

The Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC
Minister for Local Government
12th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock St
WEST PERTH WA 6005

November 30 2007

Dear Minister,

Re: Lancelin Off Road Vehicle Area

The Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA was established in 2007 to represent the interests of the estimated 50,000 Western Australians who ride trail, quad and mini bikes for recreation. The Association's current membership is 445, accumulated over just three months.

We understand that Gingin Shire has requested temporary closure of the Lancelin Off Road Vehicle Area, one of the few remaining areas for this purpose gazetted under the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act 1978.

We write to you to ask that you reject Gingin Shire's request for closure, for the reasons outlined below.

In support of our request we have attached a petition from users of the area and others with an interest in seeing Lancelin remain open. The comments present a range of views of people who would be adversely affected by even temporary closure of the facility.

Our view is that:

- A Management Plan for the area is necessary to improve safety and to protect the Shire and others from liability in the event of accidents or injuries.
- Closure is not a necessary prerequisite for the development of a management plan
- Closure is neither necessary nor is it the most effective way of providing the Shire with the protection from liability it is seeking
- Closure will probably not provide a net benefit in safety for users, given that some users will continue using the area and others will ride in other, potentially more remote area or where other dangers exist
- The Shire would end up spending more in policing a closure than it would in implementing interim protection measures that would be more effective.

The Lancelin area is an important recreational facility for the hundreds of ORV owners who visit the area for day trips or holidays, and it plays an important role in the overall management of ORV activities within the greater Perth region.

The Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA has offered its assistance to Gingin Shire in developing appropriate signage and in communication safety and rider responsibility messages to the riding community.

We urge you to reject the call for closure so that a more practical approach to the management issues can be implemented without depriving the many users of the area (and impacting the many local businesses that benefit) and to prevent the negative consequences that would be felt in other areas if Lancelin riders were forced to seek alternatives.

We thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely



Steve Pretzel
President