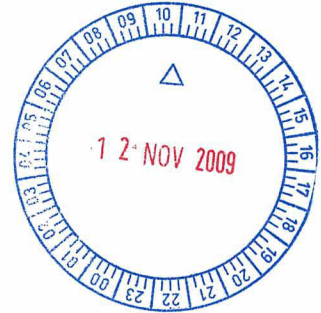


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11 November 2009

Cassandra Stevenson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000



Dear Madam,

Standing Committee on Public Administration
Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas

I wish to add my support to the request by the Federation of WA Bushwalkers to regain access to water catchment areas for the purposes of bushwalking.

I am a member of the Perth Bushwalkers who have had access to these areas for more than 80 years. I am not aware of any proven case of bushwalkers causing water quality problems. Kangaroos must create a far greater potential for contamination than the occasional small numbers of bushwalkers who are trained in minimal impact technique by burying waste far away from water courses, while all other rubbish is carried out. Other activities such as mining, forestry and farming are permitted as well as rogaining and orienteering – why are bushwalkers discriminated against? They are the one group least likely to cause contamination problems for water catchments.

I have hiked and climbed in many parts of the world where recreational activities such as hiking, climbing and camping are allowed and encouraged in catchments and on water bodies within catchments such as swimming, sailing, canoeing, speed boating and skiing. This has not compromised the water quality. I find it hard to understand the official position of wanting to exclude all such activities.

I trust that full access to our traditional spectacular bushwalking areas will soon be restored.

Yours sincerely


Mrs E A McGill