

13 August 1999

Please Quote Our Ref:  
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Mr Ian Dundas  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment & Heritage  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Mr Dundas

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into Catchment management.

This response offers comments from the secretariat of the Western Australian Municipal Association. There has been insufficient time to seek and collate an executive response. However, the comments attached from the landcare coordinator's perspective could be considered.

There is already extensive catchment management activity occurring in Australia. In WA as part of the landcare program the development of catchment plans by catchment groups is a priority activity.

There is scope for the catchment management information to be collected as part of the current development of the Natural Resource Management Strategy. The catchment management approach can certainly be considered as a legitimate delivery or implementation method for sustainable NRM.

The brief reference to State of the Environment reporting is interesting. In States where SoE is further advanced than in WA the reporting is done on a catchment basis. WA is not well covered by regional planning groups with the necessary skills & expertise to undertake such reporting. Neither do local level groups have adequate knowledge and resources. It would be of concern if this progressed to another responsibility which local government was expected to undertake.

The future of landcare funding is a much more immediate problem which should be investigated in order to continue to improve the on ground situation progressed in the last decade or so.

Yours sincerely

**Lillias Bovell**  
**Policy Manager**

CORPORATE  
PARTNERS:



MinterEllison  
LAWYERS

