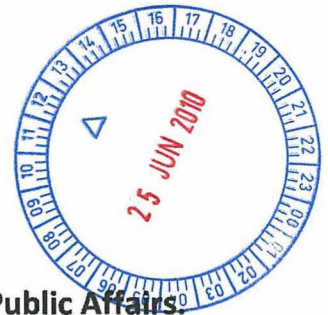


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Submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

PetitionNo. 50

24 June 2010

This submission is to raise awareness of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs who are making vital decisions regarding the future of shacks at Grey and Wedge Island.

The shacks at both locations provide a family environment not seen in a "regular" community, the teaching of life skills such as environmental awareness, social responsibility and ability to make do with less are traits that are disappearing from our society.

There have been numerous occasions in the 14 years our family has owned a shack at Grey that we have helped out tourists in genuine need of assistance, removed beach debris thrown overboard by others or helped with revegetation projects. The concept that shack dwellers are elitist or privileged to own shack is completely incorrect. Since our shack was bought in 1996, there have been many sales of nearby shacks, anyone who wishes to make the effort can buy a shack and the benefits to that person and his family are great.

After living all over the world, I recognise the absolute need to keep the few remaining shacks in their current form. This is due to the fact that previous governments have wantonly demolished shacks under the premise of policy or other commercial reasons. The many visitors we have hosted at our shack have all without exception commented on how essential it is we do not allow our shacks to be removed under any circumstances

As my children now reach adulthood, they are taking the initiative and spending quality time at the shack with their friends and colleagues. To deny future generations the access to this unique lifestyle will be a huge mistake. There are so so many examples of short sighted decisions made by ill informed people to demolish, destroy or change historically significant buildings and facilities around the world, always to the regret of future generations.

I implore the SCEPA to retain the shacks at Wedge and Grey, this is who we are.

Chris Donnelly