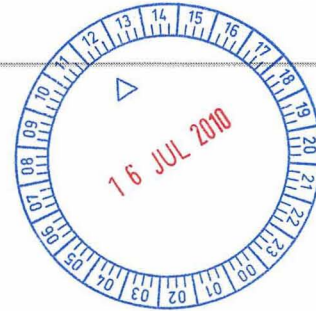


Omar, Linda

From:
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2010 5:29 PM
To: Omar, Linda
Subject: Wedge & Grey
Attachments: Grey and Wedge.docx



Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above.

Being winter many of our members are away on holiday but the comments attached are from the members that I have been able to speak to.

As the owner of a Caravan Park I have my own views on the subject which basically is that I can completely understand why the lease holders do not want to move. When my 38 year old daughter was a child we used to drive from Albany to Coral Bay and Exmouth and camp on the beach. We are no longer able to do that and times have changed. I am not at all sure that even putting both sites out to tender anyone would put their hand up to build the kind of infrastructure that was originally planned for the area after the shacks have gone. This would mean that it would be left to The Shire of Dandaragan or D.E.C. to pull down, build and then look after which is clearly out of their range of expertise.

I do not have any objection to the shacks being there if they complied with the same rules and regulations that we have to in our business. The sites are quite revolting to view and now that the road is nearly completed visitors to our region will be closer to the shacks and their squalor.

It will also attract the very cheap campervan market who basically free camp their way around the country as they will be able to get in off the highway which they cannot do now. This will also increase the need for more rangers and a bigger than ever clean up. I can see trouble between the shack dwellers and the 'wicked van' crowd as they will not want anyone else being able to use the beach front etc.

This is a very difficult question for any shire or government and many of the squatters have some real pull in government circles. You are no longer dealing with poor fishermen anymore but lawyers and doctors who would not live the way they do at Grey and Wedge in their suburbs in Perth.

The environmental impact of the shacks has been covered by people who know a lot more than me about it but it is a shocking thing to see the way the motorbikes, 4 wheel drives and quadbikes from those settlements are tearing up the dunes. We are not allowed to drive around our town and beaches in unlicensed vehicles and when it is more accessible all our hooners will just go to Wedge and Grey.

I hope this helps a bit with the feeling of the locals in Cervantes. At the moment we do not derive any financial benefits from the squatter settlements in Cervantes or Jurien and seem to be looking down the gun barrel at having to pay more rates to keep them going.

Kind Regards

Leslee Holmes

President Cervantes Chamber of Commerce

Manager / Owner

Pinnacles Caravan Park

Cervantes Pinnacles Caravan Park & Seashells Cafe'

- There is no official or recognised planning for development (tourism or otherwise) for this region.
- Shire of Dandaragan and D.E.C. are totally unable to cope with extended townships.
- This area was not identified as tourism development node when current stakeholders drafted working business plans and future modelling.
- There are enormous environmental considerations i.e. asbestos – no sewage – hazardous waste materials.
- Unfair advantages accorded to an elite group through draconian laws unsuited to the modern environment.
- Government needs to be aware of the importance of the preservation of coastal bushlands.
- The areas of concern are very ugly and the overseas visitors that come to the region get a very bad idea of how we care for our beautiful coastline. By allowing these squatters to stay is creating a dangerous precedent to others who may wish to set up camps along the coastline.
- There have been many shacks forced to leave this coastline over the past years and some people have voiced the intention to sue the government if this group are allowed to remain where they were made to move on.
- The Shire of Dandaragan does not have the staff to cover any more areas than they already have and this would mean enormous costs to the ratepayers of the towns in the Shire. They are not prepared to accept this cost for people from people who do not live in the area and contribute to our Shire.