

**Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers (Inc)**

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23 November 2010

Hon Max Trenorden MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
Parliament House  
Harvest Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Trenordan,

**Re Report 11: Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas.  
Response from the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalking Clubs**

Thank you very much for the above report and for considering the Federation's submissions and evidence during the Inquiry. The quantity of evidence you have heard is impressive, and the time you and your committee must have put into deliberating over what to include and what to exclude must have been very taxing.

Although there are a number of places in the report where we do not agree with your selection of evidence and consequently the conclusions you have drawn, the Federation would be most grateful if the following three corrections could be made:

**i) In section 1.13** the report says: "*Submissions from recreational groups, particularly the fishing and bushwalking lobby, and other individuals revealed a passionate interest in accessing dams, rivers and catchments.*" The Federation and none of the bushwalking clubs or bushwalkers who made submissions argued for access to dams, and the above statement implies we did. It is not a correct statement.

<p><b>The Federation requests that the words "<i>and bushwalking</i>" be deleted from section 1.13.</b></p>
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**ii) In section 5.59**, I am quoted from the transcript of The Federation's evidence as saying that "*We are prepared to go along with the Water Corporation on a reasonable distance. It would be nice to put your toe in the water*". The Committee's comments on that quote (in 5.59), which is wrongly attributed to Mr Melvyn Lintern in the Report, include in part that "*The law prescribes the distance*" [not Water Corporation]. That unfortunately gives the misleading and incorrect impression that the Federation which I represent was not aware of

that fact, whereas my opening statement to the Committee (recorded on page 1 of the same transcript) indicated that *"We are prepared to observe reservoir protection zones. We would like those protection zones based on something more than an arbitrary two kilometres."* It is also very clear from the Federation's other substantive submissions and evidence both before, during and after the 24 March 2010 hearing (including in particular the further written submission referred to below) that the discussion on access in relation to RPZs was in the nature of what might be a reasonable (future) RPZ width. The question of whether the RPZ width is prescribed by current law or by Water Corporation was not relevant in that context.

**The Federation requests that section 5.59 be deleted from the Inquiry report as we have been quoted out of context and in a way that does not fairly reflect the substance of the Federation's other detailed submissions and evidence.**

**iii) In Appendix I of the Report (List of submissions received)** - and also in the Evidence Details available on the Parliamentary website - there is no record of the Federation's further submission to the Committee dated 25 May 2010 which was titled: **"A reasonable and logical RPZ width for bushwalkers"**. That additional submission was at the specific invitation of Standing Committee Member Mr Ed Dermer (refer page 5 of the transcript). The submission confirms the inconsistency of the Report statements in sections 1.3 and 5.59 with the Federation's clearly stated position. For ease of reference, I enclose a further copy of the 25 May submission and the email chain the accompanied it.

**In view of the relevance of our 25 May 2010 submission to our other evidence, The Federation requests it be referenced in Appendix 1 and that the document be added to the Evidence Details available on the Parliamentary website.**

The Federation trusts that the above matters will be remedied in the Report itself, or at least as Errata/Addenda to the report.

We look forward to continuing the Federation's strong commitment to responsible access for bushwalking opportunities within the catchments close to Perth. In particular we are very hopeful that the recent collaborative approach between the various agencies, as strongly endorsed by the Standing Committee's Report, will lead to outcomes that are good for recreation and good for the community's health generally, while also ensuring appropriate levels of water source protection.

Yours faithfully

Ian McDonald

President

Encl. Submission 25 May 2010, email chain dated 25 May