



Preserving Wedge and Grey for WA

## **Wedge and Grey - Election Campaigning for March 2017 Contacting local politicians and advocating for Wedge and Grey**

### ***Introduction - why are we getting involved in the election campaign?***

In a nutshell, unless the bureaucrats are directed to change their current path, the shack communities will be decimated – you will lose your shack or access to it!

The only way to avoid mass shack removal is by Ministerial intervention and for that to happen in the next Parliament we need to get written commitments from political parties before the election.

The Wedge and Grey shack Associations' objective is to get the support of all candidates and parties for the protection of the unique heritage character of our shack communities, the retention of a significant proportion of existing shacks, and for the promotion of Wedge and Grey as unique tourist destinations.

We are deeply disappointed in the current process being run by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW), and believe it is likely to lead to the loss of most of the existing shacks and no meaningful tourist development. It appears that the Minister responsible for overseeing this process, Albert Jacob, has allowed DPaW to run its own race, and is not prepared to intervene to address the Associations' concerns.

The Associations have been actively lobbying politicians in relation to the future planning of the Wedge and Grey shack communities. We have already:

- Met with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and followed up with letters seeking his support for our commitments;
- Written to the Premier and Minister for Tourism;
- Raised our concerns with the Premier, the Deputy Premier and local members at local community meetings;
- Met with Alyssa Hayden MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism;
- Briefed the Shire of Dandaragan;
- Written to all political parties seeking their support for our requests, so that we can report to our members in the lead up to the state election;
- Established a Facebook page to build a strong network of supporters who we can call on to support the campaign (Preserving Wedge and Grey for WA); and
- Promoted and grown the Facebook audience to reach more people in the election campaign.

### ***What you need to do***

Association members, shack owners and friends of Wedge and Grey need to actively lobby their local State politicians (existing members and those nominating as candidates in the upcoming election).

Unless large numbers of people make contact with politicians and raise common concerns, parties are unlikely to respond positively to our requests for action. It is important that a consistent message is relayed to the politicians.

Things you can do include:

- Write a personal email or letter to your local member and opposition candidates, outlining your views and seeking their support for the Associations' position. Follow and personalise the suggested talking points below.
- Phone your local member and opposition candidates and ask them to support the Associations' position. A personal phone call is a powerful message, as politicians' offices get surprisingly few of these, so they take note when it happens.
- Make a time to meet with your local member and opposition candidates. At the meeting, follow and personalise the suggested talking points below.
- Send a Facebook message to your local member and opposition candidate, and tag them on your own Facebook page. See below for contact details.

### ***What to write/say to the candidates***

The objectives of your contact with any politician running in the upcoming March 11 state election are to:

- Convince them that there is a large and activated network of supporters of Wedge and Grey.
- Demonstrate to them that Wedge and Grey are unique communities that deserve protection and can create economic development through tourism.
- Explain that existing licence holders are committed to maintaining the unique heritage character and embracing tourism and recreation opportunities.
- Ask them to commit to the five commitments the Associations believe will deliver a sustainable solution.

If you aren't confident about saying or writing a lot of detail, simply tell the politician (or their office) that you are not happy with the current approach.

### ***Talking points***

When engaging with politicians, you will be most powerful when you talk from your personal experience and passion.

We suggest that you follow the logic of the below talking points to make sure you address the objectives, but feel free to base them on your own personal experiences (or to simply say you want to register your disappointment and request a new approach).

1. Explain your own personal connection to Wedge/Grey, and how it has impacted your family and friends and why it is such a unique place.
2. Give an example of the amazing community culture that exists and explain why it is unique to this type of shack accommodation.
3. There are over 400 shacks in Wedge and Grey, with over 15,000 people connected to them as regular recreational visitors and users. There are a lot of votes that can be reached. Mention the number of people who use your shack.
4. We think Wedge and Grey offer a unique opportunity for tourists to experience the special heritage of shack communities. There is a great opportunity to create jobs and economic development by protecting and maintaining these shacks.

5. However, the future of the communities is under threat because the Department of Parks and Wildlife is committed to having as few shacks as possible and is not interested in their tourism potential.
6. The Government has said publicly that a significant portion of the shacks will stay – but all the information and evidence we've seen is pointing to the removal of the vast majority of shacks. We don't believe that the Government is going to deliver on its promises.
7. The Wedge and Grey Associations have put forward framework documents to demonstrate that we can find a balance between retaining the existing shack culture and embracing increased access by domestic and international tourism.
8. We believe the Government is being led by the nose by DPaW. If this process continues, there'll be no shacks and there'll be no tourism

### ***What we are asking the politicians and candidates for***

1. We are seeking their support for five commitments that we believe will deliver a better, more sustainable outcome for all. We can keep the shack culture and create a unique tourist destination.
2. For existing members of the Barnett Government, we ask that you tell the Liberal party that we want renewed support for Wedge and Grey, which can only be demonstrated by agreeing to the commitments.
3. For Opposition MPs and all other candidates, we are asking them to support our commitments in full. We will provide feedback on candidates' support to all our members in the lead up to the state election.
4. The Associations seek support for the following commitments:
  - **Commitment 1 - Support the long-term evolution of Wedge and Grey settlements as unique tourist and recreation destinations that maintain and utilise the heritage character of existing shacks and cultural lifestyle.**
  - **Commitment 2 - Appoint an independent Planning Project Manager to deliver a collaborative process to finalise master plans for implementation by 2020.**
  - **Commitment 3 - Support formal listing of Wedge & Grey settlements on the State Register of heritage places.**
  - **Commitment 4 - Retain the majority of the existing shack dwellings.**
  - **Commitment 5 - Deliver existing shack owners universal lease tenure of 21 years with a 21 year renewal option.**

### ***Feedback - Let us know how you go and what you get back***

It is critical that we get feedback from all contact with politicians to our members and supporters, to help build momentum.

So when you make contact, please let us know what you've done... and if you get feedback, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can let everyone know.

Wedge and Grey contacts are listed at the end of this document.

## Who to contact and how to identify your electorate?

We believe we have the best chance of affecting the parties if we target marginal electorates.

We have therefore identified the following list of 14 electorates that we believe are a priority. If you live in one of these electorates or have friends or family who do, we urge you to make contact with the relevant politicians and talk to them about Wedge and Grey.

If you are connected to electorates outside of this list, your advocacy will still put pressure on the parties, so please also make contact with your local member and opposition candidates.

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Sitting Government member</b>	<b>Labor/ Main opposition candidate</b>
Balcatta	Chris Hatton MLA Email: Chris.Hatton@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9207 1538 Facebook: Chris Hatton MLA	David Michael Email: david.michael@walabor.org.au Phone: 9344 2028 Facebook: David Michael
Belmont	Glenys Godfrey MLA Email: Glenys.Godfrey@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9277 6898 Facebook: Glenys Godfrey	Cassie Rowe Email: belmont@walabor.org.au Phone: 0499 432 894 Facebook: Cassie Rowe for Belmont
Burns Beach	The Hon Albert Jacob MLA Email: oceanreef@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9305 4099 Facebook: Albert Jacob MP	Mark Folkard Email: burns.beach@walabor.org.au Facebook: Mark Folkard for Burns Beach
Forrestfield	Nathan Morton MLA Phone: 9454 6415 Email: Nathan.Morton@mp.wa.gov.au Facebook: Nathan Morton MLA	Steven Price Email: forrestfield@walabor.org.au Facebook: Stephen Price - WA Labor's Candidate for Forrestfield
Joondalup	Jan Norberger MLA Email: jan.norberger@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9300 3990 Facebook: Jan-Henrik Norberger	Emily Hamilton Email: emily.hamilton@walabor.org.au Facebook: Emily Hamilton
Kalamunda	John Day MLA Email: john.day@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9293 4747 Facebook: John Day MLA	Matthew Hughes Email: matthew.hughes@walabor.org.au Phone: 0438255561 Facebook: Matthew Hughes for Kalamunda
Moore	Shane Love MLA (Nationals WA) Email: MooreElectorate@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9927 2333 Facebook: Shane Love MLA - The Member for Moore	Darren Slyns (WA Liberals) Email: Darren.Slyns@wa.liberal.org.au Phone: 0407420126 Facebook: Darren Slyns: Liberal for Moore
Morley	Ian Britza MLA Email: ian.britza@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9375 5800 Facebook: Ian Britza MLA	Amber-Jade Sanderson amber.jade.sanderson@walabor.org.au Phone: 0402 770 508 Facebook: Amber-Jade Sanderson - The Right Priorities for Morley
Mount Lawley	Michael Sutherland MLA Email: michael.sutherland@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9473 0800 Facebook: Michael Sutherland MLA	Simon Millman Email: simon.millman@walabor.org.au Phone: 0467 240 587 Facebook: Simon Millman for Mount Lawley
North West Central	Vince Catania MLA Email: northwest@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9941 2999 Facebook: Vince Catania MP Member for North West Central	Shane Hill Email: shane.hill@walabor.org.au Facebook: Shane Hill for North West Central

Perth	Eleni Evangel MLA Email: Eleni.Evangel@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9227 8040 Facebook: Eleni Evangel MLA	John Carey Email: john.carey@walabor.org.au Facebook: John Carey
Swan Hills	Frank Alban MLA Email: frank.alban@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9296 7688 Facebook: Frank Alban - State Member for Swan Hills	Jessica Shaw Email: jessica.shaw@walabor.org.au Facebook: Jessica Shaw for Swan Hills
Wanneroo	Paul Miles MLA Email: enquiry@paulmiles.com.au Phone: 9405 1244 Facebook: Paul Miles MLA	Sabine Winton Email: sabine.winton@walabor.org.au Phone: 0478 668 927 Facebook: Sabine Winton for Wanneroo
West Swan	Rod Henderson (Liberal candidate) Facebook: Rod Henderson - Liberal for West Swan	Rita Saffioti MLA (sitting Labor member) Email: westswan@mp.wa.gov.au Phone: 9248 3822 Facebook: Rita Saffioti MLA

### ***How to find your electorate***

Go to: [www.elections.wa.gov.au/electorates/find-your-electorate](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/electorates/find-your-electorate)

Press link to: "Check your enrolment details". Enter your details (name; DOB; Address).

You will be provided with confirmation you are on the electoral roll and in which electorate.

To find your local member of Parliament, Google search "Member for XX" (insert name of your electorate).

To find a candidate for another party in your electorate, Google search "YY party candidate for XX electorate". Minor parties have not yet formally nominated candidates for most electorates, which will happen by 10 February (when nominations close).

### ***Where to go for more information***

The Wedge WA website ([www.wedgewa.com.au](http://www.wedgewa.com.au)) with a link to the Grey website ([www.grey.asn.au](http://www.grey.asn.au)) is a great source of information on the history of Wedge and Grey, including our extensive efforts to be positive and proactive participants in the future planning of the shack communities.

You will find all key documents and letters there.

The Facebook page "Preserving Wedge and Grey for WA" is also a valuable tool for sharing and finding information about the state of our campaign.

### ***Who to contact***

If you want to talk to someone about the campaign, offer your help or ideas, please contact the following:

- Wedge Contact - Peter Marr mob 0419 003 213, email [peter\\_marr@bigpond.com.au](mailto:peter_marr@bigpond.com.au)
- Grey Contact – Peter Sheppard mob 0401 103 143, email [P.Sheppard@curtin.edu.au](mailto:P.Sheppard@curtin.edu.au)