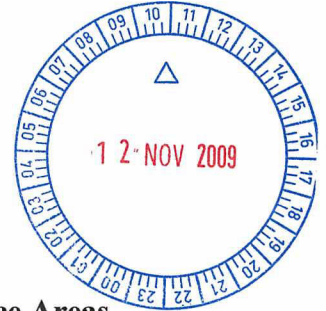


Dr. Brian Mubarakhi

PUBLIC

Ms Cassandra Stephenson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth, WA, 6000

9 November 2009



Re:

**Standing Committee on Public Administration
Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas**

Dear Members of the Committee,

As an active bush walker and nature lover I write to you to voice my concerns about the possible loss of access to a great majority, and variety, of natural bush land in the Perth metropolitan region as part of plans to seal and ban access to Perth's water catchment areas.

I implore you not to extend the ban on access to bush walkers. By definition bush walkers *walk* in the bush and thus survival and sustenance of the bush is of a great importance. Bush walking is a mentally and physically healthy activity. It is a non-intrusive non-polluting discipline that is undertaken by a small group of like minded people for a few hours of the week to enjoy the bush, the vegetation, the flowers, bird life and animals.

By maintaining and promoting benign activities like bush walking one promotes the maintenance, appreciation and respect to the ever shrinking green surroundings. Not to mention the benefits from an active life style. Bush walking is relatively harmless and has insignificant impact on the bush, the catchment area or the water resources for that matter. On the contrary bush walkers can be used as aids in preventing damage and destruction to the environment and often interact with park rangers to inform them of potential problems or acts of vandalism.

Bush walkers belonging to recognised clubs and member organisations of the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers, for example, have a long distinct and proven history and association with the bush, its improvement, preservation, maintenance and survival. It is within their interest to maintain and promote a strong and healthy bush landscape. More over, these clubs have strict rules and regulations and codes of conduct with respect to bush access, rubbish, fires and the like. This demonstrated history and association must be recognised and supported.

In closing I thank you for your time and consideration of my appeal and again implore you to look favourably at bush walking activities and exclude them from any intent or legislation aimed at sealing the catchment bush land in and around Perth.

Dr Brian Mubarakhi

Brian Mubarakhi, Ph.D,