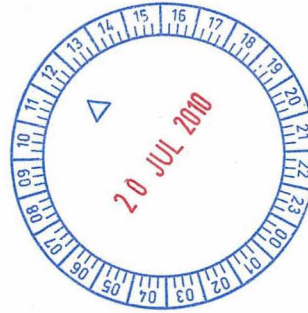


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Don McWaters



MS Linda Omar
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Submission: 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 advertised recently in the West Australian newspaper.

I am a supporter of the current Shack Site Communities Petitions that were lodged to convince the Government to review policy on shack communities in W.A. and to highlight public support for these sites.

As a shack owner at Wedge Island, I am a member of the Wedge Island Protection Association (WIPA) and active in their activities and programmes within the Wedge shack community.

WIPA is preparing a comprehensive submission to the Inquiry, and I fully endorse the views, assessments and recommendation contained within their submission.

The ongoing problems with various shack sites around W.A. and successive state governments seem to be caused by the current State Government Squatter Policy and by inconsistent treatment of these sites by Local Government Authorities and State Government departments.

Other States have established and retained similar shack sites after successfully resolving any problems, but WA governments have not been able to deal with the issues; this policy puts at risk the community social values and tourism assets.

Shack communities are capable of providing affordable coastal family holiday destinations, as well as a wide range of recreational and tourist facilities and experiences. Their potential as tourism assets is considerable, and can generate investment in facilities and tourism related businesses through increased access to and use of these sites.

I trust this submission provides the Committee with information on shack communities in Western Australia, and that the Committee will be instrumental in changing policy related to shack sites so that the W.A public and visitors to this state can enjoy the benefits of these unique communities.

Yours faithfully,

Don McWaters

14/07/2010