



Warroora station

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INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION, USE AND REGULATION OF CARAVAN PARKS (AND CAMPING GROUNDS) IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Principal Research Officer
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

laeisc@parliament.wa.gov.au

SUBMISSION BY OUTDOOR INVESTMENTS PTY. LTD FOR WARROORA STATION – PASTORAL LEASE 3114/660

BACKGROUND

Our family (Leonie Horak [now McDiven], Martin Horak & Murray Horak) purchased the Warroora Station Pastoral lease on 9th December, 1994, and have been living on the property and managing the “coastal wilderness camping” which was well established when we arrived, ever since.

95% of the “wilderness camping” occurs within the 40metre line above the high water mark which is part of the Ningaloo Marine Park. We charge visitors an “access fee” to traverse our leasehold to get to the Ningaloo Marine Park. We actively manage this coastal area 365 days of the year, and we have expended considerable resources to ensure that such management of visitor access complies fully with our philosophy of ***“developing, producing and sustaining an environmental management strategy for the long term conservation, of cultural, heritage, recreation and tourism pursuits along the coastal rangelands of Warroora Station”***.

2. We have engineered and put in place "Chemical toilet disposal stations" – these are sealed septic tanks where all visitors **MUST** dispose of human waste – **no-one is allowed overnight access onto our lease WITHOUT a chemical toilet.** These fully sealed Chemical Toilet disposal stations are pumped out by Gascoyne Waste Management (Carnarvon) on a regular basis, in fact twice in the last two months, due to the fact that large Winnebago vehicles {with nowhere to empty large tanks}, have heard about our facility and make the detour to "discharge" thru our infrastructure.
3. We have graded, completely at our own expense, all "station tracks" which provide access from the gazetted main roads to the Ningaloo Marine Park.
4. We have closed and rehabilitated old unused tracks and signposted all as "CLOSED" – "Strictly No Entry" etc. and we monitor (on a daily basis) to ensure that no new tracks have been made, nor closed tracks used.
5. We have six full time caretakers on the property, situated at "The 14 Mile"; the Lagoon, as well as four other family members who also manage access on a daily basis.
6. We have a fully manned office (24 hours a day) where we dispense information to visitors including Fisheries pamphlets, DEC information and information sheets which encourage visitors to embrace our own philosophy of "wilderness fishing" – which means only 2 fish per day, not the huge bag limits that are currently legal in the Ningaloo Marine Park – and I might say **totally unsustainable !**
7. We have put in place "Vertical Storage Units VSU's" {see photo attached"} which completely change waste management practices. The VSU's, deny access to feral animals, birds etc. and thus no waste escapes to litter the countryside – unlike the disgraceful state of our main roads in this beautiful state of ours. Another added bonus of this initiative is that feral cats (although not entirely eradicated) are present in far less numbers than other places with open rubbish dumps.
8. All cans are re-cycled through a charity group in Carnarvon, compacted first by pressing in our wool press.
9. All batteries (used) are isolated and disposed of thru companies who travel thru the area seeking this product to re-cycle.
10. We carry a \$20,000,000.00 public liability insurance policy, and have two way radio contact along the length of Warroora Station which gives us the capacity to re-act very quickly to emergency situations, which occur frequently.

If there is any possibility of your Committee visiting this region to see on-the-ground what has been achieved; and more importantly to interview visitors who come from all over the nation (and overseas) to enjoy a Ningaloo Wilderness experience, it would be hugely beneficial to giving “balance” to your Inquiry as you ponder the benefits or camping on pastoral leases. Many, many people, can quite simply not afford holidays in other venues, particularly retirees and family groups.

We trust that you will give careful consideration in your deliberations to the rights of these members of society.

We understand that your Committee is meeting tomorrow (5th August, 2009) and ask that members be given a copy of our submission.

We look forward to the outcomes of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

LEONIE MCDIVEN for Warroora Station

4th August, 2009

