

Mr Simon Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Gingin
7 Brockman St
GINGIN WA 6503

March 4, 2008

Dear Simon

Re: Lancelin Off Road Vehicle Area

I am writing in my capacity as President of the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association to bring to your attention a matter of concern raised by several of our members.

I am writing to you directly because the matter also represents a new liability risk to the Gingin Shire in respect of the Lancelin Off Road Vehicle Area. Fortunately it is a risk that should be relatively simple to eliminate.

There is a buildup of sand covering much of the limestone access road into the Off Road Vehicle Area, which is causing an unsafe situation for vehicles attempting access and egress.

Vehicles are becoming bogged in the heavy sand, and the risk arises from the fact that while occupants of a bogged vehicle are attempting to dig and push their vehicles clear, other vehicles are approaching the sand at speed in order to reach firmer ground on the other side of the sandy stretch.

Given the lack of control on such a surface and the restricted width of the access road there is obvious potential for a vehicle-vehicle or vehicle-person collision, with attendant risk of injury.

My understanding is that the Shire has in the past regularly cleared the sand from this road, but for whatever reason this has not been carried out to the same standard in recent months.

A further consideration for your insurers is that the effectiveness of the warning signs that have been erected in the car park area is significantly diminished by the fact that many ORV Area visitors are not able to get through to the car park and are in consequence parking outside that car park and entering the dunal areas without necessarily having the opportunity to see the warning signs.

I have been informed that the Council's response to enquiries and complaints about the state of the access road is that access to the ORV area is only provided for four wheel drive vehicles. I would appreciate if you can clarify whether this is, in fact, Council policy so that I can advise our members accordingly.

In any case I have received first hand reports of four wheel drive vehicles becoming bogged on the access road.

Simon, as always I bring these matters to your attention so that you can address issues of risk proactively.

The RTRA reiterates our willingness to assist the Gingin Council in minimising risk and improving safety in the Lancelin ORV area, so we would be happy to discuss any solutions to this problem with your relevant Executives.

Sincerely



Steve Pretzel
President

cc: Rob MacKenzie – LGIS
Matt Hays - ORVAC