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Standing Committee on Public
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Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Enquiries: Leonard Long
Our ref: 18/07/0002
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To whom it may concern,

RE: INQUIRY INTO PASTORAL LEASES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for your letter sent on the 13th August 2013. Please see below the following comments under the terms of reference that the Town of Port Hedland has in regards to the Pastoral Leases in Western Australia.

A) The management of the increase in the number of stock and environmental damage on pastoral land;

- Fencing to be maintained especially along major highways to stop wandering cattle etc. There is a lack of ear tagging to show the ownership, or who should be contacted in the event that injured stock would need to be destroyed.
- Pastoralists should have a bush fire management plan incorporating an up to date resource register so we know what equipment there is in an event of a fire. The Bush Fire Act states all fires are to be reported. This is not occurring and often leads to us having to phone the stations to find out if they are aware of a fire that was lit by the pastoralist or caused by a lightning strike.

B) Any other matter

- Access to the coast is a significant issue for the Town. Facilitating and enabling coastal access through pastoral land is critical and is needed for the local community to enjoy the amenity of the coastal environment. If required there needs to be some form of joint funding/maintenance agreement between the State, Local Government and Station Owner. It is understood local pastoralists have restricted access or closed stations to public access completely due to littering, fences being cut or damaged, stock being shot, illegal fires, damage to sand dunes, irresponsible 4WD and off road vehicle (quad bike) use, illegal camping, target shooting and the slaughter of wildlife. Despite this, it is essential

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that managed coastal access to the Community is maintained and needs to be facilitated.

- Some leased land is being used as a general camping area where dongas, toilet facilities and rubbish collection are not approved so there is an environmental issue here as well.

Additional queries raised by the Town include:

1. Will exclusion areas include future arrangements for public access? The documentation doesn't specify this as one of the reasons for exclusions. If so, how can the Town be involved in choosing locations?
2. If there are exclusions for public access, what are the Towns obligations? Do these areas automatically become open to the public? Who is responsible for the management of this land?
3. Who is responsible for exclusion areas in general?

Thank you for considering this submission from the Town of Port Hedland.

Should you require any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Leonard Long, Manager of Planning Services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EBA'.

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Director Planning and Development

13th September 2013

