

4 June 2009

The Principal Research Officer
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION, USE, AND REGULATION OF CARAVAN PARKS (AND CAMPING GROUNDS) IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Background

The self drive market is an important part of the economic base of the Kimberley region. Visitation rates in the East Kimberley indicate that over past years the rate of growth in this market is in the order of 10% per annum (measured at the Kununurra Visitor Centre). Currently around 95,000 visitors use the Kununurra Visitors Centre. This compares favourably with Broome which currently has about 140,000 visitors.

The East Kimberley region is particularly important to Western Australia not because of the range of iconic experiences (Parnell, Gibb River Road, Cambridge Gulf, Ord River, Lake Argyle etc), but also because it is a gateway destination to Western Australia.

Issues

Loss of Space

Like many regions in Western Australia the Kimberley has been losing caravan space to cabins and chalets through market driven decisions. Yet caravan sales and numbers continue to grow. This has led Council to partner with Tourism WA to conduct an Accommodation Study review to assess the needs of the region. This study will be completed around mid June 2009.

It is anticipated that there will be demand for land release for another one and perhaps two caravan parks in the region.

For last 3 years overflow caravan parks arrangements in Kununurra have proved inadequate in peak times.



**Shire of
Wyndham-
East
Kimberley**

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The Last Frontier

Peak demand in this region coincides with School Holidays and it is recommended that School ovals and grounds where ablution facilities exists and are generally not used in Holiday periods be made available as over flow caravan and camping space. This may assist communities in need of servicing this industry and generated new income for schools.

Kununurra will also be in need of a 100 workers style accommodation camp to support the Ord Expansion construction. It is recommended that this be established in a way which leverages a future caravan park or lifestyle village.

Roadside Camping

Caravans are increasingly more self contained in terms of sullage and power. This is leading to greater roadside camping. There is need to better definition around responsibilities for management of these sites across the State.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Stubbs', written over the word 'Regards'.

Peter Stubbs
Chief Executive Officer