use of this area.

Yours Sincerely

WENDY NEWMAN
Chief Executive Officer

29 June 2010