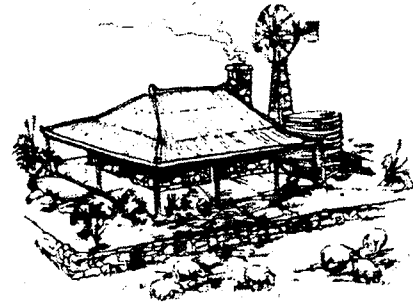


Kellie Chassaing



19th May 2015

Attention:

Honourable Simon O'Brien

Chairman

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Parliament House

Perth, Western Australia, 6000

Petition No 85- in Relation to Regazettal of Rowles Lagoon as a Water Skiing Area

Dear Mr O'Brien

Thankyou first and foremost for being able to provide a written submission regarding this petition and no I have not taken the compliant to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

I began the process to get Rowles Regazetted back in January 2015- it is a little complicated because gazetting is controlled by Dept Of Transport but they required Dept of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) to approve as they manage the land. Department of Transport were all in favour of getting it regazetted but once the two departments communicated it seems DPAW were not and hence this petition process started.

Overall my aim is to get Rowles Lagoon a permanent water-ski area when it is at a level safe to ski. I want to make it an automatic gazettal if it has sufficient water and degazetted when low. What I don't want is having to keep going back to DPAW to get their approval and keep going through this petition process over and over again and into the future. Let's get this sorted out once and for all so in the future when Rowles fills with sufficient water it can be utilised to water-ski. These lakes only fill up once in approx every 20 years so we want to make the most of them when they are available. Its fine for Perth decision makers to easily say no when they have countless water sport amenities to enjoy- let the goldfields people have access to at least one area when available to do so.

Obviously there is a little controversy surrounding this petition all created by the Kalgoorlie Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) office and in particular Mr Ian Kealley the regional manager. DPAW does not want the responsibility of looking after a gazetted water ski area and has hence promoted it in a bad light. Unfortunately there is no other legal alternative area in the goldfields to utilise. Rowles has been known to be a water ski location prior to it being given to DPAW to manage- this is not a new issue it seems they can't compromise.

What I would like to know is: What has changed? Rowles Lagoon has a history of waterskiing since the 1970's. It was gazetted for waterskiing in the past (6th of April 1994) and approved by the Minister of Environment, why is this now a new issue? There were no aboriginal heritage issues in 1994, the wildlife has continued to thrive, it is still a popular tourist attraction and the community still supports waterskiing, so what has changed? It should also be noted only a portion of Rowles was gazetted for waterskiing we are not asking for the whole lake system. DPAW still have Clear, Muddy and Carnage lakes being available for the natural conservation focus within the area and right next to Rowles.

Also within their own written documents they have stated they would support the community in defining and establishing alternative water ski sites within the region, this has not happened along with many other recommendations within their own CALM 2000-2010 Rowles Lagoon Management Plan which also has not been updated. Why has this not happened- maybe because they wanted to get possession of the land first and then implement their own strategies hoping other park stakeholders would forget.

While I was collecting signatures for the petition, I was approached by many people to also allow a gazetted jet-ski area, which also makes sense and I wish I had of worded this in the petition. If the Department of Transport can include an area for Jet Ski's and or combine they will be keeping everyone safe and happy and I'm sure there would be enough room to develop this- without taking up the whole lake- this is what the community ACTUALLY wants as I will state again they currently have no other legal alternative area to use. Since the government operate this reserve they need to cater for what the people want- not just what DPAW want.

All I want to do is the right thing but I am being denied an area that was previously a legal place to water-ski, now it is not- what has changed and why are Kalgoorlie DPAW not willing to compromise - it's not like we are taking up the whole lake. In my mind they are just land grabbers who not only can't look after the land but in doing so, cost taxpayers money and take away all the fun then no one wants to visit it anymore- They only conserve the land for themselves, their own research projects and allow no one else to enjoy it- ok that's being a little blunt but that's how I and many other Goldfields people feel.

Yours Sincerely

Kellie Chassaing