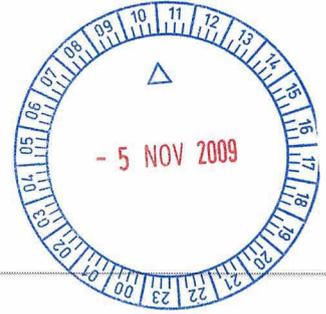


Stephenson, Cassandra

From: Gough, Hannah
Sent: Tuesday, 3 November 2009 2:27 PM
To: Stephenson, Cassandra
Subject: FW: Reply Standing Committee Wooden Power Poles



From: Bob Jeffreys
Sent: Tuesday, 3 November 2009 1:16 PM
To: Council
Subject: Reply Standing Committee Wooden Power Poles

PUBLIC

Comments as requested from Local Bush Fire Brigades

Bob Jeffreys
Senior Ranger
Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup

You can contact me via any one of the following.....

Telephone Fax
E-mail

Postal - PO Box 94, Donnybrook WA, 6239

Or check out the Shire and local community website at: <http://www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au>

The Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup is a thriving community living in harmony with its unique rural environment whilst cherishing its diversity of heritage and culture

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From: To: Bob Jeffreys
Subject: Re: Correspondence

Bob,

My employment for many years has been in tree plantations and annual inspections of power line easements are carried out, there seems to be a mind set where the only problems that exist are in plantations with work notices given for tree pruning or removal if there is an encroachment of a branch into the pre determined easement area.

There are many instances where the offending limb may be at ground height and eight meters from the center line of the easement, this tree needs pruning, unfortunately you can drive the length of the power line in the plantation and look over the fence into, natural bush, farmland and road reserves and see trees that are growing directly below the lines and in some cases the tips of the offending tree is touching the bottom wire, Western Power apparently conduct annual inspections and these inspections obviously are not carried out in a professional way.

Next time you go for a drive make a note to take a look at some of the vegetation under the power lines and I feel that you will be shocked with what you see considering that annual inspections are carried out. In a practical sense I would think that the cost of removal of vegetation would be far more economical when the plants/trees are in the early stages of growth and not removing them when they have grown too close to the lines. The cost of the machinery to deal with the problem must be very costly.

Have you ever seen a fire fighting appliance turn up at a fire that has started from a pole /power line with a Western Power emblem stuck on it somewhere, I haven't, do they not have a duty of care?

I reported a loose leaning pole last summer in the middle of a plantation and unfortunately was doing an inspection two weeks ago and that pole is still in the same condition, I am able to rock it from side to side, I guess the answer will be that it has been a wet winter and the job was not done due to the possibility of bogging machinery, this pole should have been attended to in the following week of the report being made.

I am not sure of the answer regarding wooden poles, surely with technology today we could stay with treated pine poles as it is a sustainable product though only partially green in an environmental way with the chemical usage in the required treatment. There are steel and concrete options although they have major impacts on the environment appear to be the only fire proof options and we possibly should head down this path.

Regards
Trevor Radford

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