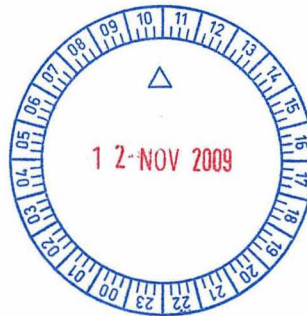
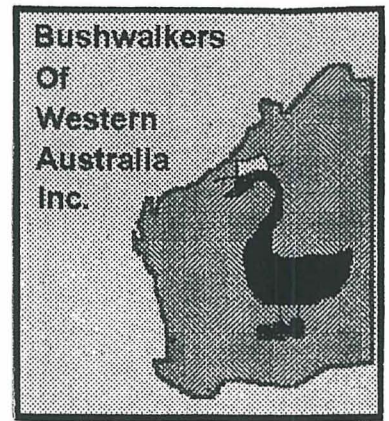


Bushwalkers of WA (Inc)



09 October 2009

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

PUBLIC

Dear Cassandra

Re: Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

"Bushwalkers of WA Inc. is a bushwalking club of about 60 members, which organises weekly bushwalks from May to October for the benefit of our members and visitors. Of necessity, most of these walks must be within convenient traveling distance of Perth, to enable the outward and return journeys and the walk itself to be completed in one day. We do organise some long weekends away, when we can walk further a field, especially in the south-west.

Our club is a member of the Federation of WA Bushwalkers, which we understand will be making a more detailed submission. The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the case made by the Federation in its submission, and to emphasize its importance to our members.

Most of our walks take place in the Darling Range area, a large proportion of which is drinking water catchments. Traditionally, we have enjoyed open access to these areas for many years, but more recently the Water Authority has considerably restricted the areas in which we are permitted to walk.

Our bushwalking program provides opportunities for the participants to keep fit and enjoy the natural attributes of the bush in a sociable, well-organised and safe manner, without causing any harm to the bush itself or the quality of the drinking water collected from it. For us to continue to offer our program of bushwalks, it is essential that we are allowed to walk at least in the currently permitted areas, and preferably also in areas to which we are at present denied access.

We would contend that responsible use of the bush by organisations such as ours benefits the participants without posing any threat to drinking water supplies."

Regards,

Sarah Ellis
Secretary BOWA