

16th December 2019

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of WA
Parliament House – 4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth, WA 6005
Standing Committee on
Environment and Public Affairs
Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC (Chair)
Petition No 142 – West Australian Junior Motocross Club (WAJMCC)
Racing at CHIDLOW



Dear Mr Swinbourn and Committee Members,

Herewith my submission regarding safety and sustainability of WAJMCC in Mundaring Hills Forest at Chidlow, the Home of Peaceful, Heritage listed Lake Leschenaultia and Leschenaultia Conservation Park.

The WAJMCC (Inc) is on 7 hectares (over 15 acres) of Watercorp land, as a non-conforming activity in the middle of a huge area (43,678 hectares) of priority one drinking water catchment, high fire risk, forest.

Mundaring Shire have a head lease to Watercorp and sub-lease to WAJMCC for motorbike racing. The Mundaring Council has recently (10th December 2019) made a climate change emergency declaration for the Shire, which is the 5th highest bushfire risk area in Australia. The Mundaring Shire is also strengthening future parameters for Bushfire risk, sustainability and biodiversity, all under severe threat in the Hills Forest, in an era of climate change. The Shire is also part of the South – West Biodiversity hotspot, with flora and fauna here under threat of extinction. This is no longer the appropriate place for an expanding teenage motorbike racetrack. More appropriate activities are readily available here with mountain bike trails, canoeing and bushwalking promoted and enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

The WAJMCC racetrack has been cleared and excavated to the point of desertification. The area is a dust bowl in summer and potable water is used to damp down the track for racing. In winter the area is a quagmire and topsoil has been washed away due to lack of vegetation. There is a large, above ground diesel fuel tank and many old tyres in the dirt lining the track and encircling the few remaining trees.

I ask the appropriate authorities to decommission the WAJMCC track at Chidlow, as it is no longer safe, sustainable or appropriate. I suggest rehabilitation as a wildflower reserve. Ken Wyatt MP has offered to help Mundaring Shire if required. Best practice for the environment should prevail in this beautiful, peaceful and fragile area.

Yours Sincerely,

Annette Ryan RN (retired)