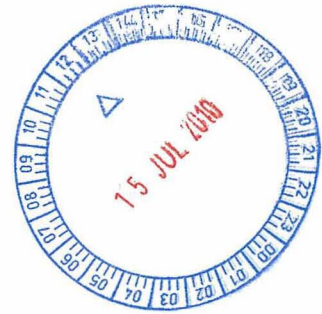


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MS Linda Omar  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Submission: **Inquiry into Shack Site in Western Australia**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs advertised recently in the West Australian newspaper.

I am a supporter of the current Shack Site Communities Petitions that were lodged to convince the Government to review policy on shack communities in W.A. and to highlight public support for these sites.

As a shack owner at Wedge Island, I am a member of the Wedge Island Protection Association (WIPA) and active in their activities and programmes within the Wedge shack community.

WIPA is preparing a comprehensive submission to the Inquiry, and I fully endorse the views, assessments and recommendation contained within their submission.

The ongoing problems with various shack sites around W.A. and successive state governments seem to be caused by the current State Government Squatter Policy and by inconsistent treatment of these sites by Local Government Authorities and State Government departments.

Other States have established and retained similar shack sites after successfully resolving any problems, but WA governments have not been able to deal with the issues; this policy puts at risk the community social values and tourism assets.

Shack communities are capable of providing affordable coastal family holiday destinations, as well as a wide range of recreational and tourist facilities and experiences. Their potential as tourism assets is considerable, and can generate investment in facilities and tourism related businesses through increased access to and use of these sites.

I trust this submission provides the Committee with information on shack communities in Western Australia, and that the Committee will be instrumental in changing policy related to shack sites so that the W.A public and visitors to this state can enjoy the benefits of these unique communities.

We have had a shack up at Wedge Island for 18 years and the shack was previously owned by my father in law who had been going there since 1970. The shacks are apart of us along with the community and the area. Our kids are now enjoying the same things now that we did when we first started going up there. There is nothing more Australian than going down to the beach for the ANZAC dawn service or to the club for the Australia day cricket match at Wedge. Wedge is unique and it should be embraced and not be demolished only to be overrun by campers and hoons because the Wedge community is not there to oversee it and clean up after them. What's wrong with keeping something that is different to the NORM?

Yours faithfully,

Heath Holman  
12/07/10