



Shacks removal is urged

■ Committee wants Wedge and Grey beach units to go

A PARLIAMENTARY committee has urged the removal of squatter beach shacks in the Dandaragan Shire.

The shire has welcomed the committee's findings which recommend the removal of shacks at Wedge and Grey Island.

The committee, chaired by MLC Brian Ellis, wants hundreds of squatter shacks along the Mid-West coast removed as the environment cannot "sustain continued unplanned growth".

Wedge and Grey shacks are located on an unvested reserve which was created as a temporary measure to enable the implementation of the Squatter Policy. Shack leases were entered into on the understanding that government policy would be enforced.

It was understood that this interim measure was to continue until the extension of Indian Ocean Drive between Lancelin and

Cervantes was completed. Previously, the area was accessible only by four-wheel-drive.

There are significant and complex issues involved in consideration of shack retention and co-existence to comply with building and health standards.

Most shacks at Wedge and Grey will need to be reconstructed.

Many shacks will need to be rebuilt and potable water, septic and sewerage infrastructure is required.

Dandaragan shire president Shane Love said the land can now be used to build amenities needed to accommodate a growing number of tourists travelling through in the area.

"The shire is very supportive of the outcome of the inquiry.

"We certainly lobbied for the implementation of the Wedge and Grey master plan which calls for the removal of the existing squatter

shacks and the developing of the area for more West Australians to enjoy," he said.

Holiday-makers have been staying around Wedge Island since the 1930s.

There are about 350 makeshift shacks along the stretch of coast, just north of Lancelin.

Wedge Island Protection Association, however, is disappointed with the recommendation and shack owners hope they can address the committee's concerns.

Association spokesman Peter Marr said the group understands the issues and conceded that the group got a "very fair hearing".

"We would have loved a different result but we accept that there are some issues around that point of equity and people and the public accessing it so we've got to hopefully find a way that addresses that issue."