

PUBLIC



The Committee Clerk,
Legislative Council Public Administration Standing Committee,
Parliament House,
Perth, WA 6000.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission Re Policy 13 - Greater Access to Water Catchments

As a member of the WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA) I wish to respond to the Media Statement of 16th September regarding "Greater Access to Water Catchments to be Explored"

WATFAA members are very environmentally conscious (we share the bushwalkers' ethic of leaving nothing but footprints) and support the concept of allowing environmentally low impact activities within water supply catchment areas which are consistent with the aim of preserving water quality. With this concept in mind, I believe that certain activities should be allowed, both on the water and within the catchment areas.

A. I suggest that such allowable activities should include

- Fishing – **using artificial lures only** (both off-the-bank fishing and boat fishing, including use of kayaks, rowing boats or float tubes)
- Kayaking, rowing, sailing
- Bushwalking
- Bird watching
- Cycling/Mountain bike riding
- Walk-in overnight camping (eg by bush-walkers)

B I suggest that any potentially polluting activities should be excluded, for example

- * Fishing using non-artificial baits
- * Fishing from power boats
- * Marroning (invariably requires baits)
- * Power boat use of any sort (petrol, diesel).
- * Motor bikes/trail-bikes
- * Use of motor vehicles on the banks of the dams and within the general catchment area – other than at approved access points/parking areas close to the dams and feeder streams.

Access should be restricted to licensed individuals only (eg there should be a low-cost annual permit available - a **Permit to Enter a Restricted Access Area** - similar

to that for access to National Parks) and there should be some form of access control – eg sign-in and regular permit checks by Rangers.

There should also be significant penalties for entry without a permit, and for breaches of such regulations as are imposed (eg regulations which ban the leaving of rubbish and restrict fishing to artificial lures only)

Vehicle access (eg at individual dam sites) should be restricted to one or two specific access points with parking , toilets, rubbish bins, boat access tracks(non-power boats only therefore concrete ramps not necessary). There should be vehicle access close to the dams, but not actually to the dams.

I believe that such low-impact activities would be a valuable step in allowing recreational access to several selected areas without compromising water quality. **I drink the water too!**

Dams which should be considered for access for fishing and other restricted activities should include:

Bickley Brook Reservoir
Churchmans Brook Reservoir
Victoria Reservoir
Serpentine Dam
Serpentine Pipehead Dam
South Dandalup Dam

Without doubt, the Lefroy Brook above the Town Dam should be reopened. Logically this should be reopened without any requirement for a permit – since it can be accessed by tourists, bushwalkers, etc at present, without any restrictions. However, use of non-artificial bait for fishing and marroning could be banned in order to preserve water quality.

I look forward to action on these proposals.

Yours sincerely,



David Humphrey