

PUBLIC

Public Administration Committee

Inquiry –Recreation Activities Within Public Drinking Water Source Areas

Submitted by –

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Submission:

As the outgoing Honorary Secretary of the Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association Incorporated (1967) (WATFAA) and having occupied that position for fourteen years I would ask that my private views on the inquiry described, above be considered. I am sure that WATFAA will also be delivering a formal submission on behalf of the organisation.

Many of the outdoor activities we enjoy in Western Australia revolve around water activities, both in and around beaches, rivers and other water bodies. Many Western Australians are disadvantaged by being denied access to public drinking water catchments seen as a primary source for recreational pursuits. Huge progress in water treatment technology should now allow more use of appropriately selected water bodies.

Many small country towns and Shires now rely on the tourism dollar to survive, when their previously regional high employment provider has gone out of business or their local industry such as tree felling has been curtailed. Allowing public access to selected water bodies in economically distressed areas, would prove a boon to the local economies and relieve pressure on resources in other areas.

With proper management of selected water catchment areas, public health matters can be addressed to the satisfaction of all users. Public health is not just about stopping people from getting sick, but also allowing them to enjoy recreational outdoor activities in a healthy environment. Many of the activities seeking access to water catchment areas can be limited by a littoral exclusion zone or activities such as fishing can be directed to areas considered less sensitive around those catchment water bodies. Licensing access could also provide funding for monitoring usage.

Even with current water treatment processes, limiting disturbance to the water column by allowing usage at the rear of catchment dams would be safe and effective. Current monitoring procedures could also prove adequate to protect water quality.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and humbly request that consideration be granted to allowing Recreation Activities Within Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

Yours faithfully,

Waldemar Mackowiak

25 October 2009