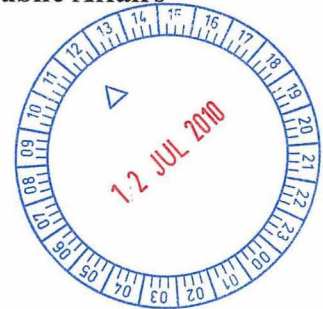


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Submission to the Standing Committee on the Environment and Public Affairs**Amy Pepper and Erik McCallum**

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Inquiry into Shack Sites in Western Australia

I am writing as an interested party in a shack at the Grey settlement. To give you an idea of where I fit in the demographics of Grey, I am 27 years old, married and have an 8 week old daughter. I have been going to Grey since I was 14 years old, when my mum and a friend took the opportunity to secure a lease over a shack at Grey.

Throughout my childhood, my mum could not afford to take us on holidays beyond going to stay with family or friends in their homes in the South West of Western Australia. As a single parent with three children, she really lived on a shoestring and we were often below the poverty line. When a friend of mum's said that there might be some shacks available at Grey, she jumped at the opportunity. The shack that we secured was in terrible condition. Despite this, we were all really excited about having a place to go on holiday more or less for the cost of a tank of petrol.

It took a lot of hard work and thrift to bring the shack up to a habitable standard and we are always on the lookout for things that could be reused or recycled at the shack. I think that shack living has made me really conscious of how sustainability can be improved in our everyday lives and how we really can live with a lot less than many people think. Over the last 13 years or so, we have slowly made minor improvements to the shack, with our family and friends pitching in with whatever skills and resources they have. I am now looking forward to taking my daughter to the shack for the first time – an experience I will cherish. I really hope that we can continue this tradition of engaging with our environment and teaching future generations about sustainability. After this many years and this many memories, it would be really devastating to think that the shack community might become just another commercial, run of the mill holiday spot.

In the time that we have been shackies, we have had many friends and family come to stay at the shack or use it independently for a short stay. I spent time as a school-leaver enjoying the quiet life at the shack. My friends were all glad to be able to enjoy leaver's week away from the crowds and atmosphere of other holiday spots in WA. The shack has also given some of my mum's very ill friends a chance to get away from everyday life without needing to fork out large sums at a time when money was not easy to come by. The shack gives everyone the opportunity to have a good time, relax and make

friends. It also gives kids a bit of the freedom that is really lacking in our increasingly urbanised and anxiety-ridden society.

One thing that I really relish about my time at the shack is that it throws people from all walks of life together. From 'Old Jack' the man who would probably have died from cold if he'd been living as a homeless person in Perth through to members of Parliament, people of all different socio-economic backgrounds are welcome in the shack community and get on together.

I don't pretend to have the technical knowledge to make a plan that will make Grey and other shack developments a sustainable prospect for the future, but I do have the experience to tell you that it is absolutely worthwhile making that plan.

The shack community is an important part of Western Australian culture and it would be a great loss to replace it with anything else. This loss would obviously be felt personally by all those who have experienced time at Grey, but also more broadly in the community as it would be a part of our culture that can not be revived.

Yours sincerely,

Via email

Amy Pepper & Erik McCallum

2 July 2010