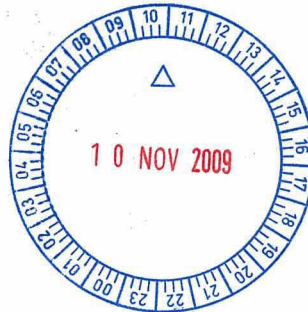


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6 November 2009

Ms Cassandra Stephenson
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council
Parliament House PERTH WA 6000

PUBLIC

Dear Ms Stephenson,

**SUBMISSION – RECREATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN
PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCE AREAS**

Please find attached a submission into the Standing Committee on Public Administration's *Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas*.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9531 7703.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Unsworth".

Dean Unsworth
Chief Executive Officer

SUBMISSION – RECREATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SOURCE AREAS

Submitted by

Shire of Murray

The Shire of Murray wishes to advise the Standing Committee that the entire town of Dwellingup, approximately 40km east of Mandurah, is within a public drinking water source area.

This submission addresses the proposed Terms of Reference and provides some general comment regarding the issue, in particular in relation to Dwellingup, given that the entire township is within a public drinking water catchment area.

Terms of Reference

The Shire of Murray believes that the Terms of Reference stated are very comprehensive. The Shire of Murray is supportive in principle of accommodating sensitive recreation activities in drinking water areas so long as it is appropriately managed.

Water source catchment area within the Shire of Murray

As stated in the Department of Water's 2001 Dwellingup Catchment Area Water Source Protection Plan (by the then Waters and Rivers Commission), the source for the Dwellingup Town Water Supply (TWS) is a 2300 m³ excavated soak (dam) on the North Dwellingup Brook. The dam was constructed in 1973. This is currently the only water source for the town of Dwellingup. Water is pumped from the dam to the treatment plant to service tanks and from there to an elevated tank that maintains water pressures in the Town. Water is chlorinated just before entering the elevated tank.

The existing source provides a safe and reliable supply for Dwellingup and is likely to be sufficient for demand for the immediate future.

The Dwellingup Catchment Area was proclaimed in 1971 under the *Country Areas Water Supply (CAWS) Act (1947)* to ensure protection of the water source from potential contamination.

The physical catchment for the North Dwellingup Brook has an approximate area of 250 hectares. The physical catchment boundary is attached.

The Dwellingup Dam collects runoff from the catchment in winter and seepage from an upstream perennial spring during the remainder of the year.

Flow to the dam occurs all-year-round and is considered reliable. Peak flow occurs in winter. The mean annual flow in North Dwellingup Brook is approximately 579 000 m³ (Public Works Department, 1984). This volume is from the natural catchment and does not include storm water runoff from the town that is diverted into the catchment.

The Shire of Murray wishes to have recorded four issues that should be considered as part of your review:

1) That the entire townsite of Dwellingup is within a public drinking water source area.

The Shire of Murray wishes to state that it would be devastating to the town and its developing tourism industry if there were restrictions placed on the area. The hundreds of thousands of people that visit the area each year see Dwellingup as a nature based haven, where tourists can walk, swim, canoe, cycle or drive in and around the many gravel roads. Both the world famous Bibbulmun and Munda Biddi tracks go through Dwellingup.

The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long distance walk trails, stretching nearly 1000 kilometres in the Perth Hills, to Albany. The Track offers a range of experiences from an eight week adventure staying in 48 campsites along the way, to day walks.

The Munda Biddi Trail (which means path through the forest in the Nyoongar Aboriginal language) is Western Australia's premier long distance off-road cycling experience. Starting in Mundaring, the Trail meanders through scenic river valleys and the magnificent forests of the state's South West. Joined by purpose built track, the Munda Biddi uses a network of bush tracks, firebreaks, and disused railway formations and has sections suitable for cyclists of all ages and experience levels.

Any restrictions placed upon this area would be catastrophic for Dwellingup and the Shire of Murray's economy.

An existing active recreation reserve is located at the eastern end of the Dwellingup townsite and is the focus for recreational activity for the local community. The maintenance of the sports oval surface does require the periodic application of fertilizer and herbicide. Restrictions on this use and management of this facility would also have a devastating impact on the recreational pursuits of the local community.

- 2. That the recreational area within Dwellingup, in particular, Lane Poole, be developed in order to attract further visitors.**

Dwellingup is only one of two tourism 'destinations' in the Peel region. It is famous for its beauty, with glorious hills and forests, and draws over 300,000 visitors per year mainly because of its eco-tourism activities and the Lane Poole Reserve. For generations, the area, being a water catchment area and a recreational area has been a very healthy marriage. The Shire of Murray believes that if this is promoted, and with further capital expenditure, the area will be seen even more as an attractive, nature-based destination for all Western Australians to enjoy.

3. Draft Dwellingup Structure Plan

The draft Dwellingup Structure Plan is due to be released for public comment shortly and recommends the establishment of new tourist facilities including additional caravan parks, camping grounds, chalet park accommodation, 3 – 5 star holiday accommodation in natural settings and consolidate existing tourist infrastructure.

4. Increased Public Access and Recreation Facilities

The Shire of Murray supports increased public access and recreation facilities around and within water catchment Reserves such as the South Dandalup and North Dandalup Dams with tight management controls.

