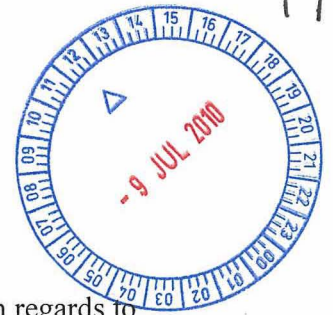


# PUBLIC



To The Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,

This is a written submission detailing the value of our Wedge Island shack in regards to our family and friends.

My family have been holidaying in the Wedge community for the past 30 years, since I was around the age of 3. Wedge Island has been a large part of my heritage. As a young child I remember visiting Wedge with not just my immediate family, but also my father's brother and his family. My cousins and I learned how to swim on the beautiful calm beaches surrounding the island, as well as learning water safety and how to "read the water". Lessons I still use today as an avid scuba diver and beach swimmer.

As we got older we continued to spend summers, and sometimes winters at Wedge. We were taught to drive cars in the sand dunes and on the long stretches of beaches.

Now that my siblings and I are older, it often seems that the only times we really get to spend quality time together is "up at the shack" but these days it is often along with girlfriends, boyfriend, mates and others who also love the outdoors lifestyle, such as fishing, swimming, surfing, diving and four-wheel driving.

Another of our favourite things of Wedge is the community spirit of all the shack owners. There is always a mass gathering of W.I.P.A. members on the beach for summer sundowners where a few drinks and a lot of stories are shared by people with the only thing in common being our love for our shacks and way of life.

We very rarely miss a New Years Eve up at Wedge, often attending the great NYE parties held by the 100's Club each year, where for nominal fee we can all gather at the Gun Club for a celebratory beer, often in themed fancy dress. This is always well anticipated by my family and friends. And we always attend the Perth Cup Day celebrations on January first, for some fun and games, and more often than not, a little recovery from the night before!

Wedge Island is a big part of my life, as time goes by, we tend to spend more time living individual lives with our own families and live further apart from our parents and siblings. Wedge allows us all to spend quality time together, without the worries of city life. It is close enough that we can go at short notice just for the weekend, when it is often too hard to organise a more extensive trip.

Wedge has allowed time away from the rigours of work-life for my Dad and my Fiancé to form a strong bond through fishing trips, as well as more trivial things like shack maintenance and repair.

To my family and friends, even as we live different lives, the Shack Community remains a constant in our lives. In this way it is definitely of heritage and cultural significance to us, and we hope to be able to share this caring and carefree way of life with our own children one day.

Thank you for listening,

Nicole Reeley

Shack #5

Wedge Island