

PUBLIC



66

The Standing Committee On Environment Shack Sites W.A.

I would like to put my views forward as to why the shack settlements should remain at both Wedge and Grey. During the early 1950's my father and his brothers had shacks at both Naval Base and Garden Island where our families used to spend our weekends and holidays fishing, swimming and exploring the natural environment learning how to live in harmony with it. We had countless times enjoying ourselves and learning how to live with the barest essentials very often. This all came to an end with the building of the Kwinana industrial strip for oil and power which reclaimed the area of Naval Base first and later with the Navy takeover of Garden Island the shacks there were also removed. In the early 1970's I was introduced to Grey and used to visit there on a regular basis with friends and rediscovered what we used to have as children although now I had a young family of my own. In 1979 my wife and I built the shack that we still use to this day except today it is our grandchildren who are learning to live in harmony with the environment with this being shown to them by their parents who are our children. We are self sufficient in that we provide our own power via solar and wind generation, potable water with rainwater tanks and septic system fed by bore-water. We are community minded and have been active members of the Grey community and conservation association for over 30 years. We have been actively involved with the upkeep of the rubbish facility and generally keeping the settlement tidy and clean. This has included the revegetation of the sand dune that has been stabilised and the fencing off of primary dunes to stop degradation of same. We find that the majority of people who own these places have put in a lot of effort to initially build their places and appreciate a style of life that can be enjoyed without the trappings of general suburbia. Given that similar shack settlements in Tasmania, NSW and South Australia have been resolved with a satisfactory outcome provided I hope that a similar outcome may be achieved for our locations. I am sure most people would be willing to upgrade and conform to requirements of any findings by the govt concerned. In conclusion I would like to say that the shack sites are an Australian icon that have been with us for some time and are a way of life that should not be lost to so-called progress. Hoping I have given you a small insight into the way we view our privilege at being allowed to enjoy and be part of our Australian heritage I remain hopeful of a satisfactory outcome for all concerned.

Yours Sincerely

27-6-10
R.R.Crawford

Shack No Grey 122