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28th February 2008

Office of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Attn: Mr Rob Giles, Chief of Staff

13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
West Perth 6005

Dear Mr Giles

Your ref: 02-037982

Thank you for your letter dated 21 February 2008 regarding the Pastoral Leasehold Land along the Ningaloo Reef Coast.

As I am sure you are aware, the issue of ***inappropriate developments and developer donations*** to political parties has now stirred up a hornet's nest of publicity in New South Wales and is on the front pages of all the major newspapers. This is referred to further below.

My issue has not been addressed

Your letter does ***not*** address the issue I have raised, namely:-

That ***any*** development, regardless of whether it is an Ecolodge or Minor Tourism Node or Tourism Node referred to in your letter, will degrade *"the unspoilt, natural and remoteness values of the area and its incredible natural beauty"*

(words in italics quoted from the WAPC Planning and Environment Guidelines document)

Highly Sensitive

This degradation is significant because this unique coastline is:

"a visual landscape that is highly sensitive to changes. Already, minor tracks, small telecommunication towers on the Cape Range, and gravel pits are highly visible when viewed from Yardie Creek Road...Even essential standard road signs indicating speed, direction and hazards have landscape impact."

(words in italics quoted from the WAPC Planning and Environment Guidelines document)

Development and Preservation - irreconcilable goals

Preserving the natural unspoilt beauty of the area and development, are irreconcilable goals.

Development as proposed by the WAPC requires the following to be built:-

- soil hardening and foundations
- permanent covered accommodation
- drain pipes and stormwater dispersion
- wider gravel roads (and accompanying road-making vehicles to build and maintain these, plus gravel storage areas and pits)

- water extraction, pumping, tanks and piping
- toilet blocks, piping and sewerage disposal
- electricity generation, cabling, earth stakes, circuit breakers and safety equipment
- telecommunications equipment, masts and power equipment
- fencing, lighting, signage, bollards, rubbish bins and similar small structures
- tools, vehicles, personnel and suitable roads to construct the above
- tools, vehicles, personnel and suitable roads to repair and maintain the above in good working order

It becomes *immediately obvious* that tourism development will destroy the natural unspoilt coastline that now exists. This is self-evident since all the above man-made structures will appear in formerly pristine coastal areas.

Developer Donations

It is worth noting that publicity regarding the conflicts of interest caused by developer donations to political parties, is currently reaching fever pitch in New South Wales and is threatening to unseat elected officials in the current NSW government.

I have been personally involved in the pursuit of this issue during the past 18 months and there is now wide public exposure of these corruptions. These corruptions, according to the presentation of sworn evidence, involved both money and sexual favours performed by various developers in order to get development access to various regions within the state.

I request that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in Western Australia reconsiders the development of the Ningaloo coastline and instead creates a day visit only environment as described in my earlier letter dated 31st January 2008, thereby avoiding the need to build any man-made structures on this sensitive and pristine coastline.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Recsei