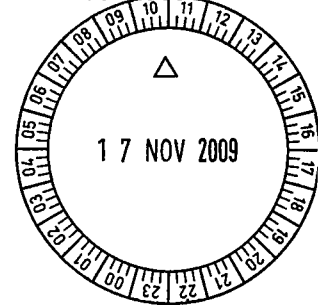


PUBLIC

Mark Guest

Cassandra Stephenson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

13th November 2009



Dear Ms Stephenson

Re: Enquiry into recreation in public drinking water catchments in Western Australia

As an active member of the Perth Bushwalking Club (from other members of which you no doubt have received some detailed suggestions, which I will not be repeating), I should like to advocate that off-track bushwalkers be allowed to utilise the Darling Range for their activities. Considerations I can think of are:

- The only conveniently close-by areas suitable for off-track bushwalking are the Darling Hills and associated forests, which are also water catchment zones
- However, off-track bushwalking constitutes the minimum disruption to any ecosystem when compared to almost any other activity (most of which are uncontrollable, such as dirt-bike riding, 4-wheel driving, etc.), and the numbers involved, though significant in terms of our recreational enjoyment, are insignificant in terms of impact.
- Bushwalkers could serve as excellent reporters on the state of the environment, especially concerning those parts of the catchment areas where there are no roads available for the routine patrols of the authorities

I hope your department will look favourably on my petition, as just one voice representing many concerned bushwalkers.

Yours sincerely

Mark Guest