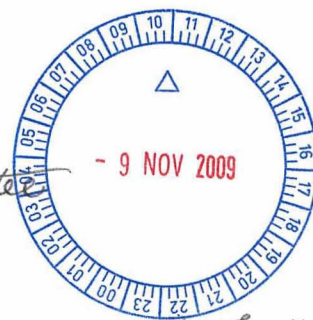


The Committee Clerk  
Public Administration Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000.



8/11 09.

c/c. The Hon Premier / Member for Collier  
The Hon. Colin Barnett,

c/c. The Secretary - WATFAA.

**PUBLIC**

Dear Sir/Madam.

Re. GREATER ACCESS TO WATER CATCHMENTS.

I am a member of the WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA) and with many elderly and retired friends - in their 70's - look forward to the peace, calm and safety of inland water fishing - especially "fly fishing".

It is one of the few safe and reasonably economical pastimes that the growing number of aged persons in this community can enjoy - unless of course the Government steps in and destroys access and/or availability!

My concern is that over the last few years many fresh waters have been closed to fishing and/or access. You know them including the dams at Shirling, Serpentine, Samson Brook and recently returned (thank you) Logue Brook. Also parts of Leproy Brook, Horvey River - all of which are an important recreational resource to this state - and which because of the questionable closures provide excess and heavier demands on the few available waters remaining. Balance is what is required to ensure the environment is equally used and to reduce pressure in specific areas.

There appears to be no valid reason whatsoever to prevent the above waters to be reopened to specific low-impact

activities including fishing with non-toxic artificial lures + flies. Countries all over the world have acknowledged that this type of fishing is not harmful to water supplies. I am sure that more qualified people than I have pointed this out to you and your Committee.

'WATFAA' members are very conscious of the environment and realise that the waters in which we fish must remain the highest quality in order to retain the fish. The two freshwater angling clubs I am aware of do not encourage and most abhor the use of polluting baits. — Maybe a required membership of clubs adhering to these principles as part of the licensing requirements could be considered in order to eradicate the few individuals that are not members of clubs and do use bait?

Clearly there are many restrictions which could be applied to those activities that do pollute the pristine waters. For example

- The elimination of power boats (fuel) would not prevent canoes, sail, rowing — and electric motors are quiet and don't pollute.
- the compulsory elimination of 'bait' does not prevent fishing with lure/fly.
- the allowance of cycling or bushwalking within for example a distance of say 75 to 100 metres — or whatever — would restrict access only to motor cycles, cars etc. within this distance or to properly drained carparks.

The freshwater angling industry provides economical benefits to many country towns bordering these waters and the Trout hatcheries provide an increasing export product with their heat tolerant trout to other countries.

Please ensure the Government reopens the various closed waters considering the foregoing reasons — all of which benefits the people of Western Australia.

Yours faithfully  
Anthony Brand

ANTHONY BRAND AM.