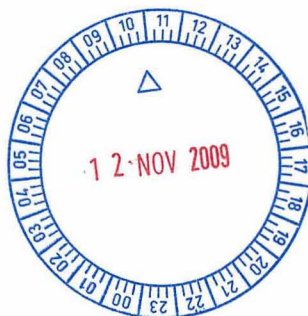


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PUBLIC



**Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration
Inquiry into Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas**

Submitted by

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Rally Overview

Rallying in Western Australia is run under the governance of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS). Currently there are a total of seven rallies plus a number of associated events run each year. Six of these events are run on gravel roads with Quit Targa West being an exclusively tarmac based event.

Rallying is a socially responsible sport that has always liaised with and gained approvals from the relevant authorities before an event takes place. We always do our best to ensure all roads and surrounds are returned in the condition they were found.

The sport is run under CAMS but managed by long established Car Clubs. The total number of people associated in rallying as either competitors, officials or service crew would be in the vicinity of 3000 people. All rallies are run in metropolitan or regional areas bringing economic benefits to those regions. In addition the sport creates employment through vehicle workshops and parts. The total economic impact of rallying in Western Australia would be well over \$2,000,000.00 per annum.

Each event requires the permission of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Forest Product Commission (FPC) and the Water Corporation if it is run in their jurisdiction. Approval is also required from Local Councils, Local and State Police, Landowners and occasionally the Main Roads Department.

CAMS have a Road Repair Trust Fund for each gravel event where the money is derived from competitor fees. The DEC inspects the course before and after each rally and arranges to repair the roads back to the condition they were in prior to the event.

All roads are officially closed under the Road Traffic act and the public is prevented from entering any road closed for competition by volunteer officials. Gravel rallies in WA attract between 30 and 50 competitors, whilst Quit Targa West has around 100. There are 200 to 600 officials required to run a rally.

Rallying in Water Catchment

Rallying is required to comply with the Water and Rivers Commission *Statewide Policy 13 – Policy and Guidelines for Recreation within Public Drinking Water Source Areas on Crown Land*. The following conditions currently apply to rallying in Water Catchment areas.

- The current Legislation prohibits any new rallies from running in Water Catchment areas after the issuing of *Statewide Policy 13*. Those currently approved are the **Safari Rally** (different event from the Australasian Safari) in the Mundaring area and the **Darling 200** in Jarrahdale area.
- Approved rallies are only allowed to run on roads previously approved prior to *Statewide Policy 13*.
- No rallies are allowed to run in the 2km Reservoir Protection Zone.
- **Quit Targa West** requires special permission from the Department of Water on the condition that it runs only on tarmac.

- The **Safari Rally** and **Darling 200** are not allowed to run in the rainfall period between June and October.
- Under *Statewide Policy 13* an event was permitted to run in the Stirling Dam region, however four years ago the Water Corporation notified the sport that the event would no longer receive permission to continue to run in that area.
- No vehicle servicing is allowed in catchment areas.
- All oil and fuel spills must be reported to the Water Corporation
- An Environmental Management Plan is required.
- Spill recovery gear is required to be quickly available.
- Toilets are required on each stage.
- Roads are returned to the condition they were in prior to the rally.

Recommended Changes to Current Legislation

The sport of rallying would like the following to be available:

- New events to be permitted to apply to run in the Water Catchment area as long as they can show there would be no detriment to the Catchment area.
 - Currently club events using less than 2km of road are required to run outside the catchment area and most of them are run in the Beverley area. These types of events are generally run for juniors and beginners in the sport.
 - It is not possible to run practice or training days near Perth as the surrounding state forest is covered by Water Catchment. We would like areas set aside where driver training and rally practice on gravel roads was permitted closer to Perth.
- Events not be restricted by roads previously approved under *Statewide Policy 13* and each application to be reviewed on its merits.
- Tarmac events (Quit Targa West) not come under the same strict guidelines as gravel events. By default the event does not create any turbidity in the water and is run in high traffic areas (Mundaring Weir Road or similar) which already experience heavy daily use by the general public. With the safety and pollution requirements in place for rallying, there is less chance of the water being polluted during the running of the rally than there is during other times.
- That a 3rd zone on the extremities of the Catchment be set up that has less restriction than is currently in place.
 - The Water Catchment zone is continually being used by unauthorised people for recreational purposes (particularly motorbikes) and the area is too large to be policed. If restrictions on the use of a 3rd zone were lowered it may be possible to encourage people to use these areas.
 - Organised events (rallies etc) are not permitted to use areas within the water catchment but it is accepted that individuals without permits use the catchment area for recreation.

It would appear that in the current situation, legally recognised organised bodies seeking permission to access Water Catchment areas is either restricted or prohibited. At the same time any group of individuals who do not seek permission have access with very little chance of being prosecuted from doing so. We would like to see this changed so that rallying can enter the Water Catchment areas with the same access that unauthorised people currently have.

There is also the situation where the Water Catchment including the Reservoir Protection Zone extends out into areas where the public have access, including residential areas and businesses. However, rallying and other activities are prohibited from using these areas due to the Legislation under *Statewide Policy 13*. We would like to see the restrictions placed on rallying and other activities be lifted where the general public have unrestricted access.



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