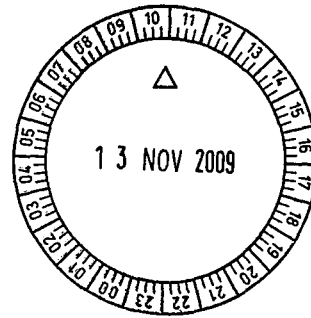


PUBLIC

Cassandra Stephenson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Submission from a bushwalker.

Bushwalkers practice minimal impact bushwalking techniques and leave no trace of their presence except footprints. These catchments aren't just valuable for recreation – to bushwalkers they are priceless.

That nearly all the good land for bushwalking within 100km proximity of Perth is also water catchment. I understand access is conditional upon the revision of Policy 13 and could be restricted to designated trails and designated campsites only. That is effectively the Bibbulmun Track, plus a few tracks in the hills around Mundaring and Kalamunda only.

Bushwalkers walk for recreation, for relaxation and leisure, and while doing so keep fit and healthy and socially connected. But most important (for me) is the wilderness experience of walking off track. I enjoy the stimulating challenge of navigating through the bush, mindful to choose a minimal impact route.

Elsewhere in Australia, overnights are also permitted in catchments for all bushwalkers with no effect on water quality.

Bushwalking is a very benign and environmentally safe activity.

Regulation that keeps bushwalkers will not keep out people who do not care about the law - and some of them may not care about water quality, and may even intend to damage it. Water Department Rangers have much smaller ranges than do bushwalkers. (They are very small in number, in vehicles on roads - we are on foot off roads.). We could be eyes and ears for the water quality.

We all know of someone who will tell you bushwalking has saved their life.

Signed Geoff Palfreyman,