



Gregory Robinson

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

The Chairman

Inquiry into Shack Site in Western Australia

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

My family has been visiting Wedge Island for more than 50 years and have had a shack at Wedge for 45 of these. I have grown up going to Wedge and remember many very memorable days there. I now have the opportunity of taking my daughter and many of my friends there as well and let them enjoy the simple pleasures of a weekend in a shack.

Spending a few days in a shack there always allows me to unwind and switch off from the pressures of life in Perth. The facilities we have are basic with the shack providing a roof to collect rain water from, a 12V solar lighting system, cooking and bedding and a flushing toilet. There are no fences, no shops, no dress standards, and no where I need to be except cooking a BBQ at the end of a day.

Our family spends the days there on the beach, swimming, surfing or fishing, or playing in the sand dunes. We look forward each long weekend or Easter in spending an extended time up there, often in the company of my wife's family (who also own a shack there) or with friends who we have introduced to the area.

There is a very large social and community aspect to Wedge and the Wedge Island Protection Association (WIPA) has helped foster this camaraderie for over 41 years. The yearly Fun Run and Easter Ball are an excellent example of its ability to organise social occasions and bring the Wedge community together. In its other roles, the association has had a de facto management role in the area from its inception and has maintained rubbish disposal facilities and regular clean ups, dune repair activities and provision of basic first aid amenities. Again, it is an excellent example of community based management.

Wedge is an operational fishing village and is a historic, living reminder as to how many of the major fishing towns on the Mid West coast were founded. This has a priceless heritage value and, therefore, it should be retained for prosperity as a unique example for all visitors to see.

My hope is that Wedge will continue to be an uncomplicated place where I can take my family and friends in the years to come and enjoy an inexpensive option for a holiday in the state. There are countless other towns on the coast that offer a chance to spend a weekend on the beach, but none offer the same mystique and simple beauty of time spent in a shack at Wedge.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory Robinson

10th July 2010