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2 April 2012

The Chairman
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Sir

2011 KIMBERLEY ULTRA MARATHON – PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

I wish to make a submission to the above inquiry. Please find the submission attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverley M Puls".

BEVERLEY M PULS

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SUBMISSION TO THE 2011 KIMBERLEY ULTRA MARATHON
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

My submission relates to the regulations of the Local Government Authority in whose area the 2011 Kimberley Marathon was undertaken and to the responsibilities of the WA Tourism Commission.

In the course of being a member of a group organising an event in August 2011, I was advised by a Local Government Authority that the State laws require the local police, health, fire and State Emergency Services (SES) to undertake, quarterly, a Review of their preparedness and of activities within their area. If an event, like the 2011 Kimberley Marathon, is to take place then members of the Review Committee within the Local Government Authority area are required evaluate the event, before it takes place. The citizens responsible for the Review would be members of local police, St John Ambulance members, SES personnel and members of the area Fire Brigade. After the Review Committee's evaluation the event organisers would be advised as to whether the event was, in the view of the Committee:

- appropriate for the area in which the event was to be held
- safe
- well organised
- the event holders had organised suitable methods of protecting the event's personnel and participants
- suggestions and requests for programme and safety changes from the Review Committee would be transmitted to the organisers for, if necessary:
 - o improvements/methods for medical determinations and the performance of carrying out those decisions
 - o attendance by St John Ambulance and their ability to be present, to assist and look after all personnel and participants in that climate and area
 - o considerations for actions required of/by the Fire Brigade in that climate and area
 - o the requirements for/by the local SES
 - o police requirements for the period of the event, number of police to attend etc.

I was a member of the organising group for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Solos Rally held over six days at Quairading in August, 2011. We were required to undertake the Local Government Authority Review as part of the requirements for being able to conduct the Rally at Quairading. We submitted our plans to the local Review Committee consisting of St Johns Ambulance, WA Police and Fire Brigade. There was no SES representative in Quairading at the time. We had to modify some details and welcomed the help and consideration given by the local Review Committee.

I do not know if the requirement for the Local Government Authority area Review Committee to consider the event was undertaken or if the WA Tourism embarked upon a review. Did a Local Government Authority local Review Committee meeting take place to ensure the event was safe for personnel and participants? If there was a Review Committee meeting, were any recommendations made or safeguards suggested? Similarly was an event health and safety Review conducted by WA Tourism? If indeed such a Review Committee meeting had taken place, by either the Local Government Authority Event Review Committee or by WA Tourism, then a greater level of preparedness would have occurred and emergency services would have been readily available.

Does the WA Tourism have to operate under normal Local Government Authority area Laws when an event such as the 2011 Kimberley Marathon takes place or does WA Tourism not have to obey the Western Australian State Laws?

As an aside, two years ago I visited the Kimberleys travelling along the Gibb River Road and further north then on to Kununurra and later via the Great Northern Highway back to Perth. We encountered numerous fires both close and distant during this visit from July to September.



Beverley M Puls
2 April 2012