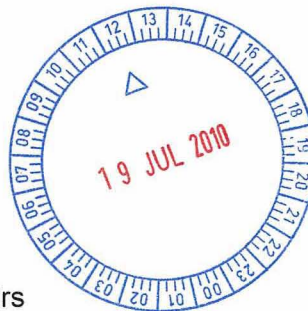


PUBLIC

Mr Craig Farrow

The Hon. Brian Ellis MLC
 Chairman
 Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6000

The Chairman
Inquiry into Shack Sites in Western Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

I/We go to Wedge Island and stay with friends most long weekends and sometimes on annual holidays. We stay with friends at the shacks or we camp.

We enjoy going and staying at Wedge Island because it provides us with a family destination that provides myself/ us with the following:

- The 'simple life' with no little to no technology to interrupt the serenity of nature, allowing friends and families to do activities together without modern day interruptions;
- The enjoyable fishing (tradition to go fishing at sunset – ie. catching the evening meal);
- Meeting other friendly and trustworthy people who are part of the Wedge Island community and other visitors;
- Low cost holiday;
- It's a unique, beautiful and welcoming community that we can all enjoy together; and,
- It allows people to safely learn how to 4WD without destroying vegetation or dunes as we stick to the current tracks already made. Allowing safer 4WD drivers in the long term.

I/ We are strongly concerned that the WA Government is determined to destroy the shacks and it's current community. It's is hard to fathom why this would be necessary when so many people in Western Australia enjoy this environment, and, want to protect it from bulldozers and further destruction of it's vegetation and natural formations.

On another note, it's been brought to our attention that legal leases are being paid for by the Shack owners to the Shire for at least 1 year in advance. This seems somewhat unfair as there seems to be little to no Shire resources supplied in return like other WA communities, such as basic amenities eg. Sewerage or rubbish collection, etc.

I/ We would like to see a mutual agreement between the Shire, WA Government and Federal Government (where required) to allow for these current shacks to remain as they are or be upgraded to ensure safety building standards are met and to ensure they will be enjoyed for generations to come. If the current cost of leases continue, more could be provided to the community such as sewerage, rubbish bin collection, water supply, etc to the Shack owners.

The agreement should comprise of benefits to both parties, but do not lose this unique and beautiful community. If revenue is the aim of the Government, park fees could be paid by Visitors to the shack community and to the Shire, if the Shire starts providing services for their part of the revenue current and forecasted. All parties could agree to protecting the vegetation and the dunes through a protection plan involving WIPA and those who have been living on the lands (who know the lands firsthand).

Yours faithfully,

Mr Craig Farrow 12th July 2010

Craig Farrow