

**From:** Joyce Archibald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 September 2009 2:36 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Brian  
**Cc:** Standing Committee, Community Development & Justice  
**Subject:** re Inside Australia: Lake Ballard Sculptures  
Dr. Brian Gordon  
Principal Research Officer  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000

Re: "Inside Australia" – Lake Ballard Sculptures

Dear Dr. Gordon

Several years ago I travelled to Kalgoorlie with a friend specifically to see the Lake Ballard Sculptures. Fortunately a tour company, I believe it may have been the Goldfields Tour company or something similar to this, was able to take us to Lake Ballard as it was not a location where I would have felt safe going to on my own, due to its isolation.

I have travelled a great deal internationally and have seen many art exhibitions in Australia and overseas and I would have to say that the Lake Ballard sculptures would rate, in my opinion, as one of the top art installations in the world. It was the combination of the sculptures of each one of the persons living in Menzies with the extreme physical isolation of the site which was so impressive. In many ways it is a site which is emblematic of Australia – isolated, hot, and dusty, filled with tough, wiry individuals who are both separated from and connected to the others there.

In the past few years I have also been to Antony Gormley exhibitions in London England and I had to wait in line to enter as they were so much in demand. He is clearly an artist who is very well known and well regarded in England.

I believe the Lake Ballard site could and should be used as a tourist destination, particularly for persons from Great Britain, who are probably familiar with the artist. I believe the people should be encouraged to get there with a tour company rather than on their own, because of the risks associated with the isolation of the site. Specific times of the year should also be promoted, such as spring and autumn as times for visiting the site.

It is also interesting to note that in the Wikipedia entry on Antony Gormley the Lake Ballard sculptures do not rate a mention. It would be quite easy for anyone to add information about this on this site. I would suggest the committee or their nominee should do this, together with perhaps some comments about what a great tourist destination this is.

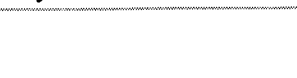
My understanding at the time these were created was that it was the artist's intention that they be left on site until such time as they deteriorate and gradually disappear through natural processes. I think this is what should happen.

To sum up I believe the Lake Ballard sculptures are a great asset to Western Australia and easily could be used to attract more tourists.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity of writing to you.

Yours truly

Joyce Archibald



2 September 2009