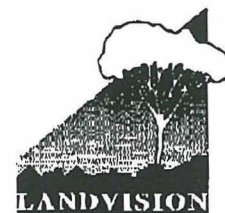
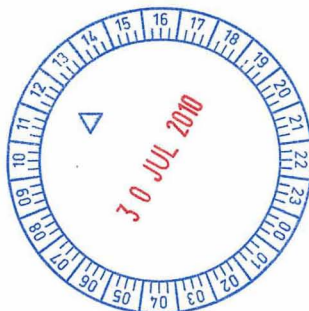


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PUBLIC**Land Planning, Development & Mapping Consultants**
ABN No. 52 058 714 480

Our Ref: Misc

1 July 2010

Linda Omar
Committee Clerk
Chairman Standing
Committee on Environmental and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House

To the Committee,

Re: Submission to Inquiry into Shack Sites in Western Australia

I am a private planning consultant, but from 1987 – 1995 I was Regional Manager for the Central Coast Region in the Department of Planning and Urban Development.

At that time the Central Coast had hundreds of shacks along the coast from Perth to Geraldton. I cannot provide accurate dates for when we commenced dealing with shack owners as I do not have access to Government files however I would like you to appreciate what we went through at that time, to implement the State Governments Squatters Shack Policy.

I suggest that the Committee should read the background to this Policy to appreciate the difficulties encountered and commitments made.

Briefly, I as Regional Manager and an Officer from DOLA had to:

- Convince the local governments of Gingin, Dandaragan, Cockow, Carnamah and Irwin to accept responsibility for the removal of the shacks;
- Require vesting of the Foreshore Reserve in local governments so they had the necessary powers to implement the Policy requiring the removal of shacks;
- Record/register all shacks, giving the owners 6 years to remove their shacks or it would be removed by the Council;
- Ensure that after 6 years all shacks were removed, sites were cleaned up and the development of replacement day use and camping sites (by Shires) commenced; and
- Require the local governments to prepare plans for the whole of their coastal areas and to identify and develop or facilitate other tourist and recreation opportunities to replace the shacks.

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One of the most important aspects of this program was the commitment by successive State governments that they would apply the same program to State reserves and remove, for example, Grey and Wedge.

In this respect the local governments had doubts that the State would honour their commitment to remove Grey and Wedge as it was well known that some influential and politically well connected people owned and/or visited shacks in these localities and that the Government would delay and then back out its commitment.

This is what has occurred ever since – delay after delay.

I feel badly let down by Government as do the hundreds of people who had to remove their shacks.

I stood in front of angry crowds presenting the Governments commitment and both of us were threatened and intimidated but the Government required us to press on. Consequently, there is no justification for the State to preserve Grey and Wedge – they are exclusive and inequitable and not public facilities and they compromise planning principles and policies. You will be letting down many people if you allow Grey and Wedge to be protected.

A weekend in a shack by the ocean may be a 'nice romantic idea' and part of our former way of life, but it is not fair they be retained in view of all that has occurred or to all the people, whose shacks have already been removed. And, it is incredibly unfair in view of the pain the Councils went through to implement the State's policy for Government to renege on the Policy because of pressure from shack owners, politicians and their friends.

I would be happy to attend the Inquiry if you want to question me about this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Driscoll
Principal Planner
LANDVISION