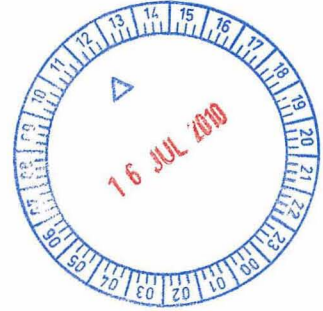


Christopher J McMullan
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PUBLIC

13-7-2010

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



Submission: Inquiry into Shack Sites in Western Australia.

We wish to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs regarding the Shack Communities at Wedge Island and Grey on the Western Australian coast, North of Lancelin.

We strongly support the retention of the shack communities. We are not shack owners but have been regular visitors to the area for ten years, and have since got to know several of the shack owners.

This community provides a focal point for our enjoyment. It's not just the ocean activities, surfing, swimming, and the pristine coastal environment, but the delight of meeting like minded people sharing a wonderful wilderness area. Being able to bump into people you haven't seen for months on a lonely stretch of beach.

The friendships and connections we've developed have enriched our lives. The shacks are a fundamental element in this. Without them, the community would not exist and relationships would not have an opportunity to grow and thrive. This community has slowly developed and changed over 50yrs or so. It is not a closed community. It's caring, vibrant, full of character and open to everyone. It's what life is all about.

To those who oppose the retention of the shacks, please consider carefully what will be lost if the shacks are removed. It's not just about rusty, corrugated clad structures. It's about losing a special way of life, a community spirit that's grown all on its own, a destination like no other.

The shacks need to stay to preserve this little part of the Australian way of life. Its part of who we are. It's part of our culture.

Change is upon us. I think most people accept this. What ever changes occur over the coming years, the preservation of the shacks will allow a unique holiday and recreational area to retain its character and appeal for all Western Australians and tourists.

Shack sites have been retained in other States. Surely similar models could be adopted in Western Australia.

We are members of the Wedge Island Protection Association (WIPA), and fully support their wonderful tireless efforts. We trust this submission will provide the committee with an insight to how we feel about this special place.

Yours faithfully,

Chris and Ailsa McMullan