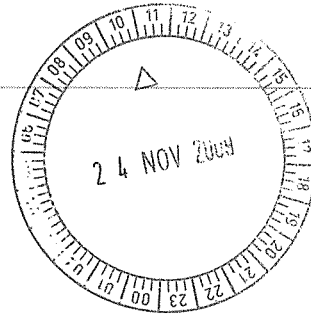


# PUBLIC

**Stephenson, Cassandra**



**From:** Simon Bell  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 November 2009 9:45 PM  
**To:** Stephenson, Cassandra  
**Subject:** Use of Hills resevoirs for recreatioal purposes

Hon. Members of the Committee,

As a concerned member of the public I oppose the use of Hills drinking water catchment areas for recreational purposes.

A few comments as to my opposition:-

Fishing - bait is likely to end up in the drinking water as will tackle which will get snagged, fishers will camp and pollute the areas near the waterline adding bacteria and viruses to the water. It will be hard to police and involve more rangers on 24/7 basis.

Water sports, again polluting drinking water with unknown materials and oil and fuel if boating/skiing/jet skis etc are permitted.

Motor sports (trail bikes) noisy, dangerous (not only to themselves but any genuine bushwalkers) and spread die-back.

No camping except out with the 2km exclusion zone and then only at designated sites.

No domesticated dogs/animals permitted within the 2km zone.

There would be increased litter (more work for rangers to clean up) if more people use the area.

If we retain status quo we will enjoy safe drinking water as we have for over 100 years without going to unnecessary additional treatment costs, consider the issues in Sydney a few years ago, consider issues from around the world where thousands of people have been ill through contaminated drinking water, we need to maintain the highest standards even if it upsets a minority, we need to consider that the hills water is a scarce resource and is supplied to approx 2 million people why have this issue from a few people who wish recreation ? Those who wish to partake in this type of recreation need to go to irrigation only catchment areas where that water is never to be used for drinking and if climate change forces us to use the irrigation dams then those areas must be designated recreation free.

The use of "day" areas below dam walls with BBQ and toilet facilities for families is an acceptable risk as is the case with Bickley and Mundering Reservoirs.

There would also be increased bushfire risk (camp fires, hot exhaust pipes, people smoking etc) which in turn will contaminate the water as soon as rain falls.

For those who wish recreation there are several walk trails and this type of recreation is good for the mind as well as the body and gives a minute ecological footprint.

I trust my comments will be heard favorably.

Regds

*Simon Bell*

24/11/2009