

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1280/41

Regarding Land at Point Peron

Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP) Submission

VOLUME 2

To the Governor of Western Australia

and

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)

13 November 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	VOLUME 2	Page no.
	Attachments ctd.	
5	Historical Report dated 21 October 2015 in relation to the proposed MRS amendment, by Dr Ron Chapman, historian	1
6	Cape Peron Coastal Park Concept Plan	26
7	Cape Peron Coastal Park Steering Committee submission to the WAPC dated 19 October 2015	35
8	Cape Peron Community Vision Working Group's submission to the EPA dated 22 April 2012 regarding the community's vision for Cape Peron	48
9	Published letters to editors and newspaper articles from 1964 to 2010 of relevance to the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development and MRS amendment (provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)	55
10	Published letters to editors from January 2011 to October 2015 for and against the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development (provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)	113
11	Various correspondence of relevance to the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development and MRS amendment (provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)	166
12	Various correspondence with the Conservation Commission regarding the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development (known at that time as the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct) (provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)	187

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 5

Historical Report dated 21 October 2015 in relation to the
proposed MRS amendment by Dr. Ron Chapman, Historian

Historical Report in relation to proposed
Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1280/41
Mangles Bay Marina



Prepared for *Hands Off Point Peron and Cape Peron Coastal Park*
and for submission to the *Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)*

by

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21 October 2015

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Background and Expertise

I am a consultant historian and have lived in the Rockingham area for thirty four years. During this time I have spent many leisure hours kayaking, snorkeling and swimming at Cape Peron or simply walking and admiring the area's unique natural beauty.

During my work as a historian I have worked on a number of research and oral history projects for a variety of organisations. These have included the Parliament of Western Australia, the Law Society of Western Australia, Murdoch University, the City of Armadale and the Shire of Capel. In association with two other historians I recently completed a published centenary history of the Western Australian National Party.

Approach

Before commencing my report it is necessary to correct some misinformation regarding the description of the land which is the subject of the proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment (MRSA). The area in question is wrongly termed 'Mangles Bay Marina' and the project for which the MRSA is sought is incorrectly described as 'Mangles Bay Marina Based Tourist Precinct.' The subject area is not in Mangles Bay and the proposed development comprises an excavated inland canal housing estate with marina facilities. It covers a total area of 105.34 hectares, which includes 43.16 hectares of land designated as 'Bush Forever'.¹

This report begins by examining various documents relating to the status of the land at Cape Peron. It then explores the Rockingham community's historical connection to the area, focusing on social and recreational land usage, and an alternative proposal for a Cape Peron Coastal Park. Finally, the report considers whether or not the proposed MRSA and the construction of an inland canal estate and marina reflect the spirit and intentions of the historical evidence regarding the use of land at Point Peron.

¹ Western Australia Planning Commission, July 2015, Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1280/41, Mangles Bay Marina – Amendment Report, p.3.

It should be noted that some documents and source material refer to the area in question as 'Point Peron'. The historical record shows that public officials, the media and the general public have, over many years, commonly used the expression 'Point Peron' to describe all of the land that comprises 'Cape Peron'. This includes the land subject to the MRSA. While this report will generally refer to the subject area as 'Cape Peron', the area will be referred to as 'Point Peron' when quoted as such in the various source material.

The Land

As early as the 1930s the Rockingham Road Board began to appreciate the growing popularity of Cape Peron as a picnic area and 'pleasure resort' and became alarmed about the likelihood of the Commonwealth government increasing its leases.² In light of the current proposal to restrict public access to a sizeable portion of Cape Peron through the construction of an inland marina and housing estate and to gain some appreciation of local government thinking at the time, it is worth quoting a section of a 1930 Perth *Sunday Times* newspaper article:

The local road board moved in the matter and secured an assurance that further leases would not be granted under any consideration. In fact, an ordinance went forth from the Federal Officer in charge to the effect that Point Peron was to be regarded as virtually a class A reserve, and as such was to be preserved for the use of the people generally. Point Peron is one of the few pleasure resorts along the coast within reasonable distance of the metropolis, and as such should not be leased or chopped about for the benefit of a few individuals who can afford to erect week-end cottages there. For those who can so indulge there is ample coastline for their purpose elsewhere.³ (Appendix 'A')

Since the early 1950s both the Commonwealth and State governments had recognized that Cape Peron needed improvement and proper management. In 1956 the Commonwealth government, who had vested control of the land, leased most of Cape Peron to the Western Australian government. The situation changed in January, 1964, when the state government agreed to a Commonwealth proposal that the Point Peron land (including the land now subject to the MRSA) be transferred to the State of Western Australia 'subject to the existing leases and subject also to

² 'Point Peron: Preservation of a Popular Resort', in *Sunday Times* (Perth), 4 May 1930, p.7.

³ *ibid.*

the future use of the area being restricted to a reserve for Recreation and/or Park Lands, in consideration of a cash payment of £30,460 by the State.’⁴ (Appendix ‘B’)

The agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Western Australia was recorded further in the notes of a Point Peron Lands committee meeting held on 25 June 1964, when it was confirmed that:

Negotiations have been completed between the Commonwealth and State Governments to transfer approximately 443½ acres, at Point Peron to the State. The transfer of the property was on condition that existing leases be protected and also the area was restricted to “a reserve for recreation and/or park lands”.⁵ (Appendix ‘C’)

In late 1968 the agreement was tested when it was reported that Western Australian Premier Sir David Brand had spoken to Prime Minister Gorton about the possibility of using some of the Point Peron land for a sewage treatment plant and commercial transport facilities.⁶ The Prime Minister responded that the Western Australian government could develop about 70 or 80 hectares for the stated uses, provided the land was not used for private, commercial or residential development.⁷

Earlier in the year the Returned Sailors Soldiers and Airmen’s Imperial League (RSL), Rockingham Sub-Branch, had written to Prime Minister Gorton voicing concerns that an area of land at Point Peron that had been leased to the RSL in 1947 by the Commonwealth was being threatened by state government plans to develop the land for industrial purposes. The organisation advised that the Rockingham Sub-Branch had built a hall on the land, and twenty cottages had been erected by its members ‘purely for recreation and enjoyment’. They argued strongly for Point Peron to be declared an A Class reserve in accordance with the conditions

⁴ Letter from Under Secretary for Lands to Chief Property Officer, Department of the Interior, 10 January 1964.

⁵ ‘Special Committee Meeting Notes’, Notes of a meeting by a special committee appointed to enquire into Point Peron lands, held in the Office of the Under Secretary for Lands, on Thursday, the 25th June, 1964, at 2.30pm.

⁶ *West Australian*, 15 October 1968.

⁷ ‘Senate Estimates: Point Peron and the 1964 Commonwealth-WA government agreement’, 19 November 2013, Questions by Senator Scott Ludlam, website: scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au/estimates/Senate-estimates-point-peron-and-1964-commonwealth-WA-government-agreement, accessed 6 October 2015.

imposed by the Commonwealth when the land was transferred to the State of Western Australia in 1964.⁸ (Appendix D)

The long-established RSL Perth Sub-branch holiday camp on Mangles Bay, which has military and social heritage values, faces destruction under the Mangles Bay Marina proposal, as does the adjacent AIW holiday camp, which also has significant social heritage value.

Later in the following year the *West Australian* newspaper reported a statement by the Premier about the future of Point Peron:

Sir David said government departments and the Rockingham Shire Council were being asked to prepare a master plan for the development of Point Peron as a park and recreational reserve. The amenities of the area would progressively become available to the general public, instead of being restricted to certain groups.⁹

Questions in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly in late 1973 about public recreational use of Point Peron demonstrated the Shire of Rockingham's support for increased public recreation on the land at the time. The Minister for Recreation, the Hon. T.D. Evans, responded:

The Rockingham Shire Council through its representatives on the Greater Peron Development Committee, some time ago expressed the opinion that the general public should be given greater access to the land on Point Peron. Accordingly when in February 1973 the Town Planning Department re-designed the reduced lease area, provision was made for increased access by the general public.¹⁰

In December 2000, an area of 93.55 hectares of land at Point Peron was designated as Bush Forever Site No. 355. At its introduction, the Bush Forever policy's declared objective was to:

...guide future decision-making and to protect and manage Bush Forever sites...Bush Forever is about protecting the quality of our environment. It is also about consultation, evaluation, negotiation, and in some cases compromise, to create opportunities for the shared protection and management of regionally significant bushland by

⁸ Letter from Returned Sailors Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, Rockingham Sub-Branch, to the Hon. J.G. Gorton MP, Prime Minister, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, dated 13 February 1968.

⁹ *West Australian*, 20 September 1969, p.2.

¹⁰ *Western Australia Parliamentary Debates*, Legislative Assembly, 15 November 1973.

governments, individual landowners and the community.¹¹

Bush Forever sites were afforded statutory definition in 2010 through Metropolitan Regional Scheme Amendment for Bush Forever and Related Lands (MRS 1082/33). However, despite this definition there is no statutory framework for protection and management of Bush Forever sites under the Environment portfolio.¹²

The 2010 Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Management Plan highlights the outstanding conservation and recreational values of Cape Peron and sets out a plan for its sustainable management as an integral and unique feature of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. The Plan identifies Cape Peron as ‘by far the most visited site within the Regional Park’, with an estimated 120,000 visits per year. A 2005 survey showed that 68% of visitors were local residents and 21% were from the broader Perth metropolitan area. Popular activities at Cape Peron included fishing, swimming snorkeling, boating, windsurfing, jet-skiing, scuba diving, picnicking, walking and nature observation. The Management Plan concludes:

Cape Peron is notable for the breadth of coastal recreation opportunities it offers and for its scenic views... The Cape’s accessibility and high scenic value make it a favourite sightseeing destination... The Recreation Masterplan aims to enhance recreation and aesthetic values through facilitating upgrades and rehabilitation of degraded areas... Detailed planning has been completed specifically for Cape Peron, which includes site design plans, as well as landscape management and development guidelines which outline ways of preserving and enhancing the area’s landscape values.¹³

Since the current proposal for an inland canal estate at Cape Peron was announced, coastal environment groups have recognised that the limitation on land use stipulated in the 1964 agreement between the Commonwealth and Western Australian state government was a crucial factor in opposing the development. In late 2011, the Hands Off Point Peron group wrote to Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, federal Minister for Finance and Deregulation and at the time minister responsible for the Commonwealth’s land interests at Cape Peron, seeking confirmation that the Commonwealth would ensure that the conditions restricting use of the land to ‘recreation

¹¹ *Bush Forever: Keeping the Bush in the City*, Policies, principles and processes, Vol.1, December 2000, p.v.

¹² Urban Bushland Council WA Inc., Bush Forever Overview, website: <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au>, accessed: 7 October 2015.

¹³ *Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Management Plan 2010, Management Plan No. 67*, Conservation Commission of Western Australia, Department of Environment and Conservation, City of Rockingham.

and/or park lands' would be maintained.¹⁴ In her reply, Senator Wong stated that while the Commonwealth was not in a position to require that the Western Australian government maintain Point Peron as recreation and/or park lands, the federal government 'has an expectation that the WA Government will honour the undertakings previously given in relation to the site.'¹⁵ (Appendix 'E')

The Point Peron land use limitation imposed within the 1964 agreement that 'the future use of the area being restricted to a reserve for Recreation and/or Park Lands' is not only fundamentally important with respect to the legal argument surrounding the status of the land, but also raises the question why, at that particular time, it was thought necessary to impose the transfer condition. To gain some understanding of the issue and to seek an answer to this question it is necessary to examine the extent of public engagement with Cape Peron as a site for public recreation and leisure activities.

Land and Recreation

There is a wealth of historical evidence to demonstrate how Cape Peron has been continuously used as a popular area of recreation for both local Rockingham residents and visitors. In his study of local picnic areas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Mervyn Bell notes how 'Parties also went to Point Peron where there were interesting walks overlooking the sea and a spot of fishing was enjoyed.'¹⁶ Local historian Richard Draper observes how fishing, both recreational and professional, has been a prominent pastime of the Rockingham and Safety Bay communities for decades, with a group of Italian fishermen operating from Point Peron in 1912.¹⁷ Apparently fishing in the area was also popular with government ministers. It was reported in January 1949 that the Minister for Lands, Mr L. Thorn, had resumed his official duties after having a fishing holiday at Point Peron.¹⁸ In November 1898 the *West Australian*

¹⁴ Letter from Dawn Jecks, Hands Off Point Peron to Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600, undated.

¹⁵ Letter from Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, to Ms Dawn Jecks, Hands Off Point Peron, PO Box 477, Rockingham, WA 6968, dated 17 November 2011.

¹⁶ *The Rockingham Historian*, May 2003, p.6. Battye Library of West Australian History Q.994.11/ROC.

¹⁷ Richard Draper, *Rockingham – The Visions Unfold: A History of the Rockingham District*, City of Rockingham, 1997, p. 111.

¹⁸ *West Australian*, 5 January 1949, p.2.

reported that the staff of J. & W. Bateman travelled to Rockingham for their annual picnic and played a cricket match at Point Peron where they beat the Union Stores team by one run.¹⁹

By the early 1920s Rockingham's potential as a venue for leisure activities was being recognised. In March 1922, the officer-in-charge of the Perth Tourist Bureau, Mr S.J. Hayward, visited Rockingham with the object of gaining support from the local road board to develop the area as a holiday resort. During his time in Rockingham, Hayward emphasised the district's holiday assets such as 'the fine Rockingham beach, the adjacent lakes, beautiful Point Peron, and the rear islands.'²⁰ It would seem his efforts were successful because by the 1930s Rockingham was being heralded as 'a holiday resort which is hard to beat' and that:

South of Rockingham a track leads to Cape Peron, a very popular picnic and camping spot. From the rocky cape, around which breakers swirl and foam, an ocean panorama takes in Garden Island, Penguin Island, Seal Island and Bird Island. There is here a strip of beach ideal for bathing, and the surrounding ground is thickly covered with wild couch grass.²¹

Len Tye, a Rockingham resident, recalled memories of his childhood living at Point Peron from 1938 after his father acquired one of eight 'squatters huts' situated on the shoreline of Mangles Bay. He remembered how his friends called their house a 'Fisherman's Camp' and how:

...to us kids it was a marvellous beach house where we didn't have to wash the beach sand off our feet whenever we came home from a swim and we had our own swimming pool right out in front of our house and in the summer months we spent most of the days enjoying the beach and swimming.²²

Len also recalled how a lease had been granted to Peron House, a large two-storey building, which was hired out to 'many country people who enjoyed a good holiday at a reasonable price.'²³

¹⁹ *West Australian*, 11 November 1898, p.5.

²⁰ *West Australian*, 28 March 1922, p.6.

²¹ 'Holiday Resorts: Rockingham and Garden Island', in *West Australian*, 3 January, 1933, p.2.

²² Carol Durant, 'Know Your Museum', in *The Rockingham Historian*, November 2010, Vol.3, No.19, pp.5-6.

²³ *ibid.*

The idea of people travelling from country areas to Cape Peron to experience the area's unique environment had not been lost on the Western Australian government, when in 1946 the National Fitness Council opened the Point Peron Youth Camp. At the official opening the Minister for Education and chairman of the National Fitness Council, Mr J.T. Tonkin said:

This occasion marks an important milestone in the development of Western Australia...The camp is designed to make it possible for children living in outback areas to have a new environment and a chance of broadening their experiences and to have opportunities which have formerly been more readily available to children living in the more settled areas. One of the most serious difficulties faced by the Education Department is the provision of equality of opportunity to outback children.²⁴

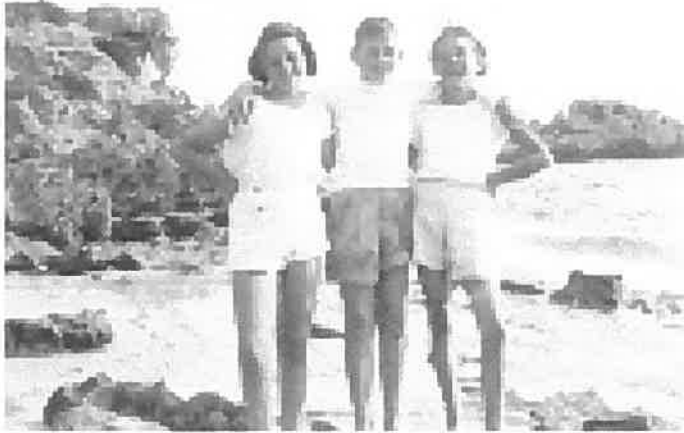
The Director of Education, Mr Murray Little, said it was the policy of the Fitness Council and the department to bring children from the country to give them a holiday and change of climate, and at the same time enable them to carry on with their educational activities.²⁵

While the Department of the Interior had decided not to permit the building of private houses at Point Peron the need for holiday accommodation in the area was growing, and the Rockingham Road Board started negotiations with the department for small houses to be erected. In the late 1940s the Road Board controlled about 300 acres of land at Point Peron and in November 1949 special camping and caravan areas were designated for the holiday season.²⁶

²⁴ 'Youth Camp – Important Milestone: Opening at Point Peron', in *West Australian*, 17 December 1946, p.14.

²⁵ *ibid.*

²⁶ 'Holiday Facilities for Rockingham Campers', *West Australian*, 24 November 1949, p.20.



Joy, George & Glenys Birkbeck on holiday at the beach at Point Peron (1949)²⁷

During the 1950s a number of educational and recreational camps were established at Cape Peron when the land was leased by the Commonwealth for recreational purposes. The Education Department opened a camp school, which was located near the National Fitness facility and supervised by a succession of teachers.²⁸ The school continues to be valued by the community 'as a long-standing and popular venue for educational and recreational activities.'²⁹ A 1984 guidebook for teachers conducting environmental education at Point Peron praised the camp school's location, which:

...enables easy access to the Cockburn Sound area for the study of its coastal ecology as well as its complex, interrelated and often conflicting land uses, and the associated social, political and ecological problems. A school camp programme should provide opportunity for many aspects of the curriculum to be included. Programmes suited to the needs of individual groups can provide rewarding academic and social experiences.³⁰

It was also from the 1950s that a variety of organisations decided to take advantage of the recreational facilities offered at Cape Peron. In January 1952 the University of Western Australia organized a camp for disadvantaged children who had never had a proper holiday. The camp was run by undergraduates from the university and financed from donations and money-

²⁷ Birkbeck Model Dairy collection, courtesy of The Grove Library.

²⁸ Richard Draper, *Rockingham – The Visions Unfold*, p.312.

²⁹ City of Rockingham Municipal Heritage Inventory, LGA Place No. 41, Point Peron Recreational Camp, HCWA No. 04646, September 2012, p.156.

³⁰ *Point Peron Camp School – Teachers' Information Guide*, 1984, Education Dept. of WA, Battye, 333.7ENV.

raising efforts of the students. A full programme of activities had been arranged, which included swimming, fishing, sand castle building, and a concert in the evening.³¹ In 1958 the Australian Postal Institute decided to go ahead with a Point Peron holiday home scheme. The object of the venture was 'to provide suitable holiday accommodation, at a reasonable rental, for members of the Postal Institute and their families.'³²

An appreciation of the growing popularity of Cape Peron as a site for public recreation and social activities can be gauged from a response in the Legislative Assembly of the Western Australian Parliament in November 1973 to a question requesting a list of Point Peron leaseholders. In his reply, Mr T.D. Evans, Minister for Recreation, named 22 leaseholders, which comprised: Community Recreation Council of WA, Education Department, War-blinded ex-servicemen, Caledonian pipe band, Royal Perth Hospital Engineers Social Club, Apex, Postal Institute, Lands and Surveys recreation centre, East Perth Football Club Social Club, Sister Kates, Waterside Workers Federation, Seamens Union of Australia, A.I.W. recreation centre, R.S.L. Perth, Point Peron Youth and Family Association, Swan Brewery employees, East Fremantle Football Club Social Club, R.S.L. Rockingham, Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions, Police Union, Church of Christ, and Boans Sporting and Social Club.³³

In 1979, Western Australia's sesquicentenary year, the Rockingham Shire Council published *Rockingham Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, which contained a brief historical look at the Rockingham district from 1829 to 1979 and some thoughts about the district's future. Cape Peron featured prominently in the publication. Once again, it is worth quoting extensively in order to gain some appreciation of local government thinking at the time:

Point Peron juts out into the Indian Ocean just west of the causeway. Here many clubs and societies have established recreation camps for their members, so during the mid-seventies there were more than 350 holiday recreation units.³⁴

³¹ 'Holiday Camp at Point Peron', *South Western Advertiser*, 31 January 1952, p.7.

³² *APO Magazine*, October/November 1958, p.16. Battye PR8679/POI.

³³ *Western Australia Parliamentary Debates*, Legislative Assembly, 13 November 1973.

³⁴ Mike Gee, *Rockingham Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, Rockingham Shire Council, WA, 1979, p.40.

Point Peron, one of the favourite recreation areas for tourists, weekend visitors and residents alike... This area holds something for everyone – the shallow beaches are a safe swimming area for families with young children, the waters abound with a variety of fish and the rocky point area is used by teachers on field trips to explain ‘first hand’ the variety of coastal geological formations caused by sedimentary deposition and wind and water erosion... The Fairy Penguins of Penguin Island are one of the tourist attractions of the Rockingham District.³⁵

Cape Peron holds a special place in the hearts of many Rockingham people, and in more recent times any plans which threaten to alter Cape Peron’s unique environment or restrict access to its recreational amenities have met with strong opposition. Local residents are keen to protect and preserve Cape Peron, not simply for their own sake, but for the benefit of future generations.

At one of many demonstrations against the proposed inland marina, a Shoalwater resident who had lived near Point Peron for 40 years said his children had grown up in the area and believed it was not right that it would be destroyed for ‘for the sake of a few boat pens.’³⁶ In a visit to Rockingham in September 2012, Bill Marmion, a previous Environment Minister, recognised Point Peron as a ‘special place’ and recalled his earlier experiences there:

I know that a lot of the baby boomers know the area very well because a lot of us went there on camp and a lot of West Australians actually do have a bit of a soft spot for Point Peron because they have either gone there in their last year of school or to the caravan park with family, so they do find it a special place.³⁷

Senator the Hon. Lynn MacLaren presented a petition in the Western Australian Legislative Council containing 8,191 signatures against the proposed Mangles Bay Marina-Based Tourist Precinct. The petition opposed the proposed ‘private canal housing, marina and commercial

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p.43.

³⁶ *Sound Telegraph*, 12 September 2012.

³⁷ *Sound Telegraph*, 5 September 2012, p.5.

development’, and requested support for ‘the setting aside of the land as an “A” class reserve for its original purposed of ‘Recreation and/or Park Lands’, for the enjoyment of all people.’³⁸

A Park for the People

In May 2015, Rockingham coastal environment groups launched the ‘Cape Peron Coastal Park Concept Plan’. The plan offers a comprehensive vision for the future of the Cape Peron peninsula, and comprises four principal elements:

1. A Nature-Based Recreational Park for the people of Rockingham, Perth and Western Australia, in which to play and picnic with family, friends and peers. It will include active recreational features for cycling, walking, snorkeling, diving, kayaking, boating and playing in adventure playgrounds.
2. A Tourist-Attracting Coastal Park that will draw state, national and international tourists in much the same way as King’s Park.
3. A Diverse Conservation Park that offers unique features unseen anywhere else in Western Australia. The Cape Peron Coastal Park includes the protected Little Penguin, three threatened ecological communities (Rottnest Island Pines, Thrombolites, and ten per cent of the world’s remaining sedgeland), the ecologically unique Lake Richmond, and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
4. An Economically Viable Park that will be a low cost alternative to an expensive and destructive inland canal development. The Coastal Park will be self-supporting and will add to the economy of local businesses and the Rockingham community through stimulating local tourism.

The concept plan for Cape Peron includes a range of recreational and cultural facilities, including: youth recreational area, Tuart walkways, Aboriginal Circle, café, family recreational area, adventure/nature playground, walk/cycle trails, fitness tracks, snorkel trails, promotion of the current Rockingham Regional Environment Centre, community entertainment area, conservation reserve, walk/cycle links, and a scenic coastal drive. The document contains

³⁸ *Western Australia Parliamentary Debates*, Legislative Council, 15 May 2013, p522b-523a.

specific plans for Point Peron, Lake Richmond, and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, as well as ideas for funding, management and opportunities for local businesses.³⁹

Summary

The historical evidence cited in this submission demonstrates continuous usage of Cape Peron by both Rockingham's local population and visitors for social and recreational purposes from the late nineteenth century. The evidence also shows how some government authorities and Western Australian state government ministers were in the habit of holidaying on the land. Documents illustrate how the Rockingham Road Board and later Shire of Rockingham also supported the idea of Cape Peron as a popular site for public recreation.

After the Second World War, a National Fitness Camp was set up at Cape Peron, and this was soon followed by an Education Department school camp. From the 1950s the area's popularity as a recreation and holiday centre resulted in the establishment of a variety of recreational and social facilities, which by the mid-1970s numbered 22 different organisations with 350 holiday recreation units.

The 'ordinance' from a 'Federal Officer' mentioned in an article in Perth's *Sunday Times* in May 1930, stated that the Commonwealth already regarded Point Peron 'as virtually a class A reserve and as such was to be preserved for the people generally.' It therefore seems apparent that by January 1964, when the State of Western Australia agreed to the Commonwealth Government's condition to transfer the land at Point Peron on condition that its future use be 'restricted to a reserve for Recreation and/or Park Lands', that in the Commonwealth's eyes Cape Peron was already viewed as an area which should be preserved for public recreation.

The stated purpose of Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1280/41 is to 'rationalise various zones and reserves and Bush Forever Site 355 in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS)'. It is said that this will facilitate the development of a tourist based marina which will comprise:

³⁹ *Cape Peron Coastal Park Concept Plan*, presented at the Gary Holland Community Centre, Rockingham, on 7th May 2015.

1. A single entrance marina with public and private mooring facilities for about 661-700 boats.
2. A combined aquatic club.
3. A marina village combining tourist based commercial use.
4. Short stay and permanent residential uses.
5. Open space and foreshore areas.⁴⁰

Mangles Bay Marina will be an excavated inland marina with at least two canals and an estimated 100 to 120 truck movements per day during the construction phase.⁴¹ The conservation, environmental, scientific and social implications of the proposed development for Cape Peron are the subject of separate submissions. While the significance of the long history of Aboriginal use and occupation of the land is recognised and it is noted that two Aboriginal heritage reports have been prepared,⁴² this issue will also form the subject of a further submission.

Conclusions

Historical material provides strong evidence of the continuous use of Cape Peron by local people and visitors for recreational and social purposes from the late nineteenth century until modern times. Additionally, there is evidence of recognition by Commonwealth, state and local government authorities that traditionally Cape Peron is associated with recreational, social and holiday activities.

The proposed inland marina with canals and private residential housing conflicts with the historical identification of Cape Peron as a place of public recreation with low-key family and community orientated accommodation which exerts minimal impact on the area's unique environment. Most importantly, the inland marina proposal and the proposed amendments to the MRS are inconsistent with the intentions previously documented by state and federal governments, particularly the 1964 agreement for the transfer of land at Point Peron (including

⁴⁰ Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1280/41, July 2015, p.1.

⁴¹ www.manglesbaymarina.com.au

⁴² WAPC, MRSA 1280/41, July 2015, p.8.

the land subject to the MRSA) from the Commonwealth to the State of Western Australia, which was conditional on the area's use being restricted to 'a reserve for Recreation and/or Park Lands'.⁴³

It is submitted that the proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme is at odds with the historical use, vision and plan for the land and should be rejected; the government should instead give serious consideration to the community's proposal for the establishment of a Cape Peron Coastal Park, which reflects the spirit of Cape Peron's long-standing environmental, cultural and social traditions.

⁴³ Letter from Under Secretary for Lands, dated 7 January 1964.

Appendices

- Appendix A ‘Point Peron: Preservation of a Popular Resort’, in *Sunday Times*, Perth, 4 May 1930, p.7.
- Appendix B Letter from Under Secretary for Lands to Chief Property Officer, Department of the Interior, 10 January 1964.
- Appendix C Special Committee Meeting Notes: Notes of a meeting by a special committee appointed to enquire into Point Peron lands, held in the office of the Under Secretary for Lands, on Thursday, 25th June, 1964.
- Appendix D Letter from Returned Sailors Soldiers and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia (WA Branch Incorporated) Rockingham Sub-Branch, to The Hon. J.G. Gorton, Prime Minister, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 13 February 1968.
- Appendix E Letter from Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Deregulation Ms Dawn Jecks, Hands Off Point Peron, PO Box 477, Rockingham, WA 6968, 17 November 2011.

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Documents and Letters

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Notes of a meeting by a special committee appointed to enquire into Point Peron lands, held on
25 June 1964.

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Incorporated) Rockingham Sub-Branch to The Hon. J.G. Gorton MP, Prime Minister,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, dated 13 February 1968.

Letter from Dawn Jecks, Hands Off Point Peron, to Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister
for Finance and Deregulation, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600, undated.

Letter from Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, to Ms
Dawn Jecks, Hands Off Point Peron, Rockingham, dated 17 November 2011.

Newspapers

Sound Telegraph

South Western Advertiser

Sunday Times, Perth

West Australian, Perth

Websites

Mangles Bay Marina, website: www.manglesbaymarina.com.au

Senate Estimates: Point Peron and the 1964 Commonwealth-WA government agreement, questions by Senator Scott Ludlam, 19 November 2013, website: scott-ludlam.greens.mps.org.au/estimates/Senate-estimates-pointperon.

Urban Bushland Council WA Inc., Bush Forever Overview, website: <http://www.bushlandperth>

Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 4 May 1930, page 7

020

POINT PERON

PRESERVATION OF A POPULAR RESORT

A Tip to the Federal Government

Further alienation of the Commonwealth Government's holding at Point Peron is contemplated. Some years ago the Federal authorities acquired about 500 acres at this particularly salubrious spot for a specific purpose, but finding that the need for its use has departed, leased a small portion to private enterprise which promised to market turtle products.

At the time Point Peron was not so favored as a picnic ground as it is now, and the likelihood of the loss of its waterfront and commanding positions was not regarded seriously, but with the advent of the picnicker and the growing popularity of the point as a pleasure resort the likelihood of its being leased by the Federal authorities is viewed with alarm.

The local road board moved in the matter and secured an assurance that further leases would not be granted under any consideration. In fact, an ordinance went forth from the Federal Officer in charge to the effect that Point Peron was to be regarded as virtually a class A reserve, and as such was to be preserved for the use of the people generally.

Point Peron is one of the few pleasure resorts along the coast within reasonable distance of the metropolis, and as such should not be leased or chopped about for the benefit of a few individuals who can afford to erect week-end cottages there. For those who can so indulge there is ample coastline for their purpose elsewhere.

National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58381891>

APPENDIX 4
LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY OF LANDS

UNDER SECRETARY FOR LANDS:

(ATTACHMENT B)

Page 385 noted.

Please follow up and keep me informed
of developments.

Stewart Bowen

MINISTER FOR LANDS.



7th January, 1964.

Chief Property Officer,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR :

10th January, 1964
321/32 v.3.

re: POINT PERON

I have to advise that the Hon. the Premier of Western Australia has received a communication from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister advising him that the Minister for the Interior has approved of the Point Peron property being transferred to the State of Western Australia, subject to the existing leases and subject also to the future use of the area being restricted to a reserve for Recreation and/or Park Lands, in consideration of a cash payment of £30,460 by the State.

The State is in agreement with the provision that the land shall be created a reserve for "Recreation and Park Lands", but as the transfer is subject to existing leases it is obvious that the land so leased will not be immediately available for "A" Class reservation.

Would you please let me have copies of all leases which affect the area proposed for transfer by the Commonwealth to the State for cash consideration of £30,460.

Stewart Bowen

JRH.

ed
UNDER SECRETARY FOR LANDS.

APPENDIX 3

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

1524/04.

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NOTES OF A MEETING BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO
ENQUIRE INTO POINT PERON LANDS, HELD IN THE OFFICE OF
THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR LANDS, ON THURSDAY, THE
25TH JUNE, 1964, AT 2.30 P.M.

The Special Committee, appointed by the Hon. Minister for Lands, comprises --

Mr. C.R. Gibson (Chairman)	: Under Secretary for Lands
Mr. H. Camm	: Surveyor General
Mr. J.E. Lloyd	: Town Planning Commissioner.

Negotiations have been completed between the Commonwealth and State Governments to transfer approximately 443½ acres, at Point Peron, to the State.

The transfer of the property was on condition that existing leases be protected and also the area was restricted to "a reserve for recreation and/or park lands".

The Commonwealth Government had granted leases --

- (1) In 1947 --
 - (a) To Returned Sailors Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (W.A. Branch) Incorporated, for 13 acres 2 roods; and,
 - (b) To Returned Sailors Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (W.A. Branch) Incorporated, for 5 acres 10 perches,
 both expiring on the 31st October, 1972.

The purpose of (a) was for welfare services for its members, and (b) for purposes of the Safety Bay-Rockingham Sub-Branch of the Returned Servicemen's Association.
- (2) In 1958, to the Minister for Education, about 364 acres, commencing on the 1st January, 1958, and expiring on the 31st October, 1972, for the purposes of the National Fitness Council.
- (3) In addition to these leases there exists --
 - (a) A 3-monthly tenancy from the 1st June, 1929, covering 1 acre, to Mary Frederica MAW, for Camping Purposes only.
 - (b) Air, Interior and Works Departments of the Commonwealth (known as "A.I.W. Recreation Centre"), for about 4½ acres, commencing the 1st May, 1957, to the 31st October, 1972, for "Recreation Purposes".

This was granted subject to Ministerial approval.

It can be seen therefore that apart from the 3-monthly tenancy to Mrs. M.F. Maw, all other leases expire on the 31st October 1972.

RETURNED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S IMPERIAL LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
W.A. Branch (Incorporated)

ROCKINGHAM

SUB-BRANCH

63/2881

PRESIDENT: C.E.B. Arblaster.



ROCKINGHAM, W.A.

ALL Communications to the HON. SECRETARY
A.C. Price, P.O. Box 9, Rockingham.

February 13, 1968.

*See for copy please
Date 19/2/68*

The Hon. J.G. Gorton, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

It is most unusual for this Sub Branch to be corresponding direct with Members of Parliament and probably the first with a Prime Minister of Australia. We feel that the matter is of sufficient importance and urgency for us to take this direct approach and we hope you are able to offer us some material assistance.

In 1947, the Australian Government granted the Returned Services League, in recognition of services rendered, two leases of land on Point Peron. One of these of approximately 5 acres, is specifically for the Rockingham Sub Branch. Unfortunately it was not until 1959 that the Sub Branch members were able to see their way clear to making positive steps to develop the lease. Since then the Sub Branch have built a hall and twenty cottages have been created by members, purely for recreation and enjoyment.

We hold this land as "Hallowed" and are most disturbed at the announcements by the State Government that they intend to develop our area for the purpose of industry. As you know, the Commonwealth sold Point Peron to the State in April 1964 subject to it being declared A Class and the existing leases honored.

By the Government Gazette of March 4, 1966 the whole of Point Peron was declared "C" Class without any notification to the Lessees and no apparent notification to the Commonwealth. It was not until July, 1967 after we had written several letters, that the Lands Department notified us that the Government have plans for the development of Cockburn Sound and until such time as these plans are finalised, they are not able to give us any definite answer. Then in January this year, the Premier has, by Press reports, communicated with the Commonwealth for the first time apparently, advising their intentions and seeking Commonwealth ratification.

Copies of some of the related correspondence are also included and from these it will be seen that even after the area had been gazetted "C" Class, the

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- 2 -

Lands Department were still proceeding with plans to provide us with a lease. It would seem that the W.A. Government must have known on March 4, 1966 that it had no intention of permitting the area to be used for the purposes for which it had been acquired.

We feel that irrespective of any other issues, the W.A. Government has the responsibility, both legal and moral, to declare the land "A" Class. After this if they decide to proceed with any developments, then it is their duty to have the land reclassified by an Act of Parliament.

It was not until we noticed, from Press reference, that the W.A. Premier had written to you seeking your agreement to the W.A. Government action in not honouring their obligation, that it became obvious to this Sub Branch that your approval is a pre requisite to their action in not declaring the land "A" Class.

As a Sub Branch we are the first to accept and acknowledge that if our small area was required for the purpose of Defence in any way whatsoever, then we would most willingly seek alternatives. However, as the requirement is not for Defence then we feel that the State Government must be asked to honour their obligation and act according to the legal and moral issues at stake. Surely the development of Cockburn Sound does not mean that the Law of the Land and human rights are of no apparent consequence.

We are including a small map clearly showing our area which is held as a separate and direct lease. We are not associated with the National Fitness Council at all although we do have very harmonious and cordial relationships with them and we still desire to remain a separate entity with our own lease.

The National Fitness Council have advised us that they have also made representation to you and we feel that unless we state our case separately, then maybe we will be considered in general terms with their thinking. This we cannot quite agree to as we know that they, except for the Sewerage Treatment Works, are not opposing the development which the State Government proposes. This is understandable since they are a Government instrumentality even though they are autonomous but we are not so ready to acquiesce to the demands which it appears will be thrust upon us. Also the area to be actually used for Port Works does not affect the National Fitness Council to a great extent as most of their development is farther out towards the Point.

The matter of communicating directly with you has disturbed us greatly, as we appreciate the demands placed upon you are tremendous. However, we do feel that you should be acquainted with our viewpoint also.

This, at the risk of repetition, is that the W.A. Government must declare the whole of Point Peron "A" Class subject to the existing leases. From there it will require an Act of Parliament for them to proceed with their development plans.

At your convenience we would be pleased for any comments you may have.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary,


Rockingham R.S.L. Sub Branch.

Hon. Secretary.


Rockingham R.S.L. Sub Branch
Recreation Centre.



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

REF: C11/3122

Ms Dawn Jecks
Hands Off Point Peron
PO Box 477
ROCKINGHAM WA 6968

Dear Ms Jecks

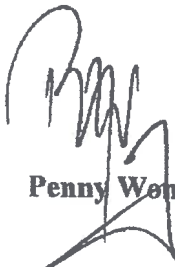
Thank you for your letter concerning former Commonwealth owned land at Point Peron, Western Australia (WA).

I understand your concern to protect the environmental amenity of this important site. The Federal Government has an expectation that the WA Government will honour the undertakings previously given in relation to the site. The Commonwealth is not, however, in a position to require that the WA Government maintain Point Peron as recreation and/or park lands. It remains the state government's responsibility to determine the use of its land, including planning and environmental considerations.

The Commonwealth is in discussions with Landcorp, the WA Government's land development agency, regarding their plans for the site. If you have any further concerns, I recommend that you raise them with the relevant authority in the WA Government.

I appreciate the time you have taken to bring your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Penny Wong

17 NOV 2011

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

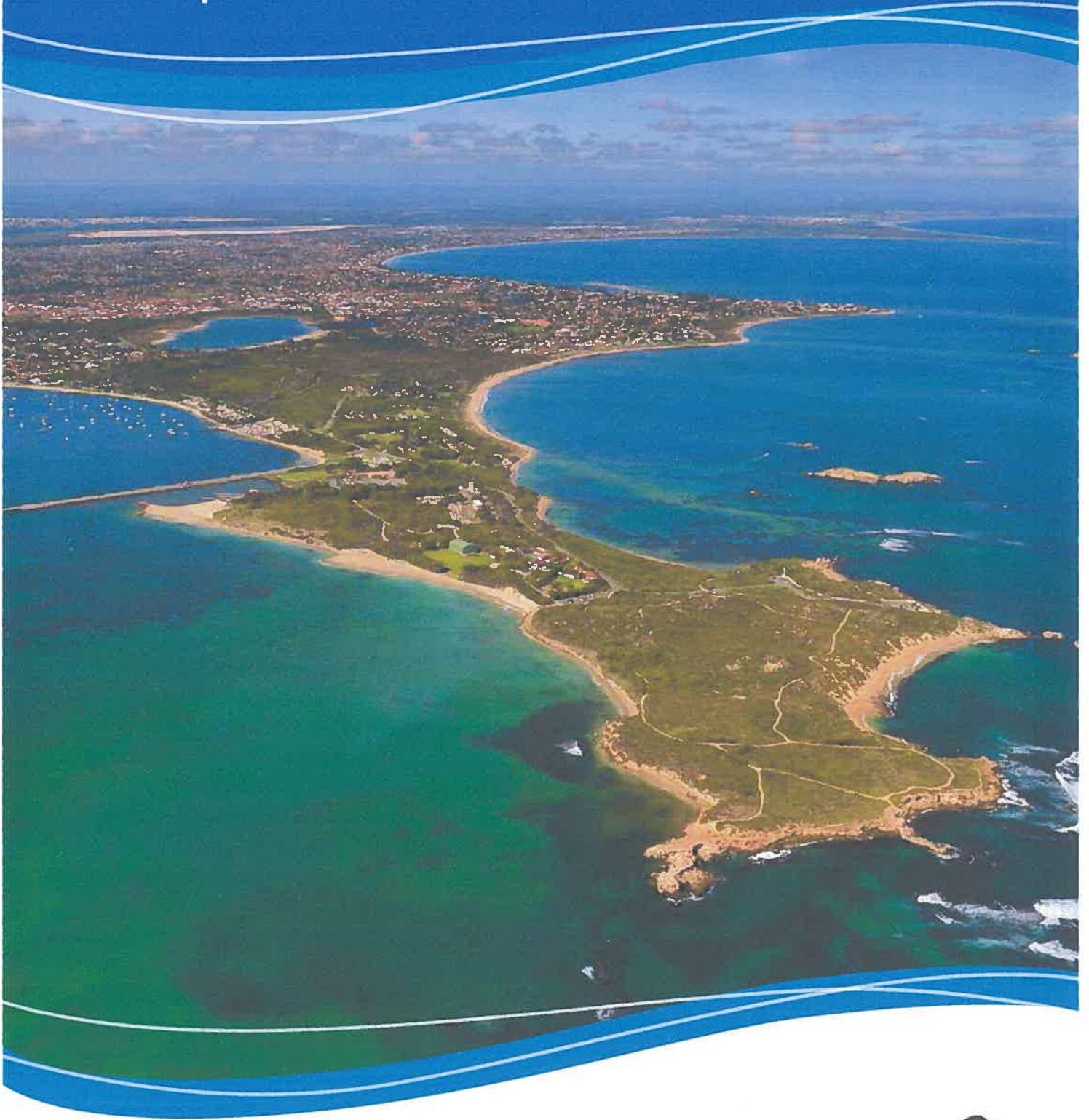
ATTACHMENT 6



Cape Peron Coastal Park Concept Plan

Cape Peron Coastal Park

Concept Plan

026



 Cape Peron Coastal Park
Website: cape-peron-coastal-park.com
 @PointPeron



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

OUR VISION:

1. A Nature-Based Recreational Park for the people of Rockingham, Perth, and Western Australia in which to play and picnic with family, friends and peers. It will include active recreational features for cycling, walking, snorkelling, diving, kayaking, boating and playing in adventure playgrounds.

It will include passive recreational features for picnicking, sitting in botanic gardens, enjoying a coffee, watching an outdoor movie, listening to a concert, relaxing on a beach and quietly appreciating both nature and seascapes. The coastal park would also provide a variety of services and facilities to all people across the socio-economic range and not just the few who can afford the top-end features of residential canals.

2. A Tourist-Attracting Coastal Park that will draw state, national and international tourists in much the same way that Kings Park is WA's number one tourist attraction with 6 million visitors per annum. Tourists list unspoiled nature as one of the top attractions to visit. With land, coastal, sea and island views that support a rich diversity of terrestrial, coastal and marine birdlife and mammals, the Cape Peron region holds much for the visitor. Add to this the planned recreational areas, botanical walkways, threatened ecological communities, outdoor concerts and movies and the nearby Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct with a high level of restaurants, cafes and accommodation and we have a top tourist attraction.

3. A Diverse Conservation Park that offers features unseen anywhere else along the Western Australian coast and, indeed, in very few parts of the world. The Cape Peron Coastal Park will include the Federally protected Little Penguin, three Threatened Ecological Communities (Rottnest Island Pines, Thrombolites that have survived for 600 million years, and 10% of the world's remaining sedge-lands), a rare stand of Tuart trees, the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (set aside for wildlife conservation) and the ecologically unique Lake Richmond. Lake Richmond alone is the closest fresh water lake to the ocean anywhere in Australia and home to the long-necked turtle as well as 109 species of visiting birds including seven that migrate from the northern hemisphere. It is so threatened that signage at the lake says it is "under extremely high risk of destruction in the immediate future."

4. An Economically Viable Park that will be a low cost alternative to an expensive, destructive canal construction. The Coastal Park will be self-supporting and, through the attraction of both locals and visiting tourists, add to the economy of local businesses and the Rockingham community. Research shows that ecotourist attractions can return \$60 for every dollar spent. To do this just 1% of the Park needs to be 'developed' to economically support the remaining 99% Park. Currently most tourists only visit the Rockingham area for a few hours, primarily going to Penguin Island. The Cape Peron Coastal Park would encourage people to linger longer in the area, enjoy its many features - and spend more money.



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

INTRODUCTION:

1. Research shows clearly that people (both tourists and locals) want 'unspoilt nature and beaches' more than cafes and touristic shops. Built features are NOT necessary to put a world class coastal conservation park on the bucket list for visitors. Natural beaches and unspoilt spectacular vistas are. And Cape Peron already has these.
2. Cape Peron IS unique and should be preserved in and of its own right. While it can be economically viable and is essential to individual and community health and wellbeing, conservation of unique natural features should not rely on a business case in order to proceed.
3. Claiming what is essentially a canal suburb will be a tourist drawcard means it will be just one more of the same, competing with Hillarys, Elizabeth Quay, Fishing Boat Harbour, Port Coogee and Mandurah. Facilities built in order to attract visitors only work until someone builds a better one somewhere else. Nature parks, conversely, remain as a constant attraction.
4. In conjunction with the Cape Peron Coastal Park, we support the proposed and approved Wanliss St marina at the East end of Rockingham Beach. This would (a) be a better site for boats as the water is deeper; (b) alleviate the reason for a more environmentally destructive, costly and disruptive canal construction, and (c) help preserve a coastal park for all.



INTRODUCTION:

5. Some relevant ecotourism facts:
 - (a) Surveys of Chinese tourists (a rapidly growing group) show 64% want unspoilt nature.
 - (b) Tourism is becoming one of our major income earners - \$101.6b in 2013-2014.
 - (c) Researchers say ecotourism in protected areas delivers 60:1 annual return on costs.
 - (d) 78% of WA visitors' dollars are spent within a short distance from Perth.
 - (e) 95% of visitors use just 5% of nature parks — so we don't have to develop much.
6. The Rockingham population is projected to increase by 61.9% in the next 20 years. More people need more parks for their health and well being — not less.
7. The City of Rockingham Strategic Community Plan 2015 – 2025 promotes the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct as a world class tourism lifestyle area with tourism based commercial, retail and food and beverage outlets. The Cape Peron Coastal Park will (a) draw more visitors to the area and (b) link to this precinct by walk and cycle trails as well as by vehicle, thus being in close accord with the City's future plans.
8. The Cape Peron Coastal Park also meets the City's Strategic Community Plan 2015 – 2025 goal of a sustainable environment in which "coastal and bushland reserves are well used and sustainably managed preserving them for future generations to enjoy."
9. Preserving Cape Peron in it's entirety and creating a world class protected coastal park is an imperative, not just for WVA and the Rockingham region, but also for people's physical and mental health ... and for WVA's economy.



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE CENTRAL CAPE AREA:

PRINCIPLE: Use existing areas/facilities/natural resources and degraded areas as much as possible.

1. Youth Recreational Area

- (a) Youth Recreational Area.
- (b) Youth facilities such as:
- (c) a skate park,
- (d) basketball court and
- (e) BMX track

Corner Hymus Street and Point Peron Road.

2. Tuart Walkways.

A botanical garden, incorporating the existing rare stand of Tuarts and Threatened Ecological Community of Rottneest Pine trees, connected by walkways, and including:

- (a) a coastal plant nursery,
- (a) a touch/interactive garden,
- (a) a sensory garden,
- (a) a native garden, etc.

Immediately north of Peron Park (corner Point Peron Road and Safety Bay Road).



3. Aboriginal Circle and Important Aboriginal Areas.

A dedicated area acknowledging the culture, history, art and stories of the original people. Designed as a circle around a symbolic fire and with interpretive signage.

4. Café.

Positioned to service the botanical gardens, family recreational area, adventure playgrounds and environment centre similar to those in King's Park. Keep facilities to service visitors (such as cafes/tourist shop) close to Safety Bay Road for accessibility of the public and preservation of the park.

5. Family Recreational Area.

Use the cleared and mown Peron Park (corner Safety Bay Road and Memorial Drive) as a family picnic area and open playing field with parkland trees, barbeques and toilets.



6. Adventure/Nature playground.

Built into and utilizing natural features of the park. To include interactive and disabled areas and be constructed in the degraded area immediately west of Peron Park.

7. Carpark.

A carpark to service Peron Park (Family Recreational Area), the Adventure Playground, Lake Richmond and walk/cycle trails on Southern side of Memorial Drive where there is existing space between the bushes.

8. Walk/Cycle Trails.

Use existing firebreak and walk tracks as much as possible including the Lake Richmond overflow culvert which would link to the Lake Richmond Environment Walk. Trails between tree stands and native vegetation would link the Youth Recreational Area, Tuart Walkways, Café, Family Recreational Area, Adventure playground, Community Entertainment area, Point Peron, Lake Richmond and other walk/cycle trails.

9. Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.

Maintain, upgrade and promote the Environment Centre in its current location.



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE CENTRAL CAPE AREA:

PRINCIPLE: Use existing areas/facilities/natural resources and degraded areas as much as possible.

10. Community Entertainment Area.

Create an entertainment and picnic area in the cleared space immediately south of the Environment Centre. This would be used for concerts, visiting entertainers, outdoor movies, family picnics and other community activities.

11. Fishing and Yacht Clubs.

Work with the clubs in collaborative communication to beautify, upgrade facilities and meet their needs in keeping with a world class park

12. Conservation Reserve.

Preserve the area west of the above developments as a Conservation Reserve to conserve the coastal vegetation that is home to a variety of birds, reptiles and small mammals. Remove non-native species of flora. Restore and retain coastal native vegetation.

13. Walk/Cycle Link.

Extend the current walk/cycle path that runs from Port Kennedy around Shoalwater Bay through the sand dunes west of Lease Road and along the northern side of Memorial Drive, around the Family Recreational Area and Tuart Walkways to Hymus Street so as make a walk/cycle link from Port Kennedy through to Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct. An extension would link to Point Peron.

14. Lease Road Closure.

As part of the Scenic Coastal Drive (Route 202), close and remove Lease Road as this (a) does not service any homes or facilities, (b) is subject to 'hoon' behaviour, (c) is scenically uninteresting and (d) unnecessarily divides the Conservation Reserve.

15. Scenic Coastal Drive (Route 202).

Reroute the scenic coastal drive (slightly) along Rockingham Beach Road, the Esplanade, Point Peron Drive (to the tip of the point), continuing back along Memorial Drive (to the Family Recreational Area, Adventure Playground, Tuart Walkways, Environment Centre, and Lake Richmond) to Safety Bay Road, Boundary Road, Arcadia Drive and reconnecting to Safety Bay Road.

16. Vacated Lease Sites.

Remove old abandoned asbestos buildings and restore conservation area.

17. Richmond Drain Restoration/Enhancement.

Potential to conduct some earthworks along this man-made water course to enhance ecological function and aesthetic appeal. Such modifications could include things like riffles, meanders and creation of 'dampland area'. Benefits of these works will include soil water retention, habitat creation, biodiversity increase, and more nice places to go.



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

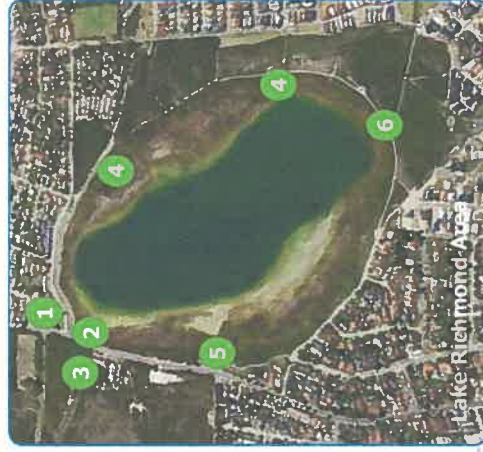
CONCEPT PLANS FOR POINT PERON:

- 1. Fitness Tracks.**
Walking/jogging tracks to be improved on existing tracks in the Point Peron Park to include the fitness up-hill loop (already popular) and possible fitness stations.
- 2. Interpretive Signage.**
Interpretive signage to be added along the trails as at Penguin Island and Lake Richmond.
- 3. Snorkel trails.**
One already exists on the Shoalwater side of the Point but is poorly maintained. Create and maintain one or two more at Point Peron.
- 4. Historic Preservation Area.**
Restore and preserve the WWII 'K' Battery as a tourist feature. Work closely with other interested parties. Perhaps an interpretive centre and guided tours can be offered.
- 5. Visitor Facilities.**
Add facilities such as change rooms, toilets and drinking water at the two western carparks. Maintain existing facilities such as carpark, boat ramp, beach access, toilet facilities and club rooms on western side of causeway entrance.
- 6. Point Peron Camp School.**
Maintain the Education Department's School Camp for exceptional nature-based education opportunities.



CONCEPT PLANS FOR LAKE RICHMOND:

- 1. Carpark for Lake Richmond.**
Create a carpark and crosswalk on the vacant land on the northern side of the intersection of Lake Street and Safety Bay Road.
- 2. Access Link.**
Provide an accessible link to Lake Richmond's Environment Walk and walk/cycle trails on the western side of Safety Bay Road preferably such as an under- or over-pass but at least a pedestrian crosswalk.
- 3. Walk/Cycle Trails Link.**
Ensure walk/cycle trails that circuit the lake link to the Family Recreational Area, Juart Walkways, Environment Centre, Community Entertainment Area and, hence through to Point Peron, Rockingham Beach, Shoalwater and Port Kennedy.
- 4. Boardwalk and Lookout.**
Develop and maintain the boardwalk and the lookout at Lake Richmond along the Environmental Walk.
- 5. Interpretive Signage.**
Maintain existing signage.
- 6. Water Quality.**
Improve water input drains with water filtration to protect and preserve water quality in the lake.



CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

CONCEPT PLANS FOR SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK (SIMP)

1. Marine Protected Area.

The SIMP status is due for renewal in 2017 when it is open for proposals. We suggest making the Shoalwater Bay Special Purpose Zone (wildlife conservation) and parts of Cape Peron a Marine Protected Area (MPA) where parts of the coast, islands and seabeds are set aside for either partial or total protection from human exploitation. This will protect seagrasses, increase the fish numbers inside and outside the MPA and thus preserve species like the Little Penguin, other marine birdlife, dolphins and sea lions as well as increase stock for recreational fishermen.

2. Walk/Cycle Link.

Use the Walk/Cycle Link mentioned in Central Cape Area point 13 above to connect to Port Kenedy, Shoalwater Point, Peron, Lake Richmond and the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct. This could be promoted as a café walk/cycle trail, linking the cafes and restaurants of the above areas.



MANAGEMENT:

1. Collaborative planning
2. Engage local stakeholders (Lease holders, RSL, yachting/fishing clubs, navy, schools)
3. Overall management authority

FUNDING:

The establishment and maintenance of a coastal park for the people should not be argued solely on a business, commercial or economic basis. It offers many other non-market values to a community. Nonetheless, as it needs to be economically viable, we offer the following points:

- (a) A coastal park is a much lower capital cost alternative to the high cost construction of a canal suburb.
- (b) A coastal park can be achieved relatively quickly and thus make a return on investment to the community well in advance of the decade long process of constructing canals.
- (c) A coastal park will provide long-term, ongoing returns to local businesses and community compared to a canal construction that will rely primarily on the short-term capital gain from land sales.

- (d) Research and experience show that eco-tourism parks (such as at King's Park) are self-sufficient and economically viable.
- (e) Research and experience also show that eco-tourism parks bring in big tourist dollars to the community and State beyond the park.
- (f) There are many economic spin-offs. For example, recreational parks offer exercise, relaxation, socialization and wellbeing that reduce community health costs and antisocial behaviours.

Potential sources for capital funding can be sort from:

1. Federal, State and Local Government grants
2. Funders and other corporate sponsors (such as at King's Park)
3. Local organizations and service clubs
4. Leases for park concessions
5. Hire of facilities such as for concerts and outdoor movies

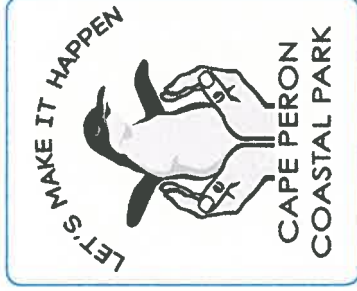
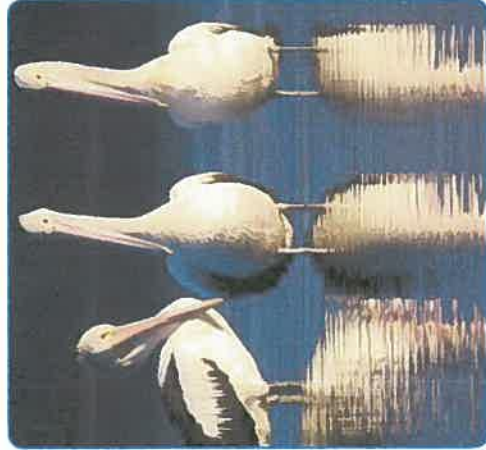


CAPE PERON COASTAL PARK

A World Class Coastal Recreation, Tourist and Conservation Park

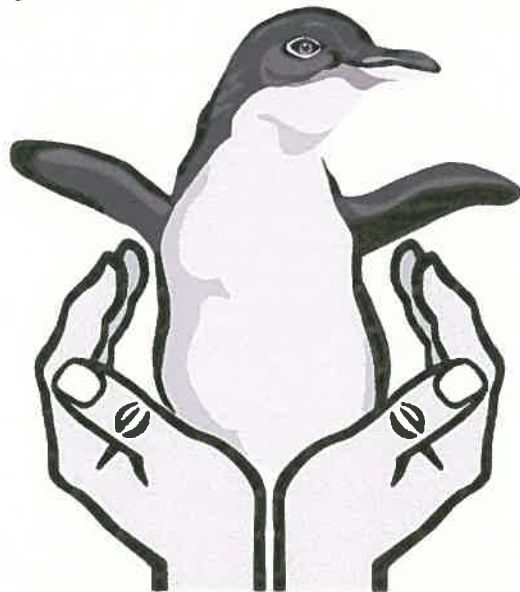
LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Increased tourism for existing cafes, restaurants, shops and businesses
 2. Increased tourism seeking accommodation in the Rockingham area
 3. Café/Restaurant (managed by a current local restaurant?)
 4. Café cycle/walk paths (Rockingham Beach cafes and restaurants, through Palm Beach, Peron Park Café and Pengos at Mersey Point on to Safety Bay and Port Kennedy).
 5. Tourist information centre and shop
 6. Bicycle hire
 7. Kayak hire
 8. Surfcat hire
 9. Dive/snorkeling training, tours and hire (operated by local dive shops)
 10. Guided coastal park walks
 11. Historic battery tours
 12. Bus tours from Perth (meals, souvenirs, accommodation)
 13. Concerts (such as at King's Park and Supreme Court Gardens)
 14. Outdoor movies (either commercial or charity)
 15. Shoalwater ferry tours
- NB:** Penguin Island alone draws 1 30,000 visitors per annum and \$75 million to the Rockingham area. A world class coastal park will attract more people wanting to stay longer and spend more. By comparison, a park like King's Park is WA's number one visited site with 6 million visitors per annum.





LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN



CAPE PERON
COASTAL PARK



Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 7

Cape Peron Coastal Park Steering Committee submission
To the WAPC dated 19 October 2015

**Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment
1280/41**

**Submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
on behalf of the Cape Peron Coastal Park Steering Committee**

19 October 2015

Examining the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment, 1280/41, I cannot find any reference to the historical background of the area, the clear agreements between State and Federal Governments about Cape Peron, the promises made to the people of WA about its future, or the community-originated concept plan for the Cape Peron Coastal Park in keeping with this clear intention. As it is important, or indeed even imperative, that WAPC be cognizant of these factors in the future planning of Cape Peron, it is these matters I will address in this submission.

Therefore in making this submission I will address the following:

1. Historical Background
2. A Community Vision
3. Background Factors for a Coastal Park
4. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for the Central Cape Area
5. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for Point Peron
6. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for Lake Richmond Cape Peron
7. Coastal Park Plans for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park
8. The Proponents Argument
9. The Advantages of the Cape Peron Coastal Park Plan
10. The Failure To Conduct a Comparative Analysis
11. The Failure To Conduct a Comparative Analysis

1. Historical Background

- **1964 Federal-State Agreement.** The 1964 Point Peron Land Agreement, signed by the then WA Premier Sir David Brand and Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, stipulated that the use of Point Peron land transferred at that time by the Commonwealth to the State (which included the land subject to the proposed MRS amendment) is to be 'restricted to a reserve for recreation and/or park lands.' In 1968 the Commonwealth confirmed in writing that the land must not be used 'for private industrial, commercial or residential development'. (<http://handsoffpointperon.com/impacts-issues>).

As recently as 2011 the Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Wong, stated in a letter (dated 17 November 2011), "The Commonwealth has not released or excused the State from maintaining the land for recreation and park lands, and that the Commonwealth expects the State to honour its undertakings made in 1964 and 1968.."

The intention of this agreement between the Federal Government and State Government was clear, explicit and unequivocal. The promise of the Land to the people of Western Australia needs to be respected and upheld.

- **Bush Forever.** Point Peron is a designated Bush Forever site (#355). The State Government's Bush Forever plan is a world class plan in Australia's only global

biodiversity hotspot. It establishes a CAR (comprehensive, adequate and representative) conservation reserve system of protected areas under the Government's commitment to the 1996 *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity* for the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region. It comprises 287 Bush Forever Areas and has facility for additions.

It also provides for regionally and locally significant ecological linkages connecting these regionally significant natural areas together with locally significant natural areas. These linkages are essential in our fragmented landscape, and without them biodiversity, community bonds as well as health and well-being will decline markedly.

The government's publication, *Bush Forever, Volume 1, Policies, Principles and Processes* issued by the Ministry for Planning, December 2000, clearly states that, "Bush Forever is about protecting the quality of our environment" so that "our children and future generations will be able to appreciate and enjoy our natural heritage places." (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/5911.asp>)

That the Government has designated this as a Bush Forever site is a promise to, and expectation for, the people of WA that it *will* remain bush *forever* – and not be rezoned.

- **Planning Forethought.** The preservation of King's Park is a comparable example of planning forethought. In 1832 Surveyor General John Septimus Roe refused permission to cut timber on Mt Eliza indicating that it should be reserved for public purposes. Forty years later, with residential West Perth and Subiaco threatening encroachment, Crown Reserve 11A of 432 acres (175ha) on Mt Eliza was gazetted as a Public Park and recreation ground by Governor Weld. In 1890 The Western Australian State Government added 450 acres of land adjoining Reserve 11A to create Reserve 1720 as 'Public Park, Mt Eliza'. In 1897 Sir John Forrest opened Perth Park Road and its area was increased to 1017 acres. The Perth Park was renamed 'The King's Park' on 23 July 1901 to honour the accession of King Edward VII to the throne. Our political forefathers are to be praised on their forethought. Preserving this unique environmental area has made it the number one tourist destination in Western Australia, drawing many millions of dollars into the economy each year.

WA Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Albert Jacob, has recently given testimony to this forethought of planning by stating, "Kings Park is a place of inspiration, relaxation, recreation and wonder; something we proudly share with interstate and overseas visitors." (<http://studypertth.com.au/about/news-feeds/2014/06/kings-park-ranked-top-10-urban-parks-world>)

- **Cape Peron Potential.** Cape Peron is now in the same position as King's Park was with the encroachment of West Perth and Subiaco. To allow this encroachment by urban rezoning would equate to the loss of King's Park back in 1872. The potential of Cape Peron for the health and wellbeing of Western Australians as well as for tourism and the Western Australian economy is obvious and requires the application of common sense and forethought by the WAPC.
- **A Matter of Honour.** If two of the country's most prominent political leaders (Sir Robert Menzies and Sir David Brand) - at Federal and State levels - promised that Cape Peron would be 'restricted to a reserve for recreational and/or park lands', does the public not

have a right to expect this agreement will be honoured? If, as recently as four years ago, a Federal minister that the Commonwealth has not released or excused the State from maintaining the land for recreation and park lands, does the public not have a right to believe their park will continue to remain a park for them and future generations? If the State promised and designated part of Cape Peron as a Bush Forever site (#355), does the public not have a right to expect that this will be preserved as promised and stated – *forever*?

2. The Community Vision

The community has a vision for the Cape Peron Coastal Park in keeping with the original plan on the part of the State and Commonwealth governments to maintain Cape Peron as a park for the people of WA forever. This is the vision and plan against which the proposed MRS amendment, designed to facilitate the proposed MBM development, needs to be assessed.

Our vision is for:

- **A Nature-Based Recreational Park** for the people of Rockingham, Perth, and Western Australia in which to play and picnic with family, friends and peers. It will include active recreational features for cycling, walking, snorkelling, diving, kayaking, boating, skateboarding, BMXing and playing in adventure playgrounds. It will include passive recreational features for picnicking, sitting in botanic gardens, enjoying a coffee, watching an outdoor movie, listening to a concert, relaxing on a beach and quietly appreciating both nature and seascapes. The coastal park would also provide a variety of services and facilities to *all* people across the socio-economic range and not just the few who can afford the top-end features of residential canals.
- **A Tourist-Attracting Coastal Park** that will draw state, national and international tourists in much the same way that King's Park is WA's number one tourist attraction with 6 million visitors per annum. Tourists list unspoiled nature as one of the top attractions to visit. With land, coastal, sea and island views that support a rich diversity of terrestrial, coastal and marine birdlife and mammals, the Cape Peron region holds much for the visitor. Add to this the planned recreational areas, botanical walkways, threatened ecological communities, outdoor concerts and movies and the nearby Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct with a high level of restaurants, cafes and accommodation and we have a top tourist attraction.
- **A Diverse Conservation Park** that offers features unseen anywhere else along the Western Australian coast and, indeed, in very few parts of the world. The Cape Peron Coastal Park will include the Federally protected Little Penguin, three Threatened Ecological Communities (Rottnest Island Pines, Thrombolites that have survived for 600 million years, and 10% of the world's remaining sedgeland), a rare stand of Tuart trees, the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (set aside for wildlife conservation) and the ecologically unique Lake Richmond. Lake Richmond alone is the closest fresh water lake to the ocean anywhere in Australia and home to the long-necked turtle as well as 109 species of visiting birds including 15 protected under international agreements. The extremely rare thrombolite community is so threatened that signage at the lake says it is "under extremely high risk of destruction in the immediate future."
- **An Economically Viable and Sustainable Park** that is a low cost, low risk alternative to an expensive, high risk, destructive marina and canal housing sub division. The Coastal

Park will be self-supporting and, through the attraction of both locals and visiting tourists, add to the economy of local businesses and the Rockingham community. Research shows that ecotourist attractions can return \$60 for every dollar spent. To do this just 1% of the Park needs to be 'developed' to economically support the remaining 99% Park. Currently most tourists only visit the Rockingham area for a few hours, primarily going to Penguin Island. The Cape Peron Coastal Park would encourage people to linger longer in the area, enjoy its many features - and spend more money.

3. Background Factors for a Coastal Park

- Built features are NOT necessary to put a world class coastal conservation park on the bucket list for visitors. Natural beaches and unspoiled spectacular vistas are. And Cape Peron already has these.
- Cape Peron *IS* unique and should be preserved in and of its own right. While it can be economically viable and is essential to individual and community health and well-being, conservation of unique natural features should not rely primarily on a business case in order to proceed.
- Claiming what would essentially be an artificial canal precinct will be a tourist drawcard is misguided and fails to take account of modern tourism trends. It would simply be just one more of the same, competing with Hillarys, Elizabeth Quay, Fishing Boat Harbour, Port Coogee and Mandurah. Facilities built in order to attract visitors only work until someone builds a better one somewhere else. Nature parks, conversely, remain as a constant attraction, ever increasing in popularity as the built environment expands.
- In conjunction with the Cape Peron Coastal Park, we support the proposed and already approved Wanliss St marina at the East end of Rockingham Beach. This would (a) be a far better site for boats as it located in deep water rather than the proposed Mangles Bay Marina which is located inland and accessible only through very shallow water, (b) be far cheaper to construct, (c) be achievable within a much shorter timeframe than the proposed Mangles Bay Marina, (d) address the need the Mangles Bay Marina purports to address but without the environmental destruction and disruption, (e) enhance and integrate with the existing commercial development at Rockingham Beach and (f) help preserve a coastal park for all.
- The Rockingham population is projected to increase by 61.9% in the next 20 years. More people need more parks for their health and well-being – not less.
- The Cape Peron Coastal Park meets the City of Rockingham's Strategic Community Plan 2015 – 2025 goal of a sustainable environment in which "coastal and bushland reserves are well used and sustainably managed preserving them for future generations to enjoy." Existing coastal and bushland reserves of Cape Peron would be lost by rezoning for the MBM.
- The CPCP plan is consistent with Directions 2031 that supports "a green network of parks, conservation and biodiversity areas" and "the development of local identity and sense of place" (p. 33) and to "Provide quality passive and active public open space" (p.45). Again these would be lost by urban rezoning.

- Directions 2031 encourages local government to institute public open space strategies in order to:
 - (a) strategically guide the development of a system of diverse and well-distributed public open spaces;
 - (b) ensure adequate provision of regional and district active recreation sites;
 - (c) incorporate protection of the natural environment and water management concepts into the development of public open space; and,
 - (d) encourage walking, cycling and sports as part of the overall community health picture. These strategies will be accomplished by adopting the CPCP plan but not by a rezoning of the Land "urban".

- State Planning Strategy 2050 (p.22) states its environmental principles are to, "Conserve the State's natural assets through sustainable development. The intrinsic value of the State's environmental assets and their potential for future economic opportunities needs to be recognised through conservation and management. This includes conserving areas of native vegetation and the biodiversity of species populations and ecological communities." It adds that "It is imperative therefore that the State's biodiversity and natural resources are well-managed so that short-term gains do not compromise future opportunities."

Rezoning for the MBM project would be aimed at short-term financial gain and compromise the future opportunities integral to the CPCP – and hence contrary to the State Planning Strategy 2050 principles.

- On page 47 the State Planning Strategy 2050, on the topic of Tourism, states, "Western Australia's environment and landscape character create a unique and attractive holiday destination and ecotourism is one of the State's key tourism markets. Ecotourism attractions are popular with locals and visitors alike, and include the coastline and waterways - as well as a range of nature-based activities such as swimming, diving, kayaking, kite surfing, bushwalking, close-up interaction with little penguins, sea-lions and birdlife." These ecotourism attractions are incorporated in the CPCP proposal but would be limited or lost in rezoning to urban/canals.

- Given local and State government planning strategies for the future development of our State, the CPCP plan is the only consistent proposal on the table for the Land. For the sake of preserving this unique part of the WA coastline, people's physical and mental health, and the ecotourism benefits to WA's economy, it is imperative that Cape Peron be preserved in its entirety and developed into a world class protected coastal park.

4. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for the Central Cape Area

As the land affected by the proposed MRS amendment is part of an interconnected biodiverse area the Cape Peron Coastal Park plans incorporate the whole interconnected area that includes the central cape area (where the development is proposed), the western Point Peron area, Lake Richmond and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.

Our plan for the central cape area is to include King's Park-like features that utilize existing areas, facilities, natural resources and degraded areas as much as possible to preserve the integrity of the park. The plan includes:

- **Youth Recreational Area.**
Youth facilities such as:
 - (a) a skate park,
 - (b) basketball court and
 - (c) BMX track
 Located near the corner of Hymus Street and Point Peron Road.

- **Tuart Walkways.**
A botanical garden, incorporating the existing rare stand of Tuart trees and the Threatened Ecological Community of Rottneest Pine trees, connected by walkways, and including:
 - (a) a coastal plant nursery,
 - (b) a touch/interactive garden,
 - (c) a sensory garden,
 - (d) a native garden, etc.
 Immediately north of Peron Park (corner Point Peron Road and Safety Bay Road).

- **Aboriginal Circle and Important Aboriginal Areas.**
A dedicated area will be set aside to acknowledge the culture, history, art and stories of the original people. Subject to further consultations, it will be designed as a circle around a symbolic fire and with interpretive signage.

- **Café.**
A café will be positioned to service the Tuart Walkways, botanical gardens, family recreational area, adventure playgrounds and environment centre similar to those in King's Park.
Facilities to service visitors (such as cafes/tourist shop) will be kept close to Safety Bay Road for accessibility of the public and preservation of the park.

- **Family Recreational Area.**
The cleared and mown Peron Park (corner Safety Bay Road and Memorial Drive) will receive minimal development as a family picnic area and open playing field with parkland trees, barbeques and toilets.

- **Adventure/Nature Playground.**
Built into and utilizing natural features of the park, this playground will include interactive and disabled areas and be constructed in the degraded area immediately west of Peron Park.

- **Car park.**
A car park to service Peron Park (Family Recreational Area), the Adventure Playground, Lake Richmond and walk/cycle trails can be incorporated on the southern side of Memorial Drive where there is existing space between the bushes.

- **Walk/Cycle Trails.**
Existing firebreak and walk tracks will be utilized as much as possible (including the Lake Richmond overflow culvert which would link to the Lake Richmond Environment Walk). Trails between tree stands and native vegetation would link the Youth Recreational Area, Tuart Walkways, Café, Family Recreational Area, Adventure playground,

Community Entertainment area, Point Peron, Lake Richmond and other walk/cycle trails.

- **Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.**
This centre will be maintained, upgraded and promoted in its current location.
- **Community Entertainment Area.**
The plan will create an entertainment and picnic area in the cleared space immediately south of the Environment Centre. This would be used for concerts, visiting entertainers, outdoor movies, family picnics and other community activities.
- **Fishing and Yacht Clubs.**
The Park plan envisages working with the clubs in collaborative communication to beautify, upgrade facilities and meet their needs in keeping with a world class park.
- **Conservation Reserve.**
The area west of the above developments will be retained as a Conservation Reserve to conserve the coastal vegetation that is home to a variety of birds, reptiles and small mammals. Remove of non-native species of flora will be needed along with the restoration and retention of coastal native vegetation.
- **Walk/Cycle Link.**
The Park will extend the current walk/cycle path that runs from Port Kennedy around Shoalwater Bay through the sand dunes west of Lease Road and along the northern side of Memorial Drive, around the Family Recreational Area and Tuart Walkways to Hymus Street so as make a walk/cycle link from Port Kennedy through to Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct. An extension would link to Point Peron.
- **Scenic Coastal Drive (Route 202).**
The plan will reroute the scenic coastal drive (slightly) along Rockingham Beach Road, the Esplanade, Point Peron Drive (to the tip of the point), continuing back along Memorial Drive (to the Family Recreational Area, Adventure Playground, Tuart Walkways, Environment Centre, and Lake Richmond) to Safety Bay Road, Boundary Road, Arcadia Drive and reconnecting to Safety Bay Road.
- **Richmond Drain Restoration/Enhancement.**
There is potential to conduct some earthworks along this man-made water course to enhance ecological function and aesthetic appeal. Such modifications could include things like riffles, meanders and creation of 'dampland area'. Benefits of these works will include soil water retention, habitat creation, biodiversity increase, and more nice places to go.

5. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for the western Point Peron area

- **Fitness Tracks.**
Walking/jogging tracks will be improved on existing tracks in the Cape Peron Coastal Park to include the fitness up-hill loop (already popular) and possible fitness stations.
- **Interpretive Signage.**

Interpretive signage can be added along the trails as at Penguin Island and Lake Richmond.

- **Snorkel trails.**
One snorkel trail already exists on the Shoalwater side of the Point but is poorly maintained. The Coastal Park plan would create and maintain one or two more at Point Peron.
- **Historic Preservation Area.**
The plan will restore and preserve the WWII 'K' Battery as a tourist feature, working closely with other interested parties. An interpretive centre and guided tours can possibly be offered.
- **Visitor Facilities.**
Facilities such as change rooms, toilets and drinking water will be added at the two western-most carparks. The existing facilities such as the car park, boat ramp, beach access, toilet facilities and club rooms on western side of causeway entrance will be retained.
- **Point Peron Camp School.**
The plan would maintain the Education Department's School Camp that has served generations of Western Australians for exceptional nature-based education opportunities.

6. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for Lake Richmond

- **Car park for Lake Richmond.**
The plan would create a car park and crosswalk on the vacant land on the northern side of the intersection of Lake Street and Safety Bay Road.
- **Access Link.**
An accessible link between Lake Richmond's Environment Walk and walk/cycle trails on the western side of Safety Bay Road would preferably be in the nature of an under- or over-pass, but at least a pedestrian crosswalk.
- **Walk/Cycle Trails Link.**
The plan will ensure walk/cycle trails that circuit the lake and link to the Family Recreational Area, Tuart Walkways, Environment Centre, Community Entertainment Area and through to Point Peron, Rockingham Beach, Shoalwater and Port Kennedy.
- **Boardwalk and Lookout.**
It will develop and maintain the boardwalk and the lookout at Lake Richmond along the Environmental Walk.
- **Interpretive Signage.**
The Coastal park plan will maintain existing interpretive signage.
- **Water Quality.**

Plans would include improving water input drains to the lake with water filtration to protect and preserve water quality in the lake.

7. Cape Peron Coastal Park Plans for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park (SIMP)

- **Marine Protected Area.**

The SIMP status is due for renewal in 2017 when it is open for proposals. The Coastal Park plan recommends making the Shoalwater Bay Special Purpose Zone (wildlife conservation) and parts of Cape Peron the equivalent of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) where parts of the coast, islands and seabeds are set aside for either partial or total protection from human exploitation. This will protect seagrasses, increase the fish numbers inside and outside the MPA and thus preserve species like the Little Penguin, other marine birdlife, dolphins and Australian sea lions as well as increase stock for recreational fishermen.

- **Walk/Cycle Link.**

Use the Walk/Cycle Link mentioned in Central Cape Area above to connect to Port Kenendy, Shoalwater Point Peron, Lake Richmond and the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Precinct. This could be promoted as a café walk/cycle trail, linking the cafes and restaurants of the above areas.

8. Flaws in the Proponents' Argument

In their 'advertorials' in the local Rockingham press, the proponents (Landcorp and Cedar Woods) have claimed that they can provide a high quality Cape Peron park at the same time as the MBM. This is simply neither true nor logical. Taking a significant area of the Land (including 46.69 ha of a Bush Forever site along with parks and recreation areas that the public uses as open space, relaxation, health and wellbeing) from Cape Peron for housing and canals would destroy forever the golden opportunity to have a world class park integrating Cape Peron with Lake Richmond. It would mean there will not physically be the space left for all the features that the CPCP will be able to provide. The areas allocated in the CPCP plan to Youth Recreation, Tuart Walkways, Aboriginal Circle, Children's Adventure/Nature Playground and many of the Walk and Cycle Trails will be bulldozed and turned into a housing estate and / or inland marina under the MBM plan. The beach will be carved apart by rock walls, groynes and a channel, and people would have to access the foreshore through a private housing estate. In addition, the removal of Point Peron Road in the MBM plan will mean the removal of the tourist-attracting Scenic Coastal Drive (Route 202).

In other words, the MBM development would, among other negative impacts: (a) significantly reduce the amount of available public open space, (b) degrade both the area and natural features of Cape Peron, (c) reduce the Cape's potential for local recreation and well-being and (d) severely reduce the Cape's potential as a nature-based tourism attraction.

9. The Advantages of the Cape Peron Coastal Park Plan

Incorporating the Land within the CPCP has many advantages when assessed against sustainability principles.

(a) Prevention of *all* the issues associated with the MBM Proposal

The City of Rockingham has identified significant issues in the MBM proposal with:

- (i) Waterway Management;
- (ii) Coastal Setback;
- (iii) Traffic and regional Roads;
- (iv) Zoning;
- (v) Loss of Bush Forever Site No. 355; and
- (vi) Risk that the housing component of the development will proceed but that the marina will not be built due to absence of any binding guarantee on the part of the proponents.

Other sources have identified additional issues with:

- (i) Flushing. (<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/wa/content/2006/s1758825.htm>)
- (ii) Loss of public parklands.
- (iii) Breach of trust and ethical transgression arising from the government refusing to honour the 1964 Commonwealth / State Point Peron Agreement.
- (iv) Canal estates banned in other Australian states.
(<http://handsoffpointperon.com/impacts-issues>)
(<http://defendingpublicspaceswa.com/2014/09/27/petition-to-ban-canal-estates-in-wa/>)
- (v) Homogenous housing enclaves not supported by WAPC's Direction 2031 document.
- (vi) Absence of any demonstrated need for a housing subdivision at Cape Peron
- (vii) High costs of marina and canal construction.
- (viii) Possible failure to construct the marina due to lack of funds given the very high cost of construction of the waterways, which would have to be built using expensive and time consuming 'wet construction' methods.
- (ix) High public costs of maintenance.
- (x) A repeat (or worse) of the Port Geographe Bay canals disaster that cost the WA taxpayer more than \$28million to try to fix.
(<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-16/multimillion-dollar-funding-solution-for-port-geographe-seagrass/4376434>)
- (xi) A repeat of the Yunderup canals disaster.
(<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/wa/content/2006/s1758825.htm>)
- (xii) Maintenance costs associated with the maintenance of revetment walls, dredging, removal of algal blooms, and controlling pest species such as mosquito outbreaks.
- (xiii) Insurance issues.
- (xiv) Numerous undesirable environmental impacts and risks (referred to below)

In sum, none of these potential issues will need to be addressed or dealt with either in the short or long-term if the CPCP proposal is adopted and the proposed MRS amendment is rejected by WAPC and the CPCP proposal proceeds, in keeping with the longstanding plan for Cape Peron going back to the 1960s.

(b) Environmental Sustainability

The CPCP proposal is a significantly better plan than the MBM proposal in terms of environmental sustainability in that it will protect rather than threaten the potential loss of, or environmental issues associated with, among other things:

- (i) Loss of seagrass and consequent damage to important fish nursery
- (ii) Loss of 'bush forever' and associated flora and fauna that inhabit the bush.
- (iii) Lake Richmond.
- (iv) Thrombolites (a Threatened Ecological Community).
- (v) Sedgeland (a Threatened Ecological Community)
- (vi) Rottneest Island Pines (a Threatened Ecological Community).

- (vii) Tuart trees.
- (viii) Acid-sulphates.
- (ix) Heavy metals.
- (x) Flushing problems and resulting impact on Mangles Bay water quality.
- (xi) Pollution from boating vessel wastes.
- (xii) Ongoing maintenance dredging
- (xiii) Adverse impacts on wildlife (addressed further below)

(c) Wildlife Sustainability

The MBM proposal is likely to pose a threat to the following species through the damage of foraging grounds and the introduction of significantly more boats (661-700) – noting that 30% of Little Penguin deaths are already attributable to boat injuries. The penguins are such a significant tourism and economic attraction (the City's major tourist attraction) that they have been adopted as the City of Rockingham's logo. The CPCP proposal will protect rather than threaten the well-being of:

- (i) Little Penguins.
- (ii) Australian Sea Lions.
- (iii) Dolphins.
- (iv) Protected birds species. (Of the 109 species of birds (Birds Australia) documented at Lake Richmond, 15 are protected under international agreements and one is critically endangered). (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory-species/migratory-birds>)
- (v) Pelicans.

(d) Economic Sustainability

The CPCP is planned to be economically viable and sustainable. There will be a significantly lower capital cost investment than would be required for the MBM proposal and the CPCP will be returning significant economic advantages to local business and community in the time that the MBM development is still being constructed.

Tourism WA figures show that the average tourist in Western Australia spends between \$80-\$141 per person per day. Kings Park attracts the 6 million visitors per annum. Penguin Island is already the 10th most visited tourist destination in Western Australia. If we say just 8% of the people that visit Kings Park also visit Cape Peron Coastal Park that is 500,000 visitors per annum. At a conservative average spend of \$100 per person per day this will return \$50 million per year to the West Australian economy, or \$1 billion over 20 years. Add to this the projected \$1.5 billion (based on current figures) contributed by visitors to Penguin Island and we have a total of \$2.5 billion for the area – and, over most of this time, the MBM proposal is still likely to be in construction with only limited benefit or economic return to the community.

Furthermore there are huge questions regarding the viability of the MBM proposal and whether the marina promised would ever in fact be built. There has also been a failure to put forward for public scrutiny any evidence as to the economic benefits (if any) the development would bring to the community.

(e) Health and well-being sustainability

The health and well-being benefits of CPCP have already been outlined in detail in the expert report I have prepared and submitted.

(f) Social Sustainability

The proposed MBM will impose a number of threats to social sustainability including:

- () Loss of public beach.
- (i) Loss of public green space.
- (ii) Increased traffic issues.
- (iii) Potential failure to deliver the promised marina and canals.
- (iv) Homogenous housing enclaves, for which no need has been demonstrated.
- (v) Restricted Public access.
- (vi) Noise and dust issues.
- (vii) Health risks.
- (viii) Health expenses.

In contrast the CPCP will deliver many family, community and social benefits. It will preserve the beaches and the public green space for the people. The plan includes dedicated areas for children, youth, family and community recreational pursuits of both an active and passive nature. Please see the features of the CPCP described above, the attached CPCP brochure and the social well-being section of the expert report I have prepared and submitted.

Overall, in terms of sustainability issues, there is no comparison between the two proposals being presented for Cape Peron. The MBM is a high cost, high risk proposal that would only benefit a very small number of economically advantaged members of the community and would pose many questions for its future sustainability. The CPCP is a low cost, low risk, high benefit proposal that will provide for the well-being of the maximum number of people in the community, enabling us all to continue to enjoy this unique natural resource for future generations.

10. The Failure To Conduct a Comparative Analysis

In putting forward just one proposal (the MBM), the government has failed to:

- (a) Acknowledge and respect both the original agreement and intention for Cape Peron
- (b) Acknowledge and respect the wishes of the majority
- (c) Adequately assess the CPCP proposal for the Land, and
- (d) Conduct a comparative analysis of the two options (MBM and CPCP) prior to the proposed MRS amendment being advertised.

This amounts to a lack of due diligence and a short-sighted, irresponsible approach to planning.

11. Summary

In summary, we call on the WAPC, in considering this proposed amendment, to be aware of and make decisions that incorporate:

- The original State-Federal Governments' promise to preserve Cape Peron as a park for the people of WA forever
- The retention of the Bush Forever Site 355
- The zoning of Cape Peron to an A-class Reserve (as has always been the intention)
- The Cape Peron Coastal Park concept plan for the Land
- The forethought that our planning forefathers gave to King's Park and the resultant long-term environmental, economic, social and tourism benefits this has bestowed on the Western Australian community.

I have attached a copy of the Cape Peron Coastal Park concept plan for your information.

In closing, I request the opportunity to give an oral presentation to the Minister and Commissioners for their consideration.

Adjunct Professor George Burns
Steering Committee
Cape Peron Coastal Park
19 October 2015

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 8

Cape Peron Community Vision Working Group's Submission
To the EPA dated 22 April 2012 regarding the community's
Vision for Cape Peron

Mangles Bay Marina Based Tourist Precinct Proposal ("the Proposal")
Public Environmental Review ("PER")
Submission to the Chairperson, Environmental Protection Authority
Regarding the Community's Vision for Cape Peron

22 April 2012

Prepared by the Cape Peron Community Vision Working Group
comprising the following Rockingham residents:

- Ambrose Cummins (lawyer)
- Charles Lammers (retired Naval Officer)
- Dr Ron Chapman (historian)

Introduction

1. In the EPA's evaluation of the environmental impacts and risks of the Proposal it is required to adhere to the core objective of the Environmental Protection Act as set out in paragraph 4A, being "*to protect the environment of the State*", having regard to certain principles, such as the precautionary principle, the principle of intergenerational equity and the principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.
2. The application of these principles requires the EPA to take into account the status quo environmental and social values of the land, and alternative proposals and options for the use and management of the land that is the subject of the Proposal ("the Land").
3. The Environmental Scoping Document ("ESD") is said to have been prepared for the purpose of providing the EPA, stakeholders and the public with information to understand the proposal, confirm the environmental issues and their significance and to outline the scope and direction of the preparation of the PER (refer ESD page 1). As outlined in the ESD, the PER documentation is required to address the environmental and social setting of the proposal, including issues regarding land tenure / use, and alternative proposals and options for the Land.
4. Unfortunately the PER fails badly in regard to these matters, as explained below.

The Community's Vision

5. Please refer to the attached powerpoint presentation printout entitled "*Cape Peron*

Coastal Park, The Community's Vision – to create a world class coastal conservation and recreation park for locals and visitors alike, in harmony with nature and our heritage". The vision outlined in this document is underpinned by the landmark 1964 Pt Peron Agreement between the Commonwealth and WA governments whereby the Commonwealth transferred a significant amount of land at Cape Peron (including the Land) to the State subject to agreement that its future use would be "*restricted to a reserve for recreation and / or park lands*".

6. The 1964 Pt Peron agreement remains relevant today. Recommendation 2 of Report 7 of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (December 2006) urged the Government to clarify "*by way of relevant documentation whether or not the Commonwealth did release the State from its obligation, that the future use of the 'transferred Point Peron land' be restricted to a reserve for Recreation and / or Park Lands under the 1964 Agreement*". The Government has not been able to produce any such documentary evidence and the Minister for Lands' answers to recent questions in State Parliament indicate that the WA Government has sought legal advice about the matter and is still liaising with the Commonwealth to try and resolve the matter. As recently as November 2011 the Federal Government confirmed that it "*has an expectation that the WA Government will honour the undertakings previously given*" in relation to the land at Cape Peron (letter from Senator Wong dated 17 November 2011).
7. The Community's Vision is also underpinned by:
 - a. The inclusion of the Land in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park in 1997, thereby formally including the Land in WA's conservation estate
 - b. DEC's 2010 Rockingham Lakes Management Plan, which highlights the outstanding conservation and recreational values of Cape Peron and sets out a plan for its sustainable management
8. The Community's Vision is therefore a longstanding one, built on the undertakings and actions of both the Commonwealth and WA governments. In that sense it is the *government endorsed, mainstream* vision for Cape Peron. It is a vision that is readily achievable and viable, but which is being threatened by the Proposal.
9. The Community's Vision sets out (at pages 29–37) the importance of the Land to the future of Lake Richmond, Cape Peron, Mangles Bay and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
10. The Community's Vision also indicates (pages 38-47) how Cape Peron can be

enhanced for the benefit of both the community and the natural environment and proposes a management model that will ensure the appropriate care of this invaluable public asset. This involves classification of the land as an “A Class Reserve”, as originally envisaged by the Commonwealth and State governments.

11. The environmental protection and enhancement of Cape Peron, Lake Richmond and Mangles Bay is at the heart of the Community’s Vision.
12. On the other hand the Proposal presents a very stark contrast from an environmental and social point of view. Its implementation would unquestionably cause major adverse environmental impacts and risk other serious environmental consequences. A non-exhaustive list of these impacts and risks is set out at page 25 of the attached Vision document.

The proponent’s failure to acknowledge and address this longstanding *mainstream* vision for Cape Peron

13. The PER demonstrably fails to acknowledge, let alone address, the longstanding vision and plan for Cape Peron (including the Land) to be reserved in perpetuity for the public, for the purpose of recreation and park lands. The PER fails to even mention the 1964 Commonwealth State agreement, despite the fact that it is highly relevant to the future management and use of the Land. One can only assume that these glaring omissions in the PER are the result of the proponent’s desire to downplay and disregard such matters, including the 1964 Pt Peron Agreement, because they are “inconvenient” for the proponent.
14. The Proposal, if implemented, would of course directly contravene the 1964 Pt. Peron Agreement. It would amount to a breach of public trust by the WA Government, which made the undertaking to the Commonwealth in 1964 in exchange for the transfer of the Point Peron land at a concessional rate. For this reason alone the Proposal should not be allowed to proceed.
15. The Proposal raises significant issues regarding land tenure, land use, government integrity and accountability, public trust and the Commonwealth / State relationship, all of which are intertwined with the major environmental protection issues at stake. Yet the proponent has chosen to either ignore or at best gloss over these issues, despite their direct relevance to the public environmental review process.
16. This failure raises serious questions about the credibility, diligence and ethical

integrity of the proponent and the Proposal. It is also pertinent to mention the role played in this regard by the proponent's public sector partner, LandCorp. LandCorp has played a leading role in trying to get the Proposal "off the ground" and, as a government instrumentality with its own ethical charter, one would have expected a commitment to higher standards of public accountability, objectivity and candour.

The proponent's failure to justify the abandonment of this vision for Cape Peron

17. The PER fails to justify departing from the longstanding community and government endorsed vision for Cape Peron, which involves retaining all the land in public hands with "A" class reserve status, managed by DEC with appropriate ongoing community input.
18. The PER contains a large amount of unsubstantiated and highly subjective "spin" about the alleged need for, and benefits of, the Proposal. For example:
 - a. Whilst the proponent and some others may *want* this prime public coastal land for property development purposes, the *need* for, and commercial viability of, a marina, tourist strip and up market private housing estate at Cape Peron has never been demonstrated.
 - b. The assertion that the marina will alleviate the mooring scars in Mangles Bay is highly questionable given that there is no guarantee the moorings will be removed and, even if they are, that the seagrass would regenerate in the scarred areas.
 - c. The Proposal would destroy the current boating and fishing facilities on the Land. These facilities are substantial, especially in terms of hard-stand space, and able to be improved. They cater for many boat owners of varying economic means; the loss of these facilities would disadvantage many of these boat owners and users, who would not be able to afford the cost of berths in the marina.
 - d. The proposed Port Rockingham (Wanliss Street) deep water marina will provide the secure floating berths and alongside support wanted by some larger boat owners; this development is environmentally benign compared to the Proposal, and (unlike the Proposal) would complement and benefit the adjacent Rockingham Beach tourist strip and high density residential development.
 - e. The proponent has not demonstrated any need, or community demand, for

a tourist strip at Cape Peron. On the contrary an attempt to develop such a commercial hub at Cape Peron would for viability reasons be unlikely to succeed. Furthermore it would compete for the limited consumer demand with the Rockingham Beach waterfront strip, which despite its many seasonal visitors continues to struggle commercially, with run down shops and numerous long-term empty building sites in evidence.

- f. The proponent has failed to demonstrate the need for the proposed canal residential subdivision. On the contrary most Australian states have banned these types of estates as an unsustainable form of residential development due to their notoriously adverse environmental and financial impacts.
- g. Extensive research and data collection collated by Preserve Point Peron Inc. over the last seven years (including media material, technical documentation and community consultation outcomes) indicates that whilst the majority of Rockingham people support the idea of a marina in principle, they overwhelmingly do not want the Proposal, because it would result in the loss of public land and community facilities, and would severely and permanently damage the unique character and environment of Cape Peron.

What approval and implementation of the Proposal would mean

19. If the Proposal is approved by the State and Commonwealth governments, and if the proponent raises the necessary capital and implements the Proposal, the consequences will be:
- a. Breach of the 1964 Pt Peron Agreement and of the State's undertaking regarding the land;
 - b. Excision and substantial privatization of a significant and strategically important component of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park from the State's conservation estate;
 - c. Loss for all time of the opportunity to create a world class coastal conservation and recreation park at Cape Peron, with all the social and economic benefits that would bring;
 - d. Loss of public confidence in the integrity of the State's conservation estate.
 - e. The approval of a coastal canal estate / subdivision in the face of bans on such developments in most other Australian states and territories
 - f. Destruction of significant indigenous and non indigenous heritage

- g. Destruction of established, fully functioning, community accommodation and recreational facilities including, but not limited to, the City of Perth RSL caravan park and the AIW holiday community
- h. Serious adverse environmental impacts and risks including, but not limited to:
 - i. The destruction of scarce coastal “Bush Forever”, and the important habitat it provides. Such bushland and public open space will become all the more important in years to come as the population and urban development of Rockingham and Perth intensifies.
 - ii. The incursion of saltwater into the aquifer, threatening nearby Lake Richmond and its highly significant thrombolite and sedge communities, as well as adjacent native vegetation and domestic bores
 - iii. The creation and ongoing maintenance of a channel cutting off beach access to Point Peron and causing major loss of vital seagrass meadows and fish nurseries in Mangles Bay
 - iv. Polluted, inadequately flushed artificial waterways and resulting deterioration of Mangles Bay water quality
 - v. Risk of excessive seaweed accumulation and odour
 - vi. Risk of acid sulphate soil exposure
 - vii. Risk of adverse coastal processes – sedimentation in some places, erosion in others
 - viii. Environmental damage caused by the effects of climate change – especially predicted sea level rises and reduced rainfall - on the modified environment
 - ix. Construction site works and their associated public exclusion, dust, noise, visual pollution and traffic impacts, estimated by the proponent to be up to 9 years in duration
 - x. The need for never-ending dredging, maintenance and remedial works at considerable, but yet to be determined, public expense

Concluding comments

- 20. Cape Peron is a completely unsuitable site for an inland marina and canal subdivision. There is an infinitely superior plan and vision for Cape Peron based on

longstanding government and community backing. This vision and plan embraces the environmental protection and enhancement of Cape Peron, Lake Richmond and Mangles Bay, in stark contrast to the Proposal.

21. Several of the Proposal's environmental impacts and risks are, even when considered alone, sufficient reason to reject the Proposal. When these impacts and risks are taken together the case for rejection is overwhelming.
22. Approval has already been granted for the development of a deep-water marina at the nearby Port Rockingham, next to Rockingham Beach's commercial and high-rise strip. Government and private sector resources should be concentrated on the implementation of that development, not on a fundamentally flawed inland marina and canal development at Cape Peron.

Cape Peron Community Vision Working Group
c/- 13 Ray Street
Rockingham
WA 6168

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 9

Published letters to editors and newspaper articles
from 1964 to 2010 of relevance to the proposed
Mangles Bay Marina development and
MRS amendments
(provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)

POINT PERON LESSEES SEE LANDS MINISTER

*Sound Telegraph celebrates 35 years of quality news
Reprint of original article
1964*

A deputation of lessees involved in the Point Peron reserve land has met the Minister for Lands, Mr HD Evans, to outline its views on the future use of the reserve. Mr Evans gave this information to Dale MLA, Cyril Rushton, in the Legislative Assembly last week when Mr Rushton asked if the Government was reconsidering the future use of Point Peron reserve. Mr Evans did not say from which organisation, or individuals, the recommendations had come.

The Shire of Rockingham has not been consulted so far. Mr Evans said the deputation made certain verbal proposals and, depending on subsequent written submissions, further consideration would be given to the points raised. "If the Shire of Rockingham is involved it will certainly be notified and Mr Rushton will also be advised," Mr Evans said. He did not say whether the Government intended to vary from the previous Government's intentions for the reserve, nor did he disclose any details of the submission.

Local Rockingham groups, including the shire council, the Tourist Bureau and the Wambro Sound Conservation Society have been concerned over the future of the reserve for some time. The authorities concerned had agreed that part of the reserve would be used in conjunction with the Fremantle Port Authority plan for backup services for the causeway and associated naval facilities. The plan has been that the rest of the reserve will be for open public use and for the general recreation areas for the public.

DEFENDING POINT PERON

*West Australian Newspaper
1 August 1988*

It is apparent that the Minister for Planning is once again being dictatorial by taking recreational land at Point Peron from non-profit organisations and turning it into a site for multi-storey hotels, 300-boat marinas and yacht clubs. How can this be considered a "plus".

There are no other parcels of this type of land as close to Perth for passive recreation and I strongly object to its rezoning by the State Government.

We have lost Garden Island and been given a sewerage treatment plant - and we are now about to lose the natural beauty of Point Peron.

*Frank J. Lee
Derwent Place
Lynwood*

LAKE RICHMOND ON NATIONAL REGISTER

*By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
25 May 1996*

Finding out that Lake Richmond was put on the national heritage list five years ago has stunned local environmentalists and the Rockingham City Council. An article this week in The West Australian alerted Rockingham environmentalist Bob Goodale to the listing. The article, headlined Heritage values help fix identity, was in the Earth 2000 section. It showed Melinda Brouwer, of the Canberra-based Australian Heritage Commission, at Lake Richmond in Rockingham.

Mr Goodale rang Ms Brouwer to ask about the status of Lake Richmond. He was told the area had been put on the national list five years ago because of the unique freshwater stromatolites that have developed there. The lake is also geologically significant because of its unusual formation. Part of the sea was cut off during the last 4000 years by advancing sediments and so information from around the lake is important in research into sea level history and the geomorphic evolution of the Swan Coastal Plain. And unlike lakes Coo loongup and Walyungup, which were also part of Cockburn Sound, Lake Richmond is deep and quite fresh. It also plays an important role as a summer refuge for waterfowl.

While he was thrilled with the listing Mr Goodale said he would have liked to have learnt about it sooner. That would have enabled him to have used it as a tool when lobbying for funding for various projects to be carried out around the lake. He said the Rockingham City Council was as surprised and pleased as he was with the news. "The commission would have told the owner of the land, the state government, but because the lake is vested in the council it, too, should have been notified that the lake was listed," Mr Goodale said.

Ms Brouwer said the state government would have been notified of the act which preserved the lake and its surrounds for generations to come. A spokesman from the council confirmed that the council had not been notified.

A Friends of Lake Richmond group is being set up by Mr Goodale. The lake is managed by the Kwinana/Rockingham, Mandurah branch of the Naturalist Club. The group wants to encourage more local interest in the area, keep an eye out for vandals and help in various improvement plans and developments. Input by Friends would vary and include tree planting, eradication of weeds in natural vegetation, acting as guides for visitors, helping with fundraising programmes, monitoring water quality and helping to build boardwalks and signs. There would be no membership fee, all welcome.

MARINA FUNDING PROPOSAL IN HANDS OF COUNCIL'S HIRED GUN

*By Michele Nugent
Weekend Courier
1 August 2003*

Former Rockingham councillor David Winter has been hired by the City of Rockingham to prepare a funding submission to advance a marina proposal for Mangles Bay. As director of his nine-year-old Rockingham-based management consultancy Business Horizons, Mr Winter said he had been working on the submission for about two weeks and estimated it would be complete in about three weeks.

The council is seeking more than \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Government's Regional Partnerships Program to enable it to write a management and implementation plan for the Point Peron marina. This overall plan would cover environmental issues, including a public environmental review, which when complete, would conclusively determine if a marina could be developed at Mangles Bay. Mr Winter said the submission would highlight a marina in Rockingham as a regional facility that had significant support from the community and Rockingham council, which had been trying to accelerate government advocacy for the proposal for nearly 20 years.

A council report said the objective of the submission was not merely to capture funding but to use those funds to prepare a compelling submission that would result in work starting on a marina. "This project is probably one of the most economic employment initiatives in the region and will require all the resources that council can muster," the report said. Mr Winter will charge the City of Rockingham \$3,500, plus GST, to complete the submission.

The Rockingham Volunteer Sea Rescue Group has given its official support to the Rockingham Marina Action Group for the development of a marina. Vice-president Dave Slowly said response times to rescue call-outs would be cut by between 20 and 30 minutes if the group's rescue boat could be kept in a pen at a Rockingham marina. The rescue boat was kept in a shed at The Mangles Bay Fishing Club and had to be driven to a boat ramp for launching.

RMAG president Phil Edman said in eight weeks he had been contacted by 20,000 people in support of a marina but only two against the plan.

MARINA PEN COSTS QUERIED

Weekend Courier
27 May 2005

An opponent of the proposed Mangles Bay Marina says that most existing owners of boats on moorings in Mangles Bay will not be able to afford the likely cost of public pens in the new canal-marina proposal. Renamed the Point Peron Tourist Precinct, the project has been promoted as a solution to the problems experienced by ordinary Rockingham boat owners now keeping moorings in the area.

However, Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre convener Bob Goodale said that most of the planned pens were "ear-marked" to serve elite residents of its luxury housing canal development. He said that, according to a State Boating Council website, most existing owners of boat moorings in Mangles Bay would not be able to afford the planned facilities. Mr Goodale also said that officers from the Rockingham Development Office had claimed there was no opposition to a road across the edge of Lake Richmond from the proposed Garden Island Highway. "They are wrong," he said. "Many government agencies and hundreds of community members have opposed the proposal." As well, the marina will cut the main access road to the Garden Island causeway, necessitating either building a heavy vehicle access lifting bridge, or a longer by-pass road through the Cape Peron Regional Park. "This is a precious community asset set aside by state legislation for conservation and recreation only".

Mr Goodale said the Garden Island Highway to the tourist precinct and canals at Cape Peron, as proposed, would pose a serious threat to the rare thrombolites or "living rocks" of Lake Richmond. "These have already been internationally recognised as a critically endangered ecological phenomenon, which is Australian Heritage listed," he said. "It is also formally recognised for Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra."

The Rockingham Development Office has called a public meeting about the proposal on May 31, from 6 to 9pm, at Rockingham City Council chambers.

The Rockingham Marina Action attend to help secure what it says is a world class marina facility that will biophysical positives to the city.

ROCKINGHAM BEACH BETTER: GOODALE

By John Brown
Sound Telegraph
8 June 2005

Rockingham Environment Centre convener Bob Goodale believes the Wanliss Street area in Rockingham Beach would be a much beach better site for a marina rather than destroying the natural environment of Cape Peron. His views were backed by some speakers at a public forum last week. "Why put all our eggs in the one basket?" one woman asked.

A yacht owner who moors his boat in Mangles Bay said he and his colleagues were always aware of the dangers of Rockingham's winter storms and accepted the risk. He said it should not be assumed that all owners wanted an expensive marina. A marina and associated development at Wanliss Street has been talked about for some time. Mr Goodale said it would be close to new high rise apartments and Ramada hotel, Patterson Road and people would be able to use the bus shuttle service to get from the new railway station to the beachfront. He said he was surprised at the number of people and the balanced views they put forward last Tuesday night.

About 200 people attended the three hour long session and another session had to be arranged for a further 100 people on Wednesday. Mr Goodale thought the meeting would be dominated by the pro-marina lobby to counter any anti-development group. Mr Goodale has started a "protect Pt Peron group" to oppose any development. He said only 30 per cent of people he had talked to wanted a marina in the area. He claimed the push was for a big canal development with expensive houses and land ... "not for ordinary people" but those with money. Images of multi-million dollar canal, marina and harbour projects from Geraldton, Hillarys, Mandurah and Bunbury were shown as examples of what could happen in Rockingham. Mr Goodale is concerned the impact any project would have on Lake Richmond and its ancient thrombolites.

The area was a Bush Forever site and also part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. Any development would set a dangerous precedent for regional parks in Perth.

PERON PLAN IRRESPONSIBLE

Sound Telegraph
15 June 2005

The Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project is irresponsible and unviable for the following reasons.

1. The project is sited in designated regional parklands and Bushland Forever zone on what is left of our precious coastland environment.
2. The construction and maintenance of a marina/canal and housing development is totally irreconcilable with the natural geography of Mangles Bay. Seagrass meadows and the dependent marine ecosystem will be destroyed.
3. The Lake Richmond unique thrombolites, a critically endangered ecological community, will certainly be in danger through the influx of a floating population and the unknowns of gross disturbance of the natural environment.
4. Dredging. Where is the sand and soil going from the construction of the canals and marina? The sand from future continuous dredging must be dumped outside the marina. How do boats and yachts navigate through shifting sandbanks? What long term effect is there on the surrounding areas?
5. Will the council be ultimately responsible for future management of the marina/landscaped parks etc (higher rates), or will the householders/boat owners have the responsibility? Cape Peron is a place where each visit can offer a different happening, tiny butterflies, birdsong, the changing sea, who knows? This is what man cannot do. Instead the vision offered by the steering committee is an artificial production, noisy and bustling. Within 10 years, those investing there for the natural attractions will be surrounded by a very unnatural and man-made environment.

There is an alternative to Point Peron being chewed up and destroyed and that is a marina style development in the Wanliss Street area. Here there is deep water and an urban infrastructure already in place, with good access via existing roads and bus services.

W. Pommerin
Safety Bay

MARINA NOT FEASIBLE*Sound Telegraph
29 June 2005*

The idea of a marina at Point Peron is not a feasible one. The water depth from the first bridge to the causeway through to the moorings east of The Cruising Yacht Club is less than a metre in most of the area. A channel cut through would need constant dredging to remain open. Navigation would be hazardous and unpredictable because of silting up. The Point Peron area is unique for our local coast line and should be preserved for prosperity. Numerous housing estates being built in the lake Richmond area result in more run off to the lake.

The rare thombolites, found in only two locations in Australia, exist in this lake. A marina plus the run off from these estates could pose a threat to the existence of these ancient relics, thought to be some of the first living things. The lake does not run out to the sea in that area. Common sense decrees that if a marina is to be built at Wanliss Street, Rockingham, it is the most suitable position. Deep water close to shore, near to town and accommodation and most of all, will be accessible to the forthcoming transport route when the railway arrives. Point Peron must survive as is and the marina built elsewhere.

*Les Blackburn
Rockingham Park*

ALTERNATIVE PLACE FOR MARINA*Sound Telegraph
20 July 2005*

I don't think it has been made clear that many of the – Point Peron marina opponents, by letter and at meetings, have proposed an alternative location for a marina - Wanliss Street. The proponents of the Point Peron location have so far been unwilling to discuss this as an alternative, which must raise suspicion that there is less cheap buildable land available at the Wanliss Street end of the beach. If the proposal was really about providing safe anchorage for all boats, perhaps it would be easier to resolve the issues.

In fact, the perceived marina "opponents" probably have the interests of the boating community more at heart than the developers who are offering no solutions for the smaller vessels currently anchoring out in Mangles Bay.

Wake up Rockingham residents. This is not for your benefit, so stop being duped. Let's get back to talking about a marina rather than a housing development and I'm sure we will reach agreement quite quickly.

*Jan Adams
Rockingham*

MARINA SHOULD BE PUT ON HOLD*Weekend Courier
8 July 2005*

Like many residents I'm in favour of better boating facilities here and better management of Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. I understand some people have put a lot of energy and time into this marina dream and \$500,000 of rate and taxpayers' money has been committed.

But I have three concerns.

First I have the impression that this group will be used to rubber stamp the plans of lobbying groups and a few people in council. The project team has claimed twice that "70 per cent of the population want this marina". There has been no proper study to prove it. Ideas thrown up by one person in the reference group are treated as if they were agreed to by all. There are no actual plans available, no feasibility studies and no costings, just lists of ideas which might be used to support anything at all.

Secondly, why this site? Some people seem intent on ramming through the Cape Person site without considering other ideas. Surely the rational way is to first study all possible sites, then select the best two or three and ask the community to comment. This has not been done.

Third, it's environmentally dodgy. There are eight possible effects of the proposed site: loss of a Bush Forever area, damage to the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, loss of seagrass (already seriously degraded), deterioration of water quality in Cockburn Sound, damage to the endangered thrombolites and to Lake Richmond (already stressed by housing), excavation of up to 80,000 truckloads of sand and rock, and creation of traffic bottlenecks.

I urge the community to tell the organisers to put the whole process on hold, spend the money on an independent examination of other sites and then present costed draft proposals to the community for proper discussion.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
PRESERVE POINT PERON***13 July 2005*

There has been a good turnout for the past two meetings for the group that is supporting the preservation of Point Peron. At the last meeting Dr Nick Dunlop outlined the environmental impact that the development of a marina and canals would have on this area. If you are interested in supporting this group, we would like you to join us at the next meeting which will be held on Saturday 16th July at 10.30 am at Naragebup Environment Centre – Safety Bay Road. Or contact Bob Goodale 0413 824 101 or Esther on 9528 7133.

*Esther Grogan
26 Safety Bay Road
Rockingham WA 6168*

**WINTER RUNOFF CAUSING
BACTERIA; MCGOWAN***Weekend Courier
22 July 2005*

Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan said the recent rise in Mangles Bay bacteria levels recorded by the Cockburn Sound Management Council was due to runoff from winter rains. Mr McGowan said he had spoken to a council representative who said the spike in the levels was due to a lack of flushing at that particular time. He has spoken to Environment Minister Judy Edwards who had asked for a full report.

Shadow environment minister Katie Hodson-Thomas claimed on the weekend that bacteria levels in the southern part of the Sound had exceeded environmental levels for safe swimming. She claimed the health of the area would get worse once the Kwinana desalination plant started.

Dr Edwards said claims the plant would have adverse effects on water quality were nonsense.

TRADITIONAL BURIALS RECALLED*Weekend Courier
22 July 2005*

Aboriginal artist Shane Pickett visited the burial site at Point Peron last week with local resident Mary-Ann Rath to paint an interpretation of how he felt as an artist at the site. The Point Peron peninsula, incorporating Mangles Bay, Point Peron and Lake Richmond, are grounds historically used by Aboriginal tribes, including the local Noongar people, for camping, law ceremonies, fishing and as a burial site.

Rockingham Noongar identity Trevor Walley said the Aborigines buried at Point Peron were buried in the traditional way, sitting down with their heads slightly tilted. "This was to greet the rising sun," he said. "We want people to be aware that this was and still is a traditional and sensitive site," he said. "We need to hold some sort of ceremony to recognise the Aboriginal significance and history of the sites."

LETTER TO ENVIRONMENT MINISTER*Weekend Courier
22 July 2005*

Written to environment and planning ministers asking they review value of whole area. Consider as alternative site for marina. Inland marina could be built on the Comet Bay side of Becher Point, avoiding the penguin feeding grounds on the northern side of the Point in Warnboro Sound. From memory the Park was important because of its ancient dune formation but I'm sure this has been studied, filmed, recorded and mapped, etc., allowing future earth science students to have an appreciation of how they evolved. Apart from this it could have little scientific value.

Cape Peron has greater value both environmentally and socially and could become another Kings Park.

*Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay Ward Councillor*

METHOD NEEDS SCRUTINISING*Weekend Courier*
22 July 2005

Since it has become evident that local planning issues are decided on statistics gathered from "focus groups" using "stakeholders", we completed our own survey. Local ratepayers would be interested in the results. We selected 100 owners of boats on Mangles Bay, and asked if they needed, and would contribute towards, a marina in the bay. Most (95) showed no interest, stating they could not afford to maintain a swing mooring, and had no hope of raising the cash for a marina berth. They were surprised Mangles Bay was at the top of the list. The remaining five showed far more interest in the area of land that could be at their disposal for housing development and car parking, and the shortest possible route to their craft, making sure they did not get wet feet.

As a group they were convinced they would find others to fund their interest. We began asking 12 councillors and the mayor the same question, but before we had finished asking the question we had their full and unqualified support for whatever was planned. One councillor did ask for details and costing, which we were not able to supply. Don't they know approval comes before costing?

To demonstrate the survey was carried out in the fairest possible way, we followed guidelines used by Landcorp, in that the survey process is completely obscure, and we do not expect the resulting data to be scrutinised. Like Landcorp, we completed the survey wearing suits and serious ties. We are therefore trustworthy and only deal with facts. In line with local practise "focus groups" and "stakeholders" are selected by us, on the basis that they are most likely to support any proposal that we put up.

We trust all ratepayers of Rockingham will take an interest in such surveys, scrutinising the method as much as the result - it's their money at stake here.

Doug Pritchard
Rockingham**SELF INTEREST EVIDENT***Weekend Courier*
22 July 2005

In the article "Marina group 'ecstatic' over bigger vision" (Community, July 1) Mr Les Dodd, president of the Marina Action Group, is quoted as saying, "Cape Peron has suffered environmentally for years for the questionable benefit of a few part-time holiday residents and self interest groups."

Over the past 45 years, my parents brought me on holidays to Point Peron, I brought my children and now they are bringing their children to a holiday resort that is affordable. During this time, I have seen no evidence of any environmental damage. Because of the estimated high cost of mooring lease fees in the proposed boat harbour, most local boat owners will not be able to afford to park their boats there. This leaves the mooring leases to a select group of affluent boat owners and most will probably not be full time Rockingham residents. Should this transpire, as witnessed at Hillarys, most of these boats will not leave their moorings. Instead, as with Hillarys, the owners will invite their friends to spend weekends on board their luxury launches, while tied up at the marina.

Mr Dodd, isn't this an example of catering for "part-time holiday groups, with a self-interest"? Wasn't the original proposal for the marina to provide a safe haven for Rockingham boat owners, to moor their boats away from the elements?

Russ Heydon
Shoalwater**ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR MARINA***Weekend Courier*
22 July 2005

Five years ago, while visiting from York, friends took me on a walk around Point Peron. I was so delighted by this exquisite sanctuary minutes away from a busy city, I moved to the Rockingham area. I walk at Point Peron frequently and take my children, grandchildren, interstate and overseas visitors to enjoy the bush, wildflowers, bird life and to swim in its secluded coves. I am aghast to learn the Rockingham Development Office has plans to carve up the landscape for marinas, luxury housing, hotels and commercial activities. I understand there is a danger of salt water leaking through the disturbed limestone of the proposed canals to destroy the thrombolites of Lake Richmond. Couldn't the Wanlis Street jetty near the existing cappuccino strip, restaurants and high rise apartments be developed as a marina and leave Point Peron as a nature reserve for future generations to also replenish their souls?

Eunice Bissett
Warnbro**GROUP APPEALS FOR FUNDING***Weekend Courier*
22 July 2005

As a member of the newly formed group Preserve Point Peron (PPP), I wish to highlight our lack of funding. PPP has about \$46.50 in the bank after paying our incorporation fees, which we have to have in case developers decide to sue us.

I understand the proponents of the Cape Peron Tourism Development Project, disguised as marina, have about \$450,000 of government funding to play with. My figures may not be exact but; you get my drift, \$46.50 versus \$450,000. So come on rate and taxpayers, that's your money they are spending. If you don't agree with their plans, lobby the polities to divert some of that money to PPP. We still want a marina, but at Wanliss Street, where there are roads and infrastructure to support it. And Mr McGowan, are you just a supporter of the developers or a defender of the people and environment? We need some of that money to support an alternative marina site.

If you feel as we do, that Point Peron should be kept for natural enjoyment, and you have a few dollars to spare, then drop it in to PPP at Narageburp Environment | Centre on Safety Bay Road. Then we might be able to afford a small advert in the paper to put our point of view. You can also help by signing our petition at the same location, and in shops and businesses around town.

John M. Dilley
Shoalwater**NO CONSENSUS YET ON WHERE TO PUT MARINA***Weekend Courier*
29 July 2005

A coastline site at the end of Wanliss Street in Rockingham Beach is gaining community support as a potential marina, site over the Point Peron proposal. However, Rockingham Council and the Rockingham Development Office, with the support of the Rockingham Marina Action Group, cannot be swayed from their brief to use \$450,000 in government funding to investigate the suitability of the Mangles Bay, Point Peron, site. Several recent letters to the editor in *Weekend Courier* Community have aired concerns about the environmentally fragile Point Peron site and the obvious opportunity offered by the sea grass bereft, but protected, waters of Cockburn Sound at the end of Wanliss Street.

Local environmentalist Bob Goodale, who has helped set up action group Preserve Point Peron, is also a member of the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct (CPTP) stakeholder reference group where he has spoken out about the Wanliss Street idea. He doubts whether the Environmental Protection Authority will even approve a Cape Peron marina because it has previously rejected a marina proposal for the area on environmental grounds. "I think the feasibility study at Mangles Bay will end up being a massive waste of money," Mr Goodale said. "The grants should really have been used to look at several sites, not just Point Peron. "The engineers all say Cockburn Sound is too deep to build a marina but with modern technology, floating marinas and honeycomb seawalls that help prevent erosion, it is possible. "The lease at the Cee and See Caravan Park will expire in a few years and that land could be incorporated into a marina development along the coast."

CPTP steering committee chairman and Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said consultants had looked at other possible marina sites but Mangles Bay had proven the most likely site to be environmentally, economically and socially viable. He predicted the concerns of residents living near Wanliss Street about a marina on their doorstep would be "enormous".

Rebecca Fewster, Rockingham. "I think we can handle it, down on the old Rockingham beach to block out the refinery."

John Halden, Rockingham. "I think we should go more like Mandurah with the marina. We need to keep up with getting the tourists here."

Jamie Harrison, Rockingham. "I think it needs to go in old Rockingham to give it a bit of a lift and make it a bit flashy."

Alex Hayward, Safety Bay. "I think the marina should go ahead for employment and tourists but it doesn't really bother me where."

Bill Ellis, Rockingham. "The marina should go ahead up on Wanliss Street; it would be accessible to everyone."

Mary Carter, Rockingham. "It should be put in the Rockingham site in preference to Point Peron. I like the seclusion of Point Peron."

CONCERNS STILL REMAIN*Weekend Courier*
29 July 2005

In response to Doug Pritchard's letter (Community, July 22), whereas I agree with the content of the letter, if he or his group had asked me what my views on the marina were I would have told him I do not agree with an inland marina at Point Peron and I believe that the area should be left as a "bush forever" site. I do, however, support the plan for a marina for Rockingham as long as the costs are not borne by our community. Other problem to be dealt with is where should it be built. I think we have virtually been told and not asked this question and, what long-term benefits will flow to our residents. I have seen nothing with respect to these concerns.

Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay**UNBIASED INFORMATION WANTED***Weekend Courier*
12 August 2005

I am writing to add my voice to the local concern and opposition to the planned Cape Peron Tourist Precinct. As a resident of this area since 1966 I can see the need for a safe mooring for boats; so a sea based marina or boat harbour similar to Hillarys would fit the bill. However, I fail to see the need for the massive development which involves moving the Garden Island Causeway and digging up the land to form several inland canals and boat facilities, then building hotels, shops, houses and commercial premises on these. As I have studied tourism and several sustainability units, with community participation, several problems surrounding this development concern me; the overriding one being the ignoring of the precautionary principle of sustainability.

We do not know how this development will affect the sensitive and fragile Cockburn Sound given that the Mangles Bay area has poor water circulation. We do not know how this development will affect the fragile freshwater Lake Richmond area and endangered Thrombolites living there. We have not been given an outline of the total development cost. We do not know how this development will react with acidic sulphite soils in the area. We do not know how this development can be allowed to go ahead on areas designated as regional parks. Bush Forever and containing sites of indigenous burials. We do not know if a surveyed majority of ratepayers of the City of Rockingham would support this development if they were given unbiased information on what is involved and other options available if a marina must be built.

Julie Byrne
Rockingham**MARINA MISGIVINGS***By Michele Nugent*
Weekend Courier
12 August 2005

Lake Richmond is sacrosanct and no negative effects on it from a marina at Mangles Bay would be acceptable, says Rockingham Mayor and Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project chairman Barry Sammels. Cr Sammels said this view would have to be demonstrated to the Environmental Protection Authority if the Government agreed to accept a concept plan for such a marina for formal environmental and planning consideration. There is a groundswell of support against the proposal with fears for the health of nearby Lake Richmond, its flora, fauna and rare thrombolites at the top of a long list of local concerns.

Hundreds of people have already signed a petition organised by new action group Preserve Point Peron. To be presented at the next sitting of Parliament by Greens WA Senator Giz Watson, it asks that the Cape remain a regional park and not be developed into an inland marina. Some members of the Stakeholders Reference Group (SRG) have also criticised the planning process saying not all its members agreed to the publicised preferred concept plan. "I defy them (CPTPP steering committee) to give me a list of the people (in the SRG) who agreed to that concept plan," local environmentalist and SRG member Bob Goodale said. "There was stunned silence when that plan was put on the board."

Rockingham Seagrass Monitoring Group and SRG member James Mumme said he was concerned the SRG was being used to justify the claim that there had been public input into choosing the site for the marina when other local sites, including Wanliss Street, had not been considered. Cr Sammels said a clear majority of the SRG had supported the Cape Peron plan. "At this stage only preliminary consultation is taking place to see whether this project is worth pursuing and investing extra funds for an in depth community consultation," he said. "The SRG is a cross section of interested stakeholders and not necessarily reflective of broad community views." "If the project gets to the next stage then the community will have more opportunities to find out more and have input."

Nic Dunlop, of the Conservation Council of WA, said he had withdrawn his membership of the SRG when he realised it meant accepting that a marina at Point Peron was non-negotiable.

DESTINED FOR BETTER THINGS*Weekend Courier*
12 August 2005

If you feel like a stroll down to the waterfront you can count 50 boats swinging on moorings in Mangles Bay. The grand vision is the Mangles Bay Marina which we are now told will accommodate 600 boats. I mean, this is 11 extra boats for each one out there now. That is obviously going to do a whole heap of good for Cockburn sound water quality which is already a bit fragile. Forty hectare of Rockingham Lakes Park will be lost forever and \$60 million of taxpayers' money poured into the hole created. Who are the 550 boat owners who are interested in this strike on our Bush Forever site?

In Fremantle there is a marina for 600 boats which uses 20 hectare of ocean, and the private club reclaimed six hectare of land for the onshore support of its boats. A situation well suited to the Wanliss Street site. The Wanliss Street site is where Landcorp is organising a "vibrant heart" for Rockingham. You would not need to dredge a channel to get there. The \$500,000 grant will buy a lot of glossy pictures of the "Mangles Bay Marina", while not saying a great deal about the high rise hotels they hope for. As a consequence we are going to be bombarded by public relations concepts, run on image, far more than substance.

We really need some vision from our civic leaders that rises above the desire to outdo Mandurah. Please preserve Point Peron, it is destined for something a whole lot better.

Doug Pritchard
Rockingham**SAVE POINT PERON***Weekend Courier*
12 August 2005

I recently visited both Mandurah Marina and Fremantle Boat Harbour. They were crowded with visitors, most of whom were spending money. Why can't the people of Rockingham have, just for once, a first class facility available to everyone? We seem to be getting yet another second rate job. To make things worse, it seems that, like it or not, it is going to be erected at Point Peron. The wild, natural beauty of Point Peron should not be spoiled but left the way it is. Perhaps if the marina was built at Wanliss Street or other central areas we could have double decker buses to ferry people from the train station to the marina, and just forget trains.

E. Higgins
Rockingham**MARINA DISGRACE***Sound Telegraph*
17 August 2005

What a disgrace!

Gouging out our beautiful bushland forever for a boat park.

Shame on you Rockingham Council.

Shame.

Maire Carlin
Rockingham

MARINA: READ THE FINE PRINT
Weekend Courier
19 August 2005

In the discussions about the marina we are told by the proponents "that the majority of the Stakeholders Reference Group support the Cape Peron Plan." This general statement does not include the preamble which preceded the request for the opinions of those included in the groups. The wording of the request for feedback from the members of the SRG's was: "if the concerns raised in tonight's workshop are satisfactorily addressed, to what extent do you support the concept of developing Cape Peron as a marina based tourist precinct?"

The concerns raised in the workshops included seagrass, pollution of Mangles Bay, traffic, preservation of existing bush and many more. A conclusion of many would be that all the concerns cannot be satisfactorily addressed. The SRG workshops are a technique to manipulate the public to provide the outcomes planned by the proponents. The abbreviated conclusion that the majority support the plan is just part of the spin to discourage potential objectors. As always, you have to make sure the small print is included in the understanding of the document.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

WANLISS ST FOR MARINA
Sound Telegraph
24 August 2005

One does not have to be a genius to see the machinations going on behind the scenes regarding the marina. Once a lot of money is to be made we suddenly have concerned committees popping up everywhere. Put it in the public place on Wanliss Street.

R. McKenzie

IT'S NOTHING BUT A LANDGRAB
Weekend Courier
26 August 2005

The residents of Rockingham have been fed a furphy by the city council. This latest design for the Cape Peron tourist precinct marina is nothing but a land grab and dreams of grandeur. The ratepayers are going to be paying for this.

We were led to believe that small boats require a safe mooring area for inclement weather and a marina was required. Now we find the marina is for 600 plus vessels of all sizes, requiring a support of industry high-rise, hotels, nightclubs and accommodation, major roads and infrastructure. The causeway will be moved, the sea grass dredged, and our Cape Peron regional parkland and beachfront taken, not to mention the damage that can be caused to Lake Richmond.

What next? Where will this stop? What happens to all those moorings? Just how many of those small boats using moorings in Mangles Bay will use the marina? Can they afford the marina's pen fees? If a mooring had been installed, using the correct equipment and maintained for the size of the vessel that is using that mooring, they would never be washed up on the beach for a start.

Paul Holmesby
Rockingham

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Weekend Courier
26 August 2005

I urge all Rockingham residents to avail themselves of the now limited opportunity to provide their view and input into the proposed "Cape Peron Tourist Precinct". We have the chance to comment on one design that a stakeholder reference group has apparently chosen - not from a range of plans or options or alternative sites. You can comment on this plan by visiting a display in the Rockingham City Shopping Centre on Saturday, August 27, between 10am and 4pm, or by visiting the council offices from August 29 to September 9. You can phone the RDO feedback line on (08) 93551599 and also provide input online: www.estill.com.au/capeperon/feedback.html or www.estill.com.au/capeperon/consultation.html

People interested in calling for a more independent review of this development can sign a petition at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre or Palm Beach Cafe opposite the jetty.

If we do nothing or say nothing now then we can't complain when the natural bushland of Point Peron is lost forever and the area developed for the rich by people with short-term thinking and dollar signs in their eyes.

Julie Byrne
Rockingham

BEAUTY IN EYE OF BEHOLDER
Weekend Courier
26 August 2005

Re: Letter "Informed opinions only please" (Community, August 19).

When I was young, I was taught beauty is in the eye of the beholder. When I look at Point Peron, I see its wild natural beauty. When Rick Palmer looks at Point Peron, he sees "a mess", ready to be exploited. I feel sad for Mr Palmer.
E. Higgins
Rockingham

FEARS ON PT PERON MARINA
By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
9 September 2005

The newly established Preserve Point Peron group and the WA Conservation Council WA have spoken out against plans to establish a marina at Point Peron. Group spokesman Bob Goodale said the recent release of the Cape Peron Precinct Plan left no doubt about the scale of alteration to natural values being put forward by the consultants and the Rockingham Development Office. He said the apparent significance of an area earmarked "Bush Forever" was to provide free Crown land for developers for projects that would alienate the majority of local users and visitors in favour of the well heeled. "According to Conservation Council Director Chris Tallentire, the willingness of the government to sacrifice this area will be a real test of its commitment to its 'Bush Forever' program," he said.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said that at the end of the day the Cape Peron Precinct Project would have to prove there was benefit to the majority of people in the plans being put forward. Cr Sammels chairs the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct steering committee and said the preferred option for a marina, incorporating key community feedback during the initial consultation process, could bring recreational and commercial benefits to the region while balancing environmental effects. "We are committed to State and Federal funding on this project. We need to prove to all there are benefits, but it will not get up if we cannot prove it," he said. "There has been extensive consultation on this, feedback on preferred option plans ends today, September 9."

MARINA HIJACKED?
Sound Telegraph
14 September 2005

The development of the marina in my view is in danger of being hijacked by developers who want to have a residential style canal development go ahead here in Rockingham so they can match the sales they have had in Mandurah. The price that the marina supporters have to pay to get developers interested in building a marina is the development of such residential canals. When the idea was first floated I was an early supporter with certain provisos that I made clear to whoever approached me on the idea including Phil Edman. Having lived in various places throughout Australia I have seen marinas developed at various locations from North Queensland through to Darwin. The problems that I have seen occur range from:

- Local population frozen out due to high costs
- Environmental damage due to leaching of minerals and nutrients and the importation of foreign organisms
- Establishment of an enclave of businesses and population that do not reflect the values of the surrounding residential population.

With the marina developments I saw first hand in north Queensland during the 1980s the main focus was on the marina facility and not on expanding business and residential areas. The Cullen Bay marina in Darwin had a focus similar to that proposed here except for the canals. I worked as an administration and operations manager for a tourism-based business at the marina so I had the opportunity of a unique insight into the costs and problems.

Nearly everyone in support of the marina development here has trotted out the benefit to local tourism. I have not seen any facts and figures that would indicate this. What are the tourist numbers, where do they come from, would this translate to use of the marina facilities? What research has been undertaken to prove the benefits to the local area? I urge the people of Rockingham to ask the hard questions now, for while I believe that a marina would be of benefit I am yet to be convinced that the proposed model is the best one.

Karl Badstuebner
Cooloongup

FORESHORE FOLLIES*Sound Telegraph
14 September 2005***WELL DONE, WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK***Weekend Courier
16 September 2005*

To Rockingham Council: Congratulations on your achievements. Your Rotary Park "wetland" project has, among other effects:

Got rid of all those pesky swamp hens, swans and small wrens.

A lot of turtles and noisy frogs.

as well as got rid of a green lush vista.

Brought in heaps of seagulls; left no decent nest sites for those annoying birds; created a useless island.

Made heaps of really invasive "white" noise with the aerating fountains; made a total shambles of re-vegetating the riparian edge; polluted a rare freshwater swamp with street drains to satisfy the engineers.

Replaced useful vegetation with unnatural and exotic weedy ones; left a woeful standard of construction; left weed-sprayed grass for birds to eat.

C'mon, become organised and see how it should be done before embarking on these "environmental" projects. And you guys think you can build a marina without damaging the environment?

*Roger Plush
Rockingham*

MORE HALF-TRUTHS APPARENT*Weekend Courier
16 September 2005*

I absolutely agree with the comments of Paul Holmesby over the issue of the Cape Peron scheme (letter, Community, August 26). The residents of Rockingham are being hoodwinked, but do they care? I think not. Just as we were told half truths and misinformation about the railway, so it is with this proposed development. Already the water on Rockingham Beach is becoming too polluted to swim in. This development will only add to it. Cape Peron should be left as it is. Just tidy it up a bit and lock up the vandals. 'Nuff said.

*N. Youens
Hillman*

LEADERS LACK LISTENING SKILLS*Weekend Courier
16 September 2005*

Let's consider for a moment that public comment is to be used to determine what happens to our absolutely unique piece of West Australian coastline, known as Point Peron. Our local council calls a public meeting to encourage 279 of our finest citizens to discuss a "marina in Mangles Bay" which is about to make history of Point Peron. From the figures on the public document it looks like a lot of attendees were so disturbed by what was shown that they opted out of the questionnaire altogether.

From those who completed it and were passionate about their desire, the top scorer was public toilets with 115 votes, and second was walk and cycle paths with 110 each. Park and open space got 105. The next vote goes equally to sea rescue, a boardwalk, and conservation of land, all on 100 votes. Well down the list is a marina (75 votes, out of 279 attendees), which was edged out by a boat ramp (85). At the bottom, with 28 votes, is a hotel.

This is the bit that amazes me. From this information the plan ploughs up 40 hectares of prime "bush forever" to make way for various types of accommodation, featuring high rise hotels, a massive marina, and the car parks are yet to be shown. How can the plan be so wrong? How can local planners have such little regard to this public feedback? I am sufficiently concerned about local leaders' lack of listening skills that I have joined up with folk "Preserving Point Peron". If you feel our heritage parkland is destined for better things, please join us.

*Doug Pritchard
Rockingham*

LOVING BEACHES TO BITS*Weekend Courier
16 September 2005*

We all love our white sandy beaches. But it seems we'll love them to bits. The Urban Bushland Council is appalled by the range and extent of development proposals, which claim to enhance people's enjoyment of the coast, but at what cost?

One of the most outrageous is the recently released concept plan "Cape Peron", that includes a major marina cut into the Point Peron peninsula, residential and tourist/mixed use development spreading over most of the peninsula, destroying the ancient natural environment and completely ignoring the environmental values of the area recognised by the State Government in Bush Forever. The Point Peron Bush Forever Site is one of the few remaining examples of what once covered the coast of the Perth Region. Therefore the Government should follow the recommendations to incorporate this bushland into the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park.

Considering the foreseen climate change and associated changes to coastal processes, the dynamic character of this part of the coast, the ongoing water quality problems associated with marinas and canal developments and the risk of acidification, the Environmental Protection Authority should outlaw these kinds of developments as environmentally unacceptable. The Urban Bushland Council is outraged that only five years since the Government's endorsement of Bush Forever, some developers ignore its purpose, and that we have a Government that considers proposals that will have such an enormous effect on a significant area zoned for Parks and Recreation.

*Rog Greenwood and
Renata Zelinova
Urban Bushland Council WA*

MARINA NOT VIABLE*Weekend Courier
16 September 2005*

Re: The rape of Cape Person.

WWII Q: "How do you like your tripe?"

A: "I hate tripe but hunger is worse."

Result: "Then tripe it is."

2005 Q: "Do you want a marina?"

A: "Yes."

Result: "Then Point Peron it is." Whoa, it aint happened yet. Think. In 1995 (population 20,000) the Point Peron was a dream for some: "marina"; for others a "parkland." In 2003 (population, 85,000).

Q: Do you want a marina?

A: "Yes." Result, Phil Edmon joins Liberal Party and seeks Federal backing for finances for "feasibility/impact study" (\$250,000). State allocates funds. Council allocates funds (\$550,000 of taxpayer funds allocated). But long time wishes become irrelevant because of changed demographics. The steering committee is formed to ensure the idea of a marina came to fruition.

Q: Where?

A: Where ever it is viable, the closer the better. The steering committee, behind closed doors, hires NS Projects to report on all sites between Woodman Point and Betchers Point for consideration. In the meantime, the steering committee (now also the Rockingham Development Office) initiates a public forum on Cape Peron project, forms a stakeholder reference group and convenes the first meeting (22 June 2005) without anyone knowing who selected the committee, how and why. In 29 days (three meetings) the SRG had supposedly dealt with all public concerns and actually produced a drawing of it named "the preferred option". Yet at the time they were not appraised of the NS Projects report because the original had been submitted to the steering committee and returned for revision. What revision and why? It did say, however, that a stand-alone marina is not viable.

*Dave Worth
Safety Bay*

NO MARINA: ONE
Sound Telegraph
 21 September 2005

I am writing in reply to RJ Palmer's letter Get on with Marina (Sound Telegraph, September 7). Mr Palmer states clearly that he is a member of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks committee, which to my knowledge debates and recommends ideas to the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Being on such a committee, you would come to the conclusion that one would not support the Cape Peron tourist precinct and would not encourage the development of such a picturesque and tranquil nature reserve.

Mr Palmer does not seem to comprehend his position on the regional parks committee and obviously does not see the importance of conserving Western Australia's nature reserves. I believe that a majority of conservation and environmental workers would agree that Cape Peron as a tourist precinct would be a sacrilegious act.

Michael Gorman
Cooloongup

NO MARINA: TWO
Sound Telegraph
 21 September 2005

To RJ Palmer we do not need a marina in Rockingham, even though you state there are so many boat owners in this district. Why should they have preference over the residents of Rockingham, who enjoy Rockingham, who do not own a boat, yet enjoy the lovely beaches and environment as it is? Where they can take families with children, without part of their beach being taken over by exclusive boat owners, who have managed for years without a marina?

The Ford Family
Leda

WIDEN MARINA OPTIONS
Sound Telegraph
 28 September 2005

I attended the stakeholders reference group public meeting on September 14 for the proposal of a marina development at Point Peron. I was struck by a couple of comments, which were made at the meeting which showed a narrow-minded attitude to the options for a marina in Rockingham. The first was generally as follows: 'It is no use suggesting a marina at any site other than Point Peron because no one is going to put up the cash to pay for it.' It might be true but this is not a good reason to mess up what we have at Point Peron. If this is typical of the logic in support of the proposal then it should be dropped now.

The other comment was by the environmental consultant who stated that all developments do damage to the environment. I guess the environmental consultants have to get used to this situation in their projects, which are on green, undeveloped sites. However, in the Rockingham area, there is a great opportunity to have a win-win solution to provide the marina that the boaties want. What is wrong with the site north of the CBH grain loading jetty? The area is a brown field site of no apparent great environmental value. There is no evidence that it is used by anyone. There is no seagrass in the bay near the site. It is close to Patterson Road so access traffic problems would be minimal.

A marina would be an ideal buffer zone to the industrial area. The site may have to be rezoned but so does the proposed Point Peron site. It might be considered an outlandish idea to have such a development next to major industry but it has a very successful precedent in the Burswood Casino. The casino was built on the Swan on an old tip site right next to the Swan Cement plant and other factories. It was built in the 1970s when dust and fume emissions from cement plants were not so tightly controlled as today. Now the development has extended to provide an excellent recreational area for Perth. Rockingham has a similar opportunity to add to our environment by making good use of a degraded area instead of destroying what is one of our greatest assets.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

WALKOUT NOT DECENT
 By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
 23 September 2005

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels says he wants to make it clear that only one member of the Stakeholder's Reference Group walked out of the final meeting for the proposed Mangles Bay Marina last week, not 13. Cr Sammels, who chairs the reference group, said only one of those people who walked out of the meeting was a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group, and that was Bob Goodale. He said another 12 people who supported Mr Goodale's stand on the issue and went along as observers, also left the meeting with him. "I have no problem with members leaving the meeting, but it is not the decent thing to do to leave a meeting after having had your say and then not being prepared listen to others who want to respond to those comments," he said. "Mangles Bay Marina option 3 now on the table is a reduced development plan and saves 5 ha of Bush Forever land being incorporated into the development. "It also deletes the Point Peron Oval from it, both were adjusted because of input from the reference group and community consultation."

Mr Goodale, who represents the newly established Preserve Point Peron Group, said the proponents of the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct had offered yet another plan to the assembled citizens. "The proponents' earlier preferred plan had received so many objections on environmental grounds that they decided to change the concept once more," he said. Mr Goodale claimed the new plan had been developed without any consultation with stakeholders. "I and 12 others walked out as frustration boiled over when it was yet again confirmed that none of those present would be allowed input into a future marina for Rockingham in an alternative and appropriate site," he said. "The proponents' preferred plan, and now the new third plan, will all damage the Bush Forever site and compromise Rockingham Lakes Regional Park." Cr Sammels said other sites had been looked at, but Mangles Bay was the best possible option.

OUTRAGED ABOUT MARINA PLAN
Weekend Courier
 14 October 2005

I would like to express my outrage at the proposal to use Point Peron for a canal-marina development. While there is no doubt that Rockingham needs a marina, the "Cape Peron" proposal is a cynical attempt to hijack land that has been rightly set aside as a regional park for recreation and conservation, for a canal-style real estate development catering primarily towards the interests of the elite. Few ordinary Rockingham boat owners will be catered for by the inadequate token marina component.

Point Peron is a valuable area of natural bush recognised as a Bush Forever site and should be preserved from greedy developers and city councils, for perpetuity. It is a fabulous community and tourism asset just because it is natural. I am also very disappointed at the lack of transparency in the so-called "community consultation" process used by the City of Rockingham. It's a joke. Why hasn't the community had an opportunity to consider other, more suitable sites like that at Wanliss Street? While it has the perfect deep water access that would suit a marina better, Wanliss Street is not suitable for an exclusive canal development.

Margaret Howe
Warnbro

NATURE SPOILT FOR CASH?
Weekend Courier
 28 October 2005

Whenever I have visitors from out of town or overseas (you could call them tourists) one of the first places I take them to is Point Peron. They are always very impressed. In fact one was even heard to say that we wouldn't need to go to Rottnest with such a beautiful spot right on our doorstep. Now imagine what it will be like, covered in concrete with hotels and trendy housing. They should be really be impressed. The next place I take them to is Penguin Island. I now have a vision of a two lane bridge over to the island, where we could have a huge restaurant and large car park for the hundreds of cars the tourists will bring. That would be another improvement. I urge all residents of Rockingham to go for a walk round Point Peron before this council destroys the last remaining significant area of unspoilt coastal bushland in the name of so called progress and the mighty dollar.

Mercia Andrews
Rockingham

COUNCIL CALL FOR SEA CHANGE PROBE
Sound Telegraph
9 November 2005

The Rockingham City Council has called on the State Government to carry out an inquiry to tackle the sea change phenomenon which is putting increasing strains on councils' infrastructure budgets. Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels, who is also on the executive of the National Sea Change Taskforce, said the city was one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. "The national population growth around Australia is 1.1 per cent, in Rockingham it's 5.9 per cent," Cr Sammels said. "We are growing at a rapid rate and it's putting a lot of pressure, not just on local governments like the City of Rockingham, but also on our ratepayers who have got to pick up the bill for putting this infrastructure in place." He said similar inquiries had been done in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. The council's call has been supported by the national taskforce and 60 councils from around Australia, including 12 from WA, were involved in sea change issues. He said all three levels of government needed to work together. "It's putting a lot of pressure on community infrastructure and we're asking for an inquiry to see what role the State Government can play," he said.

SEA change is the unprecedented movement of people to coastal lifestyle areas around Australia. This is driving high demand for essential infrastructure such as roads and other services such as public transport, health care, police and emergency services and education facilities. The protection of natural areas and beaches and waterways is also becoming a major challenge. The movement of the population to the coast is expected to continue for at least the next 20 years, driven to a large extent by the ageing and imminent retirement of the baby boomer generation.

ECO GROUP JOIN PERON FIGHT

By John Brown
Sound Telegraph
2 November 2005

The WA Conservation Council and the Urban Bushland Council have joined the Preserve Point Peron Group to fight the proposed Mangles Bay marina and residential development. They claim the development is a threat to the bay's fish nursery and fragile seagrass beds, the neighbouring bushland and the ecosystem of Lake Richmond, home to unique thrombolites. The City of Perth RSL, which has had a caravan park at Point Peron since the 1950s for ex-servicemen and their families, is supporting the campaign. The RSL will lose its caravan park under the plan. But Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the Perth branch had been offered privileges to make up for the loss of the caravan park. Cr Sammels said the Point Peron area was in need of rejuvenation and that all environmental standards would be met.

Redevelopment would make the area attractive, create employment and be more accessible not only to the local community but all of WA. Public consultative meetings have been conducted by the Rockingham City Council and the Rockingham Development office to gauge public opinion. Conservation Council director Chris Tallentire said the proposed harbour and canals could lead to the intrusion of seawater into the freshwater lake and activate toxic acid sulphate soils. He questioned the ability to flush a marina exiting into the south-east corner of Cockburn Sound. Seagrass meadows would be further damaged by rock walls, dredging and resulting sedimentation, he said.

Urban Bushland Council spokeswoman Mary Gray said about 70 per cent of the Point Peron Bush Forever site would be destroyed. "Little remains of the coastal vegetation of the Perth metropolitan region and Point Peron is an important remnant," she said. PPPG spokesman Bob Goodale said all remaining native bush on Point Peron should be included in the regional park and managed for conservation and passive recreation.

**WETLAND CONSERVATION A PRIORITY SAYS
 COUNCIL**

Sound Telegraph
9 November 2005

Wetland diversity and conservation is now officially a major priority for the City of Rockingham after it recently joined the World Wildlife Fund Australia's Wetlands Watch Program, according to Mayor Barry Sammels. He said the council would work with other local governments to increase awareness, improve management and secure long-term conservation of the diversity of wetland types on the Swan Coastal Plain. "Council expects many benefits to come out of this program," he said. "It not only complements our existing and successful Biodiversity Grants Scheme but also gives community members access to landowner grants and invaluable advice about their property's environmental sensitivities from WWF Australia. "Getting involved in this program is another step toward increasing council's involvement in the Swan Catchment Council's programs and actions."

Educational events, such as nature walks and workshops, would be held to increase community and landowner awareness of the presence of seasonal wetlands systems. Wetland owners would be offered incentives for improving wetlands on private land. Naragebup convenor Bob Goodale congratulated the council for becoming more involved in bio-diversity management. "I hope they're not however reinventing the wheel or duplicating what we already provide at the environment centre," he said.

LEAVE PT PERON ALONE

Sound Telegraph
9 November 2005

In your front page news story last week, Eco groups join Peron fight, the local mayor was quoted as saying the Point Peron area was in need of rejuvenation. Please, please, please leave this tiny little area alone. Very soon it will be too fragile for any of us to even approach it. How can Mr Sammels even consider "improving" upon perfection?

Sue Caissy
Safety Bay

FABRICATED DEMOCRACY

Sound Telegraph
9 November 2005

Could somebody explain to me why we have to go through an expensive time-wasting public consultation process every time the State Government, local council, or any other authority comes up with a scheme that nobody wants. It makes very little difference to the outcome. Sure, they appoint a so called "steering committee" made up of like-minded souls, or friends of the vested interests who will be used to keep up the charade of democracy. We have the railway, the substation that will soon be built at Waikiki, the concrete monoliths on Rockingham beachfront and now the Point Peron canal project - all projects that are or will go ahead regardless of the impact on the community or the environment.

N. Youens
Hillman

GOLD COAST STYLE NOT DESIRED

Weekend Courier
11 November 2005

What a load of rubbish the Mayor was quoted as saying (article, "Cramping our style", Community, November 4). The building height criteria promoted by the State Government "has the potential to stall the revitalisation program that the council and the community has encouraged." A classic example of height restrictions can be seen at Noosa on the NSW coast. This attractive beach side resort attracts many visitors but all buildings along the beachfront have been limited to four to five storeys with a gradual height increase further back from the beach. This is in contrast to other beach side developments, close by, which in any bodies language is high-rise visual pollution. Congratulations to the State Government on realising at last, the value of restricting the height of buildings along our fast disappearing coast. Development is desired, and should be encouraged, but not the Gold Coast type which is undesirable.

Dr Clem Annice
Palm Beach

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
Weekend Courier
25 November 2005

How ironic to read two articles in the Weekend Courier, November 19, one where councillor McFetridge requests the council to consider building the marina at Safety Bay ("Dogged on marina idea"), and another where Minister Alannah MacTiernan announced a further \$1 million over four years for coastal rehabilitation ("Pledge for coast"). On the one hand we have a group of people who are supposed to represent us supporting building a marina in a fragile area, with other developments including canals; and on the other we have the minister saying, "...community groups were vital stewards of the fragile coastal environment." Why not examine other options which may prove to be a better option? It will be a travesty if the proposed marina at Cape Peron is allowed to proceed. Keep up the good work by the Save Cape Peron group.

*D. Clem Annice
Rockingham*

few with large boats and loads of money. The fish breeding grounds, the impact on the over-stressed sound, also Lake Richmond's Thrombolite colonies should be left alone.

*Allan Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment
Hillman*

IS PT PERON A DONE DEAL?
Sound Telegraph
16 November 2006

I have read many comments in the local papers on the proposed development for Point Peron. I was amazed when a visiting friend from the Eastern States who enjoys a healthy real estate portfolio commented that he and a number of his investment colleagues in Melbourne and Sydney are waiting to pounce on this development when offered for sale. My comment to him, that I was hopeful that the locals would be supported by council and the project shelved, fell on deaf ears. He says in his circles on the east coast it's a done deal. I get the same feeling. However I would like to see where our local member and would be pollies stand by responding in the paper. I have a view on Point Peron and regardless of all else that happens in the area between now and the next election, my vote will be determined on their stance on this project.

*Tom Mannion
Safety Bay*

ALL COUNCILLORS SHOULD STAND ASIDE
Weekend Courier
18 November 2005

Re: Article, "Cramping our style" (Community, November 4) suggesting that the people of Rockingham are in agreement with the multi-storeyed developments proposed and apparently approved. How arrogant can a council be when feedback-approval was never sought (as was the case of the first "development")? This council sits behind closed doors in its committees and approves financial commitments at "special meetings". I can on this council to do three things: Rescind all development approvals made in the past six months of greater value than \$0.5m. State who attended the (non-council) meetings and committed \$100,000 to the marina feasibility study (not the tourist precinct as now presented). Resign en bloc and allow a representative council to be voted on. (I would nominate.)

*D.A. Worth
Safety Bay*

BUSH FOREVER IS A MISNOMER
Weekend Courier
18 November 2005

I know it has all been said before but we need to keep reminding people of what is going on. I am so pleased to be reading letters opposing the Point Peron (Bush forever) proposed new marina site. What an absolute waste of a beautiful area, day or night, not to mention all the wildlife, nature and marine life that would be gone forever. There is always someone there, be it young or old, either taking a quiet walk, just sitting admiring their surroundings, divers snorkelling, people fishing or taking photos, the list is endless. What about the Dog Beach? Our four legged friends deserve to keep their play area. What about beautiful Lake Richmond which holds an abundance of wild life and the thrombolites? What about the veterans' caravan site? Don't they deserve to live out their life in peace without being hassled and moved on? There are other places to build a marina without destroying such wonderful places. I see Mal McFetridge from Safety Bay wrote a letter (Community, November 4) pointing out a place and ways to overcome obstacles that would enhance the area without destruction. There is enough destruction and trauma in this world without destroying such natural beauty under the disguise of progress. What is "Bush Forever" supposed to mean anyway? Obviously not "Bush Forever".

*Wendy Brock
Rockingham*

DON'T APPRECIATE BEING FOBBED OFF
Weekend Courier
11 November 2005

In response to the Mayor's remarks (article, "Cramping our style", Community, November 4). Last week I was randomly selected to attend the latest Coastal Planning Strategy Workshop which dealt with the area from Fremantle to Rockingham. At one table of 12 people (all from the south) each person was in agreement that we should not try to emulate the Gold Coast and should preserve the last few remaining pieces of natural coastline. This message is clearly coming through from all community consultations. Surely the Rockingham community is not so out of touch with the rest of Perth. I am tired of hearing phrases like "extensive community consultation" and "broadly embraced and accepted by the community." Which small portion of the community is this council representing? We don't appreciate being fobbed off with manipulated data based on flawed questions asked by people with vested interests every time we ask a question. We chose to live here because, among other things, we believe this is the most natural, unspoilt city on the Perth coastline, we did not choose to live in Mandurah or Hillarys or on the Gold Coast.

*Mercia Andrews
Rockingham*

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK RESEARCH NOT VALID
Weekend Courier
18 November 2005

I downloaded the community feedback report from the Rockingham Development Office website. I hope no one is relying on it to make decisions. It raises some concerns from a technical viewpoint. All research must demonstrate validity (relevance, accuracy and precision). My view is the community feedback research does not demonstrate validity. The data is from a phone survey (100 people) and attendees at a community meeting (182 responses). The response rate is critical because the people refusing or not responding may differ greatly from those who do respond, so a response rate below 50 per cent is not considered a truly valid survey. The phone survey had a response rate of 27.2 per cent.

The forms completed at the community meeting had a response rate of 60 per cent but failed in another critical area of being randomly selected. Random probability is used to ensure no bias in theresults as everyone has an equal chance of being selected. Self selection or volunteering to complete a form at the meeting denies random probability as the opportunity to bias the data by pro or anti groups attending the meeting could occur. The phone survey has another problem; its error of margin is plus or minus 9.79 per cent. If 40 per cent is used as a result, you have to be aware that the error of margin means that result could really be between 30 per cent or 50 per cent. So an error margin of 10 per cent is too large to base critical decisions on. The report states overall support for the marina project even though the actual question being answered is, if all the respondents concerns were addressed would they support a marina development. Hardly the same thing as outright support when there are caveats on the answer. Any basic research textbook will confirm the principles I have mentioned here.

*Julia Zivanovic
Cooloongup*

BUSH SACRIFICED FOR PROFIT
Weekend Courier
11 November 2005

The Bush Forever joke. I was elected to the original Hillman / Woodbridge working party for the rail line. There was a major problem in regard to access to the hospital. It was proposed that a second permanent road run parallel to the rail line from Woodbridge, the hospital and Old Mandurah Road. We were told it couldn't be done because it was Bush Forever.

Then came home owners in Waikiki. They were under the misapprehension when purchasing their blocks or homes that a school was to be built on land in the sub-division. You can imagine their horror when Western Power announced they intended to build a sub station that the original plans had been changed. It appears the objections that came forth, or the health of residents and their families, doesn't seem to matter. Suggestions had been put forth in connection to other sites, one being near the rail line away from homes. The response of course should have been expected: No, it's Bush Forever.

Next we have a housing development, not a true marina as defined in any dictionary, that our mayor, Land Corp, the minister as well as business men from out of the area want built at Cape Peron on Bush Forever land. It appears Bush Forever doesn't apply if you can turn a profit. Many believe the permanent road for the hospital is far more important than a housing estate for the select

SANTA CLAUS ON THE HORIZON?

**Weekend Courier
2 December 2005**

Re: Rick Palmer's letter (Community, November 27). Rick Palmer seeks to defend the tourist development proposal and the mayor, Barry Sammels, by attacking Doug Pritchard for his views. He says the mayor's standing is unquestionable. Sorry Mr Palmer, but Doug Pritchard has just questioned the mayor's standing and that is his right. A businessman, Mr Palmer should know it is the duty of the other party (the ratepayer) to exercise "due diligence", asking questions and receiving plausible answers. The essence of this problem lies with that requirement and the proponent's inability/reticence to answer questions with plausible answers.

A deputation from council attended meetings and committed \$100,000 to a marina survey in late 2003 early 2004, yet the "Steering Committee" was not formed until May 13, 2004, and the expenditure not approved until after July 2004. Is someone making executive decisions beyond their station? The Steering Committee contracted N.S. Projects to do a survey of potential marina sites from Woodman Point to Becher Point. Why was Mangles Bay chosen before the outcome of that report? Rockingham has a nominal social and cultural centre, the Churchill Park/Village Green area. Why would anyone want to drive/bus to another disjointed location? Is that Santa Claus I see on the horizon?

**Dave Worth
Safety Bay**

LET THE LIGHT SHINE IN

**Sound Telegraph
11 January 2006**

This issue should not be front page news in the Sound Telegraph. It should be obvious. Nearly every council in WA, except Rockingham, has open committee meetings and that system works well for them. But for some reason things are different here, and have been for some time. Last year maverick Councillor Mal McFetridge twice tried but failed to convince his fellow councillors to open the committee meetings, where most of the real debates and decisions about council business are made.

Mayor Barry Sammels says residents and business delegations can put their case at these meetings, but then they have to leave before the councillors debate the issue and make the recommendations. Why don't they, and every other resident in Rockingham, have the basic democratic right to hear what their elected representatives are saying about their business? Our councillors are responsible for overseeing the expenditure of more than \$86 million of public money in 2005-06. But most of the debates about how this money is spent are being held behind closed doors.

Cr Sammels believes press coverage of committee meetings could lead to councillors being lobbied about their position on issues before full council meetings. It's called democracy and giving people an opportunity to have their say on issues of basic importance to them. It's well past time to let the light of democracy shine into the Rockingham committee room. Until that happens, and it shouldn't take long with the Mayor personally not having "a problem" with this issue, residents are entitled to ask what, if anything, has the council got to hide?

A FEW MILLION DOLLARS NEEDED

**Weekend Courier
9 December 2005**

Re: Letter, "Ironic twist to leisurely drive" (Community, December 2, by John and Val Cullen. The Cullens got it exactly right. There is a need for council to repair the roads, clear the verges and police the illegal dumping of rubbish on Cape Peron. There is a need for more policing to stop hoon behaviour both on Cape Peron and all areas of Rockingham. There is a need for the upgrade (and maybe rationalisation) of holiday camps on the Cape. (Already council has issued work orders). If the Cullens had driven further they might also have commented on the unsightly sea grass poking through the sea surface at low tide or the council sign saying "No swimming or eating shell fish" at the side of the boat wrecking yards and in front of the mussel processing platforms. To correct this situation and to induce more people to the area, there needs to be a few million dollars spent (and not all public money). But those few million dollars is a far cry from the hundreds of millions of dollars (and ongoing costs) for the private housing/tourist precinct of the well-heeled few. Welcome to the PPP, Mr and Mrs Cullens, but on paying your membership fees we may have to check your bona a-fide.

**Dave Worth
Safety Bay.**

**SHOULD THE MARINA BE AT POINT PERON
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Sound Telegraph
18 January 2006**

Bill Toon, Kwinana. There should be a marina in Rockingham but I don't agree that it be located at Point Peron. There are too many environmental concerns.

Pat McLeod, Settlers Hills. Yes, a marina would be a good thing as it would create work for residents. But it maybe out of the average person's league, being too expensive for most people to access.

Fred McLeod, Settlers Hills. A marina would be great for tourism and for local residents to enjoy.

Rob Edkins, Albany. No, not where it's proposed. A marina at Point Peron would have too greater impact on the natural environment and would limit greater public access to the area.

Jodie O'Mara, Harrington Waters. No, Point Peron is our little bit of nature and one of the only natural places that are left. It's a special place that should be left alone and not developed. Those who have proposed the marina should build it somewhere else.

RESORT TO ANOTHER OPTION

**Weekend Courier
3 January 2006**

In response to John and Val Cullen's letter (Community, December 2). They are right, it is disappointing to see Cape Peron devoid of its once beautiful fauna, and yes, the area is littered with household rubbish and young "yobbos" doing burnouts. Building a resort will not lessen the amount of feral cats and rats in the area, only a cat-proof fence and baiting will achieve this. As for undesirable behaviour, it is questionable whether introducing pubs and nightclubs into the area will decrease this. You also mention the dilapidated holiday dwellings used by "well-heeled visitors"; some of these are owned by the RSL. A donation for the upkeep would never go astray. Crass is people who believe beauty is an over-priced coffee shop.

**Richard Morton
Wambro**

STUBBORN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT FACTS

**Weekend Courier
2 December 2005**

Richard Palmer takes me to task for not making a contribution to the marina debate (letter, Community, November 25). My name appears on the honours board of a Sydney yacht club as Honorary Secretary, and the duties of our board of management was to oversee both marina berths and swing moorings and examine costs in maintaining those services to our members. I therefore believe I have a right to speak on the subject.

I believe that if we ever saw a marina in Mangles Bay it would be the biggest piece of folly in our recent history, both from an environmental standpoint, and the fact that recent history and public opinion have been ignored. For Richard Palmer to believe that if he persists in doing the same thing often enough, then he will get a different result, shows stubborn refusal to accept the facts.

I did not grow up in Rockingham so appreciate Point Peron as a major environmental resource for this community, when I compare it to other spots on this globe. It is often the fact that familiarity breeds contempt, so if you grew up here, some will not recognise its enormous potential. Richard, I have chosen to live in Rockingham because it's a great place, and has some great people. I would not like to see us blessed with a marina that does not work on a coastline which boasts of being an "aquatic playground".

**Doug Pritchard
Rockingham**

METHODOLOGY WAS FLAWED

**Weekend Courier
16 December 2005**

Further to my letter to the Editor questioning the possibility of flaws in the research methodology of the community survey for Cape Peron (Community, November 18). I have a one-page letter from the City of Rockingham's Director of Planning, Robert Jeans, in response to my concerns. In my letter I stated the methodology did not have the integrity to be able to infer that from the results of the survey, it could be stated the population of Rockingham would have the same views. Mr Jeans responded, "...it was deemed neither economically feasible nor necessary to produce a statistically significant survey at this stage." And "...it was solely intended to be explorative in nature and provide an indication of community opinions." "Explorative" means it was qualitative research, the academic definition of which is that it is "research data not subject to quantification or quantitative analysis; characterised by the absence of empirical measurements and an interest in subjective evaluation". So you cannot quantify it, nor infer the population has the same views.

Unfortunately the consultant's survey was mainly a quantitative tool. On page 22 it states "This suggests that the feedback obtained from both the community forum and telephone survey is consistent with the views of the general City of Rockingham community." If they are saying its quantitative research, the methodology is so flawed it cannot be used to state it represents the community's views (Mr Jeans states the research is not statistically significant). On the other hand if Mr Jeans is now stating its not supposed to be quantifiable and is qualitative in nature, then the actual nature of qualitative research also means it cannot be used to infer the results to Rockingham.

The integrity of the democratic process in reflecting community views is the cornerstone of good local government, and correct use of research guiding decision making must be seen to provide that integrity.

**Julia Zivanovic
Cooloongup**

PRICE OF MARINA TOO HIGH

**Weekend Courier
27 January 2006**

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Project being developed at Point Peron in the strongest possible terms. I am totally opposed to the taking up of a large section of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park for a marina and associated infrastructure. Point Peron's ability to draw people from all over the State is because of its unique natural attractions. Such wonderful coastal bushland has become rare so close to the Perth CBD. Lake Richmond is also very fragile and should not be put at risk for the sake of development when there are much more suitable sites nearby that would have much less impact on the environment. Any damage to the delicate balance of the Lake Richmond Thrombolites would be disastrous and irreversible. Use of the Wanliss Street jetty area is a far less risky option. It won't disturb the seagrass which is already under pressure. The Wanliss Street jetty option will also allow additional jetties and development in the future. Please ensure our marine environment is protected for future generations. We do need a marina in Rockingham, but please don't sacrifice Point Peron. The price is just too high. I believe the location of the marina at Wanliss Street will enable us to have the "best of both worlds". Perhaps if the Rockingham council had open committee meetings, as all other councils do, the \$450,000 of taxpayers' money being wasted to fund this push by the proponents of the Point Peron Precinct wouldn't be happening.

**Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay**

PROTEST ON THE PROGRAM

**By Daniela Englemayr
Sound Telegraph
22 February 2006**

"In our hometown some rich folks wanna turn our local swimming hole into a marina so big boats can pollute our ecosystem" is the Fyshwicks' message to listeners. The Medina-based Fabulous Fyshwick Brothers are using "the power of music" and their Point Peron Protest Song to rally opposition against a proposed Rockingham marina development. "We feel that music brings people together and we just play what we feel," Kliff said. The singer/bassist works his day job at Point Peron Camp School. "Our songs become a bit more interesting because we look at some real issues" he said. Saving Point Peron isn't the only thing on the agenda of the acoustic swamp/pop band. The Fyshwicks' debut music clip Hitchhiker is almost finished. The animated video imposed with still photos and plasticine characters should be seen on Rage within the next two weeks. After a final gig at Fremantle Town Hall as part of the WAMI Festival this Friday, the four-man band will take time off to work on a seven-track debut album. The self-produced album is as yet unfilled but due to be released mid year.

The brothers will be back on show for their, fans after that, initially playing throughout the region and then wherever their music takes them. "We love playing locally because local music is starting to get the respect it deserves," Kliff said. "People are getting the message that good music is available from their own back yard, it's all around them."

The Point Peron Protest Song

*Please don't let Point Peron disappear
the rocky shores are our existence
to lose would be the locals' greatest fear
so come and help us sing our resistance*

*Well I fished for my dinner
Swam for me tea
spend my whole life living next to this sea
some people came along and they're tryin' change our ways
it's not right now there's nowhere left to play.*

**This Country/Rock song was recorded by local band the Fyshwicks:
Full words photos and music all donated to our cause:**

*"Oh please don't let Pt Peron disappear
The rocky shores are part of our existence
To lose it is the locals' greatest fear
Come, help us all to sing of our resistance*

*I've paddled in rock pools
I've fished for my tea
I've sat, I've climbed & picnicked
I've snorkeled in the sea*

*I've seen some marinas
And since kept away
They're dredge and unnatural
And no where left to play!*

*Apartments and hotels will only suit the swells
Canals are for the affluent and absent
Rockingham deserves its wilderness reserve
We've got to save the Point from this development."*

PETITION TO FIGHT MARINA

**By Karina Graham
Sound Telegraph
18 January 2006**

The Preserve Point Peron environmental group has lodged a 2000 signature petition with the State Parliament to gain support for its fight against the proposed Point Peron canal and marina. Group spokesman Bob Goodale said the petition, which had been placed in businesses around Rockingham and at the Naragebup environment centre at the end of last year, was not about drumming up support against a marina in Rockingham. He said it instead showed the public's concern about the facility being built at the Point Peron site. "We oppose a marina development that threatens the conservation and passive recreation value of Cape Peron, and would like to see an alternative suitable marina site in Rockingham to be properly considered," Mr Goodale said. The petition will now be addressed by a Parliamentary standing committee. "I also understand that the marina's proponent has put the proposal into the EPA and that this will be made public in early February," Mr Goodale said.

There are many people who think the development is a done deal because the proponent has spent so much money advertising it but that's not the case. "This is the first time the proposal has gone before a Government department and anything can happen." Mr Goodale said the groundswell of Rockingham residents who opposed a marina at Point Peron was even more apparent with more than 2000 car stickers now out in the community. He said around 200 Preserve Point Peron shirts would also show there was a majority opposed to the development.

The group's next public meeting will be on Saturday, January 28 at Naragebup.

PRIORITIES IGNORE SILENT MAJORITY

**Weekend Courier
17 February 2006**

RE: Article (Community, February 10) where the Conservation Council of WA welcomed the appointment of Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan as Minister for the Environment. Balancing the environment, social and economic factors is difficult. It is especially difficult in regard to the Cape Peron Tourist Development Proposal debate. In trying to balance the environmental factors associated with this proposal, it appears to me those involved have totally disregarded the abundance of well documented and publicly available information that details the compelling environmental reasons for us not to dig up Point Peron to build canals and a marina. We need to ask ourselves: "Will people 100 years from now thank us for this?" As for the social factors against the proposal, you need look no further than the luxury housing and the 500 bay car park needed for the marina and associated infrastructure. I believe the long-term economic values gained by developing the area for passive recreation is the most responsible option, and would be of benefit to the majority. We need to consider human values and not just dollars. It is of great concern to me that some proponents may be motivated by priorities not in keeping with the values of the somewhat silent majority. Either that, or they are out of touch. Let's hope Mark McGowan is in touch with the values of the wider community.

**Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay**

COUNCIL FOR 12 MEETINGS

**Weekend Courier
3 March 2006**

Rockingham City Council voted to have 12 councils meetings a year at this week's council meeting. Cr Phil Edman put up the motion following a 10-week annual council meeting break over the Christmas/New Year period. Cr Edman said committee and council meetings were held monthly from February to December each year. "With an increasing expansion of the city more time is needed for active approach in relation to processing matters for the community. With the current time lapse of approximately 10 weeks between December and February it is too long without meetings," he said. Councillors Deb Hamblin, Richard Smith and Brian Warner were three of five councillors who did not support the motion. Cr Hamblin said if councillors worked as well, they needed a decent break as there was a great deal of work involved in the position. Councillors Gerard Kettle, Phil Edman, Mal McFetridge, Ann Prince and Barry Sammels voted for the 12 meetings, with the vote tied at 5 -

SEASIDE HISTORY
 By Yvonne Thompson
 Weekend Courier
 10 March 2006

The Alfred Hines Seaside Camp for Children at Point Peron celebrates its 65th anniversary this year and plans have begun for an upgrade of the premises. But there is another project being put together that will make sure it remains an integral part of local history. Summers by the Seaside is a history of the Crippled Children's Seaside Home Society and the administrators of the Alfred Hines camp. Notre Dame University is compiling the history behalf of the society.

The camp is the only one in Point Peron that holds title to its land. All other camps are leased and might have to close some time in the future to make way for the Mangles Bay Marina. Accommodation for up to 150 people in dormitories of one to nine beds are available along with an art room, piano on stage, main hall for activities, a barbecue area, basketball court and beach access. School groups, sporting clubs, hobby clubs and parents of disabled children use the facilities all year round.

The camp came into being after World War II when a Fremantle businessman and councillor Alfred Hines offered a seaside camp for children from rural areas during difficult years. He wanted to offer wonderful summer holidays for children who might otherwise never see the ocean and who had few opportunities for recreation. Of equal importance was his wish to offer short respite from caring. And although he was the driving force it was not something Hines was able to accomplish on his own. He was helped by a small army of volunteers who ran the activities of the camp along with a matron and carers employed to supervise the health of each child. So great was the demand for the first camp that Hines' seaside holidays became an annual summer event. It was from this that the Crippled Children's Seaside

A MINEFIELD IS EVIDENT
 Weekend Courier
 10 March 2006

It seems only a few days have passed but in that short time Rockingham has changed from being a Labor stronghold to a political minefield. Yes, another high rise has been approved using "discretionary powers" by the council. If we want to complain about these discretionary powers, then the complaint must go to the Minister for Local Government who is also the Minister for Regional Development. There has to be a conflict of interest there.

Similarly, to complain about the Cape Peron Tourist proposal on environmental grounds, the complaint must go to our own Environmental Minister (Mark McGowan), the former Minister for Tourism. That must be a conflict of interest unless Mark is superhuman in his professionalism. Even if he is, the present Government, through Mark McGowan, will be hard pressed to give environmental approvals to the Desal plant No. 1, Desal Plant No. 2, Cape Peron Tourist Precinct, Ammarillo township (and swamp drainage). He will also need to pacify Stakehill Road occupants (the land grab and the coincidental limited building approvals just as the bulldozers went in to clear for road and rail access).

Lastly, he will need to answer to the Spud Shed's thousands of customers about the PMB's monopolistic stance on the matter of overpriced potatoes. Shush, don't mention sub stations, or Cooeloogup. Good luck Mark. You will need it. And not more so than at the next election.

*Dave Worth
 Safety Bay*

INFORM US
 Sound Telegraph
 15 March 2006

The proposed relocation and re-instatement of some 10,000 cubic metres of sand from Cape Peron to Mersey Point, then to be slurry pumped to Penguin Island, is considered a major mining project. Why has it not been the subject of broad public knowledge? This project will involve a minimum of about 500 to 1000 heavy truck movements traversing Arcadia Drive to a dump site at Mersey Point. Local residents have a right to know what provision by way of duty of care in traffic management has been provided for by the Rockingham City Council in this major infrastructure project.

Moreover, what about the destruction of the unique and fragile Mersey Point flora and fauna by the dumping of 10,000 cubic metres of sand upon it? This major infrastructure project begs the question, why weren't residents and ratepayers advised by Rockingham Council of this significant project and its impact upon us? Duty of care to the wider community and to the Mersey Point environment must be paramount in this project.

*G. Johnson
 Shoalwater*

SOUNDS PROBLEM ONGOING
 By Rachel Watts
 Weekend Courier
 17 March 2006

Cockburn Sound will be vulnerable to nutrients leaching into groundwater into the future, a Cockburn Sound Management Council study revealed last week. Council chairwoman Kateryna Longley said stormwater and industrial effluent had been well researched but not enough was known about the part groundwater played on the catchment. The management council recommended improved awareness of groundwater problems at development level and tighter industry licensing controls at both the local and state government levels.

A second report released by the council last week said much of the contamination of the Sound by paint additive tributyltin was because of historical use. Paints containing tributyltin were used on boat hulls to manage the growth of marine organisms and although the level of the chemical was low in Cockburn Sound, there were high concentrations near ship maintenance areas. Ms Longley said the report showed much of the contamination was because of use over many years. Paints that contained the chemical were already regulated at the state, national and international level ahead of its phasing out by 2008. She said the management council would work with stakeholders to develop strategies to manage the problems.

A summary paper and the full reports for both studies are available from <http://csmc.environment.wa.gov.au>.

NEW PUMP IN PIPELINE
 By Daniela Englmayr
 Sound Telegraph
 8 March 2006

Thirty mature trees will be removed from a reserve behind Seabrooke Avenue to make room for a second wastewater pumping main to keep up with Rockingham's population increases. Work is expected to start mid-year. The current Seabrooke Avenue pumping station transferring wastewater from Rockingham to Point Peron is operating at near capacity.

Environmental concerns led the Water Corporation to look for alternative routes even though the current easement around Lake Richmond is wide enough for a second pumping main. The corporation fears the rare thrombolites in Lake Richmond might be damaged in the case of waste water spills. Environmental impacts of removing the trees are considered less far reaching than the potential impact of a pipeline failure near Lake Richmond.

The new route for the second main will run about two metres underground along the reserve behind Seabrooke Avenue, then between the Star of the Sea primary school and Rockingham Senior High School and northwest to the Esplanade along Gregson, Quin, Langley and Florence streets. Careful construction techniques are expected to save another 21 trees in the way on the Seabrooke reserve. Two native trees will be planted in the reserve for every tree removed.

A more direct route for the pumping main along Park Street was considered but ruled out due to the impact it would have on traffic and access to properties along the street. City officers said the reserve was the only practical route. The exact location of the pumping main is still to be decided but is expected within the road verge close to the kerb, cutting through the parking bays north of the Esplanade. The council is considering employing a supervisor for the six-month works phase. The corporation has finished upgrading the wastewater pumping station on Seabrooke Avenue and emergency repairs of its delivery pumping main to the Point Peron wastewater treatment plant next to Lake Richmond.

PT PERON A PLACE OF FISH DREAMING

By Daniela Englmayr
Sound Telegraph
22 March 2006

Moorbirdup is the Aboriginal name for Cape Peron and one that is close to the hearts of Kwinana's Walley family. It is also the title of a proposed new information brochure on the location. Naramaya Aboriginal Corporation, headed by the Walleys, is sourcing money to research the area and produce the education tool. Trevor Walley said they wanted to research how the area related to the ancestral Aboriginal people's lifestyle. "The benefits of this project are recognising and appreciating the natural environment, the plants and animals and its Aboriginal names and exploring why Rockingham was important in the Aboriginal way of life," he said. Point Peron was significant to the Aboriginal people as ceremonial grounds, burial sites, spirit tracks and for fishing, hunting and camping. "Point Peron is a fish dreaming place," Mr Walley said. "If you look down on the point from the sky you can see a fish."

Bones from whales believed to have been stranded at the cape many years ago are the Walleys' reminder of an Aboriginal tradition they hope to keep alive. "When a whale was stranded, messages were sent to neighbouring tribes inviting them for a big feast," Mr Walley's sister Charmaine said. "It was a celebration of plenty, when there was enough to go around, everyone was invited." She said education tools were important, "but we want to preserve it but not see it exploited, we want to educate but also protect". Her mother Theresa said if children were taught young, they would respect the heritage when older. "Only then will they respect our culture and their culture, our land which is also their land," she said. "Children learn about other countries but don't know anything about their own backyard." Charmaine's sister Rose said discovering and learning of Point Peron's history was "like finding an irreplaceable treasure" and they were intent on protecting it.

The brochure would be distributed through schools and the Aboriginal centre.

MARINA WILL NOT BENEFIT MAJORITY

Weekend Courier
31 March 2006

RE: Article, "Plea on marina bid", Community, March 24. I would like to tell Les Dodd I am one of the silent majority who oppose the marina. Why? Well, in the initial stages some people will make money with kickbacks and when finished a few affluent Rockingham residents will moor their boats there. The majority of Rockingham residents will get no benefits at all from a marina. In fact, if the tourist trade should increase then the shop owners will increase their prices and the Rockingham residents will have to pay more.

Also with the increase in facilities the Rockingham Council will have more obligations to keep it clean, thus increasing our rates which we, the majority, would not approve of.

Michael Fairweather
Waikiki.

CONSULTATION WAS LACKING

Weekend Courier
31 March 2006

I wish to protest most vigorously about the lack of community consultation regarding the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct proposal. I would like to know why, after spending a considerable sum of taxpayers' money on a study to determine possible sites for a marina in Rockingham, the Marina Location Analysis Report wasn't made freely available to the public for the entire Rockingham community to comment on before Point Peron was chosen as the location? Surely, the ratepayers have the right for their views to be properly considered by our elected representatives at our local council. This development, if it goes ahead, will change the very nature of the Point Peron area, in addition to the massive environmental impacts it will have. The community consultation that the proponents of this development keep telling us has happened, didn't happen when it really counted.

We, as a community, need to speak up if we don't want this canal development to go ahead. We need to stop shrugging our shoulders and saying, "We don't want it but what can you do? The council always does what they want to." We need to ask ourselves, "Will people 100 years from now thank us for this?" I know I don't want my young son saying to me, "Mum, why didn't you do something?"

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

LACK OF SAY

Sound Telegraph
22 March 2006

I wish to protest most vigorously about the lack of community consultation regarding the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct proposal. I would like to know why after spending a considerable sum of taxpayers' money on a study to determine possible sites for a marina in Rockingham, the Marina Location Analysis Report wasn't made freely available to the public for the entire Rockingham community to comment on before Point Peron was chosen as the location? Surely the ratepayers have the right for their views to be properly considered by our elected representatives at our local council.

This development, if it goes ahead, will change the very nature of the Point Peron area, in addition to the massive environmental impact it will have. The community consultation that the proponents of this development keep telling us has happened, didn't happen when it really counted. We as a community need to speak up if we don't want this canal development to go ahead. We need to stop shrugging our shoulders and saying, "we don't want it but what can you do, the shire always does what they want to." We need to ask ourselves,

"Will people 100 years from now thank us for this?" I know I don't want my young son saying to me, "Mum why didn't you do something?"

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

QUESTIONS OVER MARINA REMAIN

Sound Telegraph
24 March 2006

RE: Article, "Project comment wanted" (Community, March 10), about the Mangles Bay Marina proposal. Once again, Mayor Sammels lays stress on the business and residential aspects supporting a 500 boat marina. Other obvious significant factors are: The report prepared by the private company, Strategem, is basically about Mangles Bay and Point Peron (it includes provision for 250 to 300 boats and not 500. Only two or three of the 150- plus pages were devoted to an alternative site on the 12 kilometre Rockingham coastline with the comment, "the review identified locations where a marina based development of some type could be considered in the future".

The development is on crown land and a large proportion disappears into private hands for residences, five-storey hotels, etc. Who receives the money for the sale of the land - the Government or the developer? The add ons to support the marina aspect, apart from residences, shops, etc, and included in Strategem's report cover: Aboriginal heritage sites, rehabilitation of vegetation on the point and rehabilitation of seagrass meadows. One can only wonder why remedial action has not been taken in the past 30 years to deal with these concerns because they have absolutely nothing to do with building a marina. Finally, because there are powerful forces in favour of the Mangles Bay Marina, such as Mayor Sammels, Chamber of Commerce, Cape Peron Steering Committee (the hundreds of boat owners are still missing somewhere), I hope there are many concerned citizens who have different points of view and would like to present them before April 4 to: The Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority, PO Box K822, Perth, 6824; Attention: Emme Glencross.

H. Balinski
Shoalwater

NEW SAND PLAN

Sound Telegraph
29 March 2006

A decision to transport sand from Point Peron to Penguin Island's eroded south beach has been reevaluated by the Conservation and Land Management Department after it identified major logistical problems. CALM marine conservation officer Ben Tannock said the project involved transporting about 10,000 cubic metres of sand from the Point Peron sand trap to Mersey Point, then pumping it across to Penguin Island to renourish and re-profile south beach. He said the beach had been severely eroded by storms and some of the buildings were under threat of collapse.

Work was expected to start in May and take up to three weeks. But the project was delayed after it was found Mersey Point was too restrictive for equipment, he said. "The beach area at Mersey Point was considered suitable for these works given that it did not impinge on the remnant coastal vegetation of the Mersey Point Reserve and the public were not affected," Mr Tannock said. "However, subsequent discussions between CALM and the contractors have indicated the area is too restrictive to mobilise the large land based plant and equipment." He said a floating plant would instead be used to do away with sand stockpiles at Mersey Point. It was hoped work would start in February next year and take about three weeks.

Public access to the sand bar linking Penguin Island to the mainland and Mersey Point boat ramp would be barred during the works.

**DESTRUCTIVE
Sound Telegraph
5 April 2006
Weekend Courier
7 April 2006**

This proposal to dig canals, clear extensive coastal bushland and privatise public coastal land is extremely undesirable. The Cape Peron area is an enormous asset to Rockingham and Perth due to its marvellous natural values and accessibility to all people. If there is a need to add to existing marina facilities in the Rockingham area then such facilities could be provided in other locations at far less environmental and economic cost. Unfortunately the push for Cape Peron to be the site for the marina would appear to be motivated by a desire to develop and sell prime public coastal land for profit, land which has to this point been out of bounds to developers.

This project would result in the loss of a big tract of prime bush land which is part of the Bush Forever land set aside by government. We cannot afford to lose this area. The project would also destroy public and semi public holiday and recreation facilities and replace them with private land and boat moorings, mostly for the wealthy. Canal developments of this type have proved to be very harmful in other locations. The loss of further sea grass should not be tolerated and it is unacceptable to jeopardise the water quality at the nearby swimming and fishing beaches at Point Peron, Palm Beach and Rockingham Beach.

*Ambrose Cummins
Rockingham*

**DOES ROCKINGHAM NEED A MARINA AND IF
SO, IS MANGLES BAY THE BEST SITE?**

**Sound Telegraph
5 April 2006**

Victor Beaumont, Orelia: Yes, there should be a marina in Rockingham and Mangles Bay is ideal because Point Peron isn't very good in terms of infrastructure.

Jacqueline Beaumont, Orelia: Rockingham needs a marina because it would be good for tourism.

Kevin Hume, Baldvis: I don't think Rockingham needs a marina at all, especially in Mangles Bay - it's a heritage and fishing hot spot. A marina would change the coastline, which should be left natural.

Emma Jones, Shoalwater: Maybe, but definitely not at Point Peron. That area is beautiful the way it is and a marina would change its natural assets.

MARINA OPPOSED

**By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
7 April 2006**

Safety Bay ward councillor Mal McFetridge says there is no compelling evidence for establishing a marina at Point Peron and calls boat owners who want it stupid for not checking moorings when heavy weather is expected. Cr McFetridge has put in a submission on the Strategic Environmental Review of the current proposal before the Environment Protection Authority. Submissions closed this week. He said that despite spending thousands of dollars on the proposal the environmental issues from previous failed proposals remained and there were question marks over the public consultation.

He cited the delayed presentation of an alternative marina locations study, the (possibility of) ingress of salt water to Lake Richmond, seagrass rehabilitation and the loss of up to 50 per cent of an important and unique metropolitan recreation area, as reasons for opposing the proposal. He also questioned the feasibility and viability of the project and asked what would be the net effect on the future use of Cape Peron as a low-impact, no-cost recreation area. "I oppose the canal development marina as the need has not been sufficiently demonstrated," he said. "The proposal is a result of a few stupid boat owners ignoring heavy weather warnings and not checking their moorings and heading for shelter."

SPEAK UP, WRITE IN

**Weekend Courier
31 March 2006**

Les Dodd (article, "Plea on marina bid", Community, March 24) is correct. We cannot afford to be complacent. For the first time ever I will write a submission to the Strategic Environmental Review. I don't want the big money to win. I would like to see Point Peron saved for all to see and enjoy. The people who make the decisions on such projects, the elected, must listen to us and really watch, read and listen, not just to the submissions sent in. There are people in positions of authority who are hell bent on seeing the marina project at Point Peron going ahead. Stop them, send them elsewhere with their marina project.

The silent majority is about to speak up and write.

*Bud Milne
Hillman*

The works are scheduled to start later this year and will continue in stages for approximately six months. Landowners will be advised well in advance and every effort will be made to minimise disruption. "We are working hard to limit the impacts to the community... domestic services will not be affected and the beach will not be closed at any time during construction," Mr Ilic said. A preliminary notice of works has been prepared describing the works and the proposed route. The community can comment on the proposal by obtaining a copy from the Water Corporation's Customer Inquiry Centre at John Tonkin Water Centre, 629 Newcastle Street, Leederville, or the Corporation's Perth Regional Office, 13 South Street, Cannington. Comment can be made until May 1 and sent to Project Manager Steve

COST IS STAGGERING

**Weekend Courier
14 April 2006**

I recently read an interesting article in another newspaper on Canal Living. The author highlighted that Mandurah's canal developments have provided a windfall for developers.

Lowlights are:

The CEO Shire of Murray indicated that despite attraction of the lifestyle offered by the canals there were also drawbacks, including the cost of removing silt, and challenges with acid sulphate soils.

The cost of dredging in 1999 was \$100,000, today expected to be \$500,000. This cost has been accepted as ratepayers' responsibility.

There were problems with canal wall construction and water quality.

There was no mention of Mandurah traffic problems.

So isn't the foregoing relevant to the Mangles Bay proposal?

A recent article "Canberra lends an ear" (Community, March 31) shows that Mayor Sammels on a trip to Canberra lobbied the Federal Minister for the Environment to write a letter of support for the Cape Peron marina. Also lobbied for was the \$30m needed to re-align the Garden Island causeway.

Is the State Government also going to be lobbied for the millions of dollars necessary to re-route the sewerage outlet pipe? In my view the cost to Government (taxpayers) of this project is assuming staggering proportions - and all based on behalf of 500 yet-to-be-found owners of big boats.

*H. Balinski
Shoalwater*

FADING MEMORIES

**Weekend Courier
14 April 2006**

The sun sets with a vista of colours across the water. At the end of the Palm Beach jetty a father watches his two young ones. They hold tightly to the ladder that descends to the water surface. They shriek with delight as a dolphin only a handspan away snorts a spray of water at them.

A pelican watches this play, also waiting like the dolphin is, for the nearby fishermen to release undersized catch. Suddenly, a small fish hits the surface and both pelican and dolphin dart off in whirlpool of splash. The dolphin returns to enchant the children having missed the feed. This played out for over half an hour. A camera would have produced images that would surely stop any further development of the marina debate.

I hope this scene will not become a memory, dismissed in a backwash of luxury canal homes, boats and ongoing dredging seen as progress elsewhere. Preserve Rockingham foreshore and Point Peron for people of all ages.

*S. Belohlawek
Rockingham*

MCGOWAN GAGGED

**By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
14 April 2006**

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels says he was surprised and a little concerned to learn that Environment Minister and Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan has stood aside from making any decisions on the proposed Mangles Bay Marina project. Mr McGowan's decision came after Greens MLC Giz Watson brought up the issue in the Upper House. Mr McGowan is chairman of the Rockingham Development Office task force, and as such, He could have a conflict of interest in the proposal as Minister for the Environment. The marina project is being co-ordinated by staff from the Rockingham Development Office. Ms Watson asked the minister representing the minister for the environment, Ljiljana Ravlich, if Mr McGowan would stand aside from any environmental decisions on the project and was told "yes".

Preserve Point Peron Group spokesman Bob Goodale said his group had lobbied the Greens on the issue. He said Mr McGowan did have a conflict of interest in the proposal and that his group was also discussing other issues that could be affected in a similar way. Cr Sammels said he was concerned "because when other proposals came before Mr McGowan would the same thing happen again?" "We have a great deal going on at the moment — Lark Hill development, the beachfront development, Bush Forever, the transit system... is he going to step aside on these projects too," he asked. "It's a long time since this region has been catered for by so many ministers — Peel MLA Norm Marlborough, Cockburn MLA Fran Logan, Mandurah MLA David Templeman as well as Mr McGowan: they all have the ability to use their positions to the best advantage of their electorates. "Every time their portfolios come up against something like this are they going to step aside too?" he asked.

Mr McGowan said he had no monetary interest in the project, but as chairman of the task force and a founding committee member of the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment he had a conflict of interest and had stood aside. "I did not want to resign from the task force," he said. "There are too many projects in the pipeline and I did not want to be excluded from them, but I do not own a single share in this proposal."

MCGOWAN STEPS ASIDE ON MARINA
 By Karina Graham
 Sound Telegraph
 19 April 2006

Environment Minister Mark McGowan will refrain from making decisions on the proposed Rockingham marina, saying his role as a lower house member would make his involvement inappropriate. "As Environment Minister I have stood aside from making any decisions, whether it be an approval or otherwise, of a marina in Rockingham," Mr McGowan said. The Rockingham MLA said his decision was based on his conflicting roles as a founding Committee member of Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre and co-chairman of the Rockingham Development Office taskforce. "How can I make a decision either way when the environment centre is opposed to the marina development, while the development office is promoting the concept?"

Mr McGowan's decision came after Greens MLC Giz Watson, while in the upper house, asked whether there was a conflict of interest between the minister's roles. "I have no financial or personal interest in the project - it was my own decision to stand aside," Mr McGowan said. "It would be inappropriate for me to be involved in the decision making process and to have an influence either way, considering my positions." Mr McGowan said it was not unusual for a minister to stand aside from decision making and that Judy Edwards, while Environment Minister, had also declined involvement in certain issues for similar reasons. He said it was "just a fact of life" that he was involved in Rockingham committees and also a lower house member.

GAG NO BARRIER: MCGOWAN
 By Yvonne Thompson
 Weekend Courier
 21 April 2006

Environment Minister and Rockingham MLA, Mark McGowan, says great projects will continue in Rockingham despite the fact that he had to stand aside from making any decision on the proposed Point Peron Marina because of a non-financial conflict of interest. Mr McGowan said his position as chairman of the Premier's Rockingham Taskforce and his role as a founding committee member of the Rockingham Environment Centre meant that any decision he made on the proposal would be perceived as being compromised.

Mr McGowan said his role as Environment Minister required him to make totally objective decisions and it would not be appropriate for him to remain involved in the Point Peron approval process considering the divergent views of the two groups. "However, I want it to be clear that the Point Peron project is a special case. My role as Environment Minister will not stop me pushing for progress in Rockingham," he said. "I will continue to advocate for the people of Rockingham in my role as a member of the State Government. "Comments by some local people that I am somehow compromised by my position as Environment Minister are totally unfounded," he said.

"Since 2001, the State Government has begun hundreds of millions of dollars worth of works in the Rockingham area, including the Rockingham railway, the City Centre Transit System, the \$92million redevelopment of the hospital and the beachfront redevelopment. "As well, more than \$6 million has been committed by the Government to the Lark Hill recreational and racing precinct. "As local member I will continue to push these projects forward and my role as Environment Minister will not hinder that. "There are no environmental issues involved with any of these projects as far as I am aware and therefore there is no problem with my ongoing involvement."

Mr McGowan said Rockingham was experiencing a golden period as a result of the State Government's strong economic management. He looked forward to continuing to be part of that, and to seeing the quality of life in Rockingham continue to improve.

SEEK WINDFALL ELSEWHERE
 Weekend Courier
 21 April 2006

Many ratepayers and members from our group would like to know why our council hasn't seen fit to inform the people of Rockingham of costs they will incur in their rates for a marina, if passed. I believe, to make an informed decision, all the facts should be made known, whether good or bad. Why is Mayor Sammels using ratepayers' money to go to Canberra to put forth his viewpoint, which is not the point of view of all Rockingham people? We thought his job was to represent the City of Rockingham. The people should not be expected to pay for a few wealthy canal dwellers wanting to have permanent access by continual dredging. This is not progress. The environmental damage has not been given a second thought. The WWII military emplacements should come under the heritage listing. It's well past time for State and local government to protect and maintain what is still there, while there is still time.

If Minister McGowan is to be gagged, the same should apply to the mayor and chairman of the SRG. It is Mr McGowan's job as Environment Minister to protect and maintain areas like Point Peron and especially Mangles Bay, as it is an important King George whiting breeding ground and should be preserved for future generations. There has been no consideration given to the Thrombolites at Lake Richmond. Our suggestion would be for the developers to seek their windfall elsewhere, where they won't interfere with the environment.

Annette Gade
 Conservation of Rockingham Environment

SO WHO DOES OWN SHARES?
 Weekend Courier
 21 April 2006

The headline "McGowan Gagged" (Community, April 14) is hardly correct in as much as there is a clear conflict of interest. It does not satisfy the whole condition since Mark McGowan remains in a position to influence the outcome both ministerially and as chairman of the Rockingham Development office taskforce (no resignation there). Barry Sammels' comments also leave much to be desired since he also is in a conflicting position as mayor of 90,000 people (whose proper interests have not been sought) and as chairman of the Point Peron Tourist Precinct Steering committee. The most concerning however is the final comment ascribed to Mr McGowan (he had no monetary interest in the project) and "I do not own a single share in this proposal", to which I ask: Well, who does own shares in this proposal?

D.A. Worth
 Safety Bay

SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER MARINA
 Weekend Courier
 21 April 2006

RE: Front-page article, "Plea on marina bid" (Community, March 28). Rockingham certainly does need a marina but does it need a canal-style development, which the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project is? And why at Point Peron when there are alternatives that would have a far less detrimental effect on the environment? A canal-style development would be for only a privileged few - just look at Mandurah. Point Peron is a regional park Bush Forever site. If a marina were to get the go-ahead, it would set a serious precedent for further development in other regional parks. Sure there are areas that are degraded but a lot of this is caused by weeds and rubbish from humans. A tree-planting project supervised by CALM would soon rectify this problem.

Lake Richmond's thrombolites are Australia Heritage listed and an area already critically endangered. What would be the outcome if seawater leached from the proposed canals into it and the exposure of acid sulphate soils from construction works caused contamination? It would be an environmental disaster. Then there is the traffic congestion that would be caused if this proposal were to go ahead. A five storey hotel, private residential and commercial sites in such a confined and sensitive area? These are just some of our concerns regarding this proposed development.

Robert and Margaret Edwards
 Shoalwater

SEA CHANGE COUNCILS UNITE FOR STRONG VOICE
Sound Telegraph
26 April 2006

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels has returned from a national conference confident that the voice of growing coastal communities is being heard. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released at the Sea Change 2006 conference show the 'sea change' trend continues to place severe pressure on coastal communities around Australia. Cr Sammels, who is executive treasurer of the National Sea Change Taskforce that organised the conference of coastal councils in Port Douglas, said the sea change movement was at a stage where outcomes were about to be realised. "Together sea change councils represent four million people in Australia with this kind of political influence we have been working hard in lobbying federal and state governments for funding, as well as working to compile the research that we need to strengthen our case," he said.

New population figures for the year ended June 2005 show growth rates in coastal Australia remain nearly 60 per cent higher than the national growth rate of 1.2 per cent. At the conference taskforce head Joe Natoli said coastal growth rates had remained at consistently high levels over the past three years. "There seems to be no end in sight to the shift of population to the coast," he said. "In fact the demographers are warning there is going to be a massive new surge of 'sea changers' as the baby boomers reach retirement at the end of this decade." Mr Natoli said the ABS figures showed coastal Australia had experienced the strongest growth outside the capital cities and was particularly strong in Western Australia.

WA coastal councils recorded average growth of 3.7 per cent, more than three times the national average. "As a nation we need to find the political will to address this issue before the coastal environment that Australians love so much is overwhelmed by the scale of growth and development that is occurring there," Mr Natoli said.

MARINA CONCERNS
Sound Telegraph
26 April 2006

Many rate payers and members from our group Conservation of Rockingham Environment would like to know why our council hasn't seen fit to inform the people of Rockingham of costs they will incur in their rates for a marina, if passed. I believe to make an informed decision all the facts should be made known.

Why is Mayor Sammels using ratepayers' money to go to Canberra to put forth his viewpoint which is not the point of view of all Rockingham people? We thought his job was to represent the City of Rockingham. The people should not be expected to pay for the fancy of a few wealthy canal dwellers wanting to have permanent access by continual dredging. The environmental damage has not been given a second thought in regard to Point Peron not being pristine. Again this comes back on the council.

The WW II military emplacements should come under heritage listing. It's well past time for state and local government to protect and maintain what is still there, while there is time. It is Mr McGowan's job as environment minister to protect and maintain areas like Point Peron and especially Mangles Bay as it is an important King George whiting breeding ground and should be preserved for future generations. There has been no consideration given to the thrombolites at Lake Richmond which are also protected. Our suggestion would be for the developers to seek their windfall elsewhere, where they won't interfere with the environment.

*Annette Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment*

NEGLECT: ONUS IS ON BOAT OWNERS
Weekend Courier
28 April 2006

There has been some recent debate as to how each boat washed ashore during the Rockingham mid 2003 and 2004 storms. A few were unfortunate enough to be affected by another unsecured vessel but several were in a serious state of neglect with respect to the vessel hull and, or the mooring line. I have been a moored boat owner and am aware of the risks, having experienced a beaching myself. Several boats had bottoms fouled with barnacles and weed, and evidence of mooring rope fraying and snapping and loss of the bottom chain shackle due to neglect. I have several photos of some boats lying on the beach.

There are basic maintenance factors each owner is responsible to check regularly on open moorings. Boat owners who moor in Mangles are in ignorance if they do not recognise this is not a guaranteed safe mooring. They should be aware that the storm period occurs very soon and suddenly during May and June in combination with high tides. It's interesting, though, to see the number of vessels in Mangles Bay seems to have nearly doubled over a couple of years despite the risk, perhaps queuing to get into the marina channel if it is made. Many others and I hope this never happens and that boat owners become responsible for their actions and not rely on massive changes to the natural and social environment by constructing yet another banal, bland and alienating marina on Point Peron.

*Roger Plush
Palm Beach*

POETIC RESPONSE
Sound Telegraph
3 May 2006

What poor Sonny Rolfe wants, I bet,
Is to board his boat and not get wet.
So in true plutocratic form,
Wants the sea delivered to his dorm.
Or looking out from balcony grand,
wants to poison the sea,
and rape the land.
And then not wishing to pay for that,
would set a mackerel to catch a sprat.
With free temporary fishing jaunts,
to entice lubbers from usual haunts.
But moving prose cannot reverse,
move your house,
move your wallet,
move your ****.

A Peron marina ain't good for Rockingham.

*DA Worth
Safety Bay*

GUIDELINES OVER CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Weekend Courier
12 May 2006

Four State government agencies have produced a set of guidelines for managing conflicts of interest. The guide has been produced by the Integrity Co-ordinating Group, which comprises the Corruption and Crime Commissioner, the Auditor General, the Public Sector Standards Commissioner and the State Ombudsman. State Ombudsman Deirdre O'Donnell said almost all functions performed in the public sector could lead to a conflict of interest. "It is critical to identify and manage those situations to avoid a situation of, or perception of, corruption or misconduct. "The community has a right to expect that public officials at all levels perform their duties in a fair and unbiased way and that their decisions are not affected by their personal interests." She said examples of conflicts of interest covered in the guidelines included:

- Managing procurement processes, tenders and contracts.
- Sponsorship from the private sector.
- Taking on dual roles as a public officer.
- Representative members on boards and committees.
- Allocation of grants for community based services.
- Gifts, benefits and hospitality.
- Recruitment, selection and appointment.
- Secondary employment.

The guidelines are being sent to ministers and 150 State Government agencies. Universities and local government will also receive copies. They can also be downloaded at www.opssc.wa.gov.au/icg.

MARINA COULD BE BUILT ELSEWHERE
Weekend Courier
12 May 2006

I have to take issue with some of the comments Allan Hill made regarding the marina (letter, Community May 5). First Allan states the SER puts direct and indirect economic benefits of the marina at \$515 million. He states this is based on the success of similar models. You cannot base the success of a Cape Peron marina on any other marina project as there are far too many variables to compare, location, predicted usage, links with other infrastructure, etc. This is a real failing of the SER as there is no economic or social impact study for a Cape Peron Marina.

The SER also fails to present an offset argument to consider the benefits of developing the Cape into a recreational reserve which, I believe, is part of any triple bottom line assessment, looking at the negative environmental aspects of a development. He creates a relationship between wealthy people moving into Rockingham and job creation, an illogical assumption. What we need to do is get Landcorp to develop the IP14 area north of Rockingham, creating the environment for the job growth Allan calls for.

About 80 per cent of the people buying apartments in the high rises on the beachfront are Rockingham people over 50. Two councillors who fit this category own four between them. One is an ordinary working bloke and the other runs a family business, demonstrating that people buying in the marina-canal development might not produce the jobs Allan says we need.

Cape Peron is and will be an important natural low cost recreational area for thousands of West Australians and could become another Kings Park. A marina can be built elsewhere. Once we dig big holes in the Cape it's gone forever.

HAVE A SAY ON COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

**Sound Telegraph
17 May 2006**

A Wambro resident is encouraging others to share their views on Rockingham's coastal environmental online. Warwick Hughes began the web log rockiecoast.wordpress.com as an interactive forum for readers to have a say and leave comments, all with the aim of promoting the protection of the public coast. Mr Hughes said his opposition to the proposed second desalination plant in Rockingham and Cape Peron project proposals inspired the site.

Interested residents and groups can log on and have their say.

CALL FOR FURTHER MARINA DEBATE

**Weekend Courier
12 May 2006**

The Mangles Bay Marina debate is getting really tedious, with both sides claiming they represent the silent majority, while the other side is composed of a more vocal minority. Could your paper organise a public referendum or some other contest so we can all put the matter to rest and put an end to the bickering and recriminations? I am opposed to the marina project, feeling it will be yet another money grab by developers who, unfortunately, see their pockets as more important than the welfare of the area. But I would like to see the end to the debate, whether "yes" or "no". Let's do it and then we can get on with our lives.

**Gerald Merven
Rockingham**

Editor's Note: It would be up to Rockingham City Council or the Rockingham Development Office to organise any such debate. Weekend Courier would be happy to report on the initiative and its outcome.

NOT HAPPY
Sound Telegraph
17 May 2006

With respect to the beachfront toilets, would ratepayers spend (2005 prices) \$2250 on each hand basin, \$2750 on each toilet and cistern, \$1500 on each shower? To go on, \$89,000 on the concrete roof, \$15,000 on a few lights and power points, \$200 for each mirror and \$150 on each soap dispenser. Wait, there's more - \$200 for each paper towel dispenser, \$100 for each toilet roll holder and \$500 for each bin and I could go on.

Rockingham City Council voted in April to spend this money. These prices are quoted from a letter sent to the council on May 26, 2005 by the consultants. If you're happy, I'm definitely not. Your rates are being squandered and it is about time people started to ask the hard questions of this council. I think now you might realise why I am trying so hard to get the committees of council opened.

Mal McFetridge
Rockingham

HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS CONCERN
Sound Telegraph
24 May 2006

Rockingham City Council is working to improve storm water discharge in the city's older coastal suburbs after the alarm bells were rung over the amount of bacteria contamination off the shore. City officers plan to immediately improve storm water drains at Rockingham Beach which was given a "red card: immediate action required" tag, and progressively improve drains in Palm Beach, Shoalwater, Safety Bay and Waikiki. Testing of 65 metropolitan beaches from Two Rocks in the north to Singleton in the south showed high levels of bacteria at a number of drainage outlets along Rockingham Beach, Palm Beach and Safety Bay. The results will form part of a proposed beach rating system for the metropolitan area when the final Health Department report is released in the next few months.

The Health Department findings confirm weekly water sampling by the council that was implemented after summer monitoring by the department showed bacteria contamination higher than recommended for swimming over the past four years. The results were worst after high rainfall, particularly the first heavy downpour after a long dry period. "These initial results for a number of Rockingham beaches are of concern and must be closely monitored and if required, remedial action taken," a report to the council said. The report said the findings "should not give rise to any immediate health concerns".

Changes already made by the council include diverting stormwater at Palm Beach into Rotary Park for natural nutrient stripping, reconstructing Bungaree Lake and improving the main drain that feeds into Cockburn Sound from Lake Richmond, improving drainage at the CBH grain terminal and educating residents on how their day-to-day activities can reduce impact. A new planning policy also requires any new development to minimise contamination of the sound through stormwater run-off and infiltration into groundwater.

WASTE OF MONEY
Sound Telegraph
24 May 2006

I could not agree more with Mal McFetridge's letter (Sound Telegraph May 17) where he expressed concerns about our rates being squandered. The council seems to be quite happy to accept our rates but doesn't want us to know what our money is being spent on. What is happening in this council? Shouldn't we be allowed the opportunity to provide feedback on what they presumably believe we all want? Correct me if I am wrong but aren't our local councillors supposed to be acting in the best interests of, and representing the views of, the entire community? The State and Federal governments must believe they are representing our views or they wouldn't have provided taxpayers' money that was added to local council money which totalled about \$500,00 or thereabouts to fund the push for the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project. I believe this money was wasted on the proposal for a marina in the wrong location for Rockingham. Let's not forget that the Marina Location Analysis Report was not made available for the public to comment on before Point Peron was chosen as the location. The consequence of this closed committee meeting was more squandering of tax/ratepayers' money.

Open council committee meetings would have helped to head off this ill-considered project before this \$500,000 of our money was wasted if the weight of community opposition to the digging up of Point Peron to build canals/marina and five storey hotels apartments is anything to go by. Let's get behind those who believe in accountability in local government.

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

WATER GUIDELINES BREACHED
Weekend Courier
26 May 2006

Ocean water sampling off Rockingham Beach, Palm Beach and Mangles Bay after heavy rains revealed that on two occasions the water slightly exceeded health guidelines for thermotolerant coliforms and enterococci. Thermotolerant coliforms are nutrient organisms; animal, human or bird faeces can cause enterococci. Both are usually flushed out of stormwater drains into the ocean after the first heavy rains of the year. A report to the council from a Rockingham City Council health officer said further sampling was carried out and the results were within guidelines, except at Palm Beach. "Once again these samples were taken after consistent rainfall over Anzac Day, although only Palm Beach was (then) outside guidelines, all other locations were higher than normal," the report said. Fortnightly sampling of Rockingham Beach and Palm Beach will continue.

At this week's council meeting the council agreed to carry out work on stormwater drains in the more developed beachfront areas of Rockingham. These include Rockingham Beach, Palm Beach, Safety Bay and Waikiki. At the meeting, the council noted the preliminary findings of current water quality studies and the indications that stormwater discharge was a primary source of nutrients and bacteriological contamination along the coastline. It also agreed to continue working with the State Government and the Swan Catchment Council. The council will now prepare a long term strategy for the improvement of coastal stormwater drains in the effected suburbs that builds on existing work and initiatives already carried out.

A budget allocation of \$150,000 will be made for immediate improvements and additional funding will be sought from the Government and the catchment council.

CALL FOR CHANGE OF ROUTE
By Daniela Englmayr
Sound Telegraph
31 May 2006

Palm Beach residents have formed an action group to fight a proposed pumping station transferring wastewater from Rockingham to Point Peron. The sewage pipeline from Seabrooke Avenue to the Point Peron wastewater treatment plant is operating at near capacity and needs to be duplicated to keep up with the city's surging population. Environmental concerns led the Water Corporation to look for alternative routes even though the easement around Lake Richmond is wide enough for a second pumping main. The corporation and the Environment Department fear damage to the rare thrombolites in Lake Richmond in the event of wastewater spills.

But the Palm Beach Ratepayers Action Group wants the corporation to reconsider the Lake Richmond route that would bypass most of the suburb's homes. Their protest has already prompted the project to be delayed until March 2007 to bypass the busy summer holiday period. The corporation's preferred route along the Mangles Bay foreshore would affect several hundred homes, family swimming areas, jetties and boat ramps. It would run along The Esplanade, Gregson, Quin, Langley and Florence streets, past Rockingham Senior High School and Star of the Sea Primary School.

Action group head Bruce Cairns said its preferred route along the Garden Island highway reserve, down Boundary Road, Lease Road and Memorial; Drive followed largely undeveloped land. "This route would be shorter, safer and much less disruptive to local residents, motorists and visitors to the region," Mr Cairns said. "This should save taxpayers many thousands of dollars in installation costs initially and more if the marina goes ahead." But Water Corporation spokesman Phil Kneebone said the route preferred by the action group would not get environmental approval. Mr Kneebone said work on the Lake Richmond route would not affect beach access, Rotary Park, the boat ramp, public toilets or Fenian's Escape memorial site.

Bypass cycle paths would be installed if any existing paths were affected. Alternative parking would also be provided. Rockingham City Council is considering employing a supervisor for the six-month work phase to begin on March 15 next year.

HAVE A SAY ON COASTAL ENVIRONMENT
Sound Telegraph
17 May 2006

A Warnbro resident is encouraging others to share their views on Rockingham's coastal environment online. Warwick Hughes began the web log rockiecoast.wordpress.com as an interactive forum for readers to have a say and leave comments, all with the aim of promoting the protection of the public coast. Mr Hughes said his opposition to the proposed second desalination plant in Rockingham and Cape Peron project proposals inspired the site.

Interested residents and groups can log on and have their say.

CANAL BENEFITS ARE 'HYPE'
Weekend Courier
7 July 2006

Warwick Hughes' letter (Community, June 30) outlines the omissions from the article "Backing for marina" (Community, June 16). What also requires delineation for the community is how this project, be it canal development or, as touted, the "Cape Peron Tourist Precinct", is going to provide the economic benefits Mayor Sammels and others claim will flow to the community.

To illustrate the benefits of a marina development, Mandurah is often held up as the sort of commercial Utopia that accompanies canal development, with or without a marina. However, a recent edition of a financial publication described the Australian beach front as being a lock out situation for all except the seriously rich. It also reported Mandurah Mayor Paddi Creevey as saying the effects of that town's rapid growth and increases in value did not trickle down. He said one of the biggest problems for the town was lack of job creation opportunities (although one of the main employment bases of the population is tourism).

So, despite the hype, Mandurah appears to be still struggling with job creation and affordable accommodation, despite its lavish marina/canal development. Rockingham, like Mandurah, has developed from a working man's town to one divided by Parkin Street into a coastal strip for the wealthy, and the other side for those who still struggle to meet mortgage and rates costs. I hope, then, that along with the environmental review of the Cape Peron marina-canal proposal there will also be an independent economic and sociological review that will take into account the impact of creating another beachfront enclave that will do little to assist the rest of the community.

*Janet Adams
Rockingham*

CITY TO JOIN GREEN COUNCIL
Weekend Courier
14 July 2006

Rockingham council will spend more than \$1500 to be part of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. Council approved the decision at its June meeting. The officer's report said the city had already been involved with the council through its Cities for Climate Protection program. The report said the relationship had been a positive one and the program had been of benefit to the city in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. The main benefit of full membership to the council would be technical support and information to support environmental and sustainability initiatives. Council decided to join as a full member for an initial two years.

BOATING FACILITIES A FREE RIDER
Weekend Courier
2 June 2006

It looks likely that Rockingham will get a marina and when the numbers are examined the boating facilities will, in large part, be paid for as a free rider on the easily generated profits from millionaire canal housing. Sadly, it is also certain the heritage of coastal Crown Land that was set aside by the State's pioneers, and which we hold in trust for all future generations, will be reduced by developing this "Tourist Precinct". So, the reality is in the midst of the greatest prosperity in our history, we choose to sell part of the public coastal access rights of future generations, in return for the pittance of not having to properly fund a boat harbour on the Sound. Is this a disgrace or what?

*Warwick Hughes
Warnbro*

PRESERVE NATURE
Sound Telegraph
14 June 2006

Readers who value Point Peron as a nature reserve have a chance to do something practical about it. On Saturday from 11.30am there will be a nature walk and Point Peron (Inc.) and CALM. All you need to bring are gardening gloves, water and a wish. Phone 9591 3077 to confirm your attendance.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

PLAN TO PROTECT HABITAT
Sound Courier
26 July 2006

A draft management plan to protect the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park for future generations was released for public comment at the weekend. But Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre convenor Bob Goodale said it did go far enough to address important issues. He urged people who enjoyed fishing and the marine environment to have their say before the public comment period closed on October 27.

Environment Minister Mark McGowan said the plan recommended sanctuary zones at three separate sites throughout the marine park, ensuring no commercial or recreational fishing could take place in 6 per cent of the total park area.

Comment was also being sought on a further sanctuary zone in the waters adjacent to Point Peron in addition to those recommended in the draft plan. Mr Goodale said Naragebup was pleased the plan had been released for public comment. "It has been more than 10 years in the making but still has not addressed the important need for sanctuary zones other than a few dotted lines around some of the islands and reefs," he said. "There is scientific evidence that such small areas will have no impact on fish numbers and does not represent a balanced cross section of habitat. We have the golden opportunity here to have an easily defined No Take Sanctuary Zone by making the whole of Shoalwater Bay this zone. "Also jet skis, water skiing and spear fishing should be removed.

Current licensed commercial rock lobster fishermen could be allowed to continue, as would amateur line fishing. "There would very soon be an increase of marine life and this would support our rare sea lions and penguins as well as our local tourist industry. The spin-off is more fish for all." Mr Goodale said no take zones were already an important part of marine management in other parts of Australia, and New Zealand and the Philippines were getting great results in terms of increased future fish stocks. He recommended the public comment period should address this sanctuary zone issue. "It should also be a time for the community to oppose the proposed tourist canal development at Point Peron and the Desalination 2 plant at Port Kennedy, both of which will have damaging and long-term implications for our Marine Park environment," he said.

Mr McGowan said the main strategies recommended for the management of the marine park included education of park users, patrol and enforcement, research, monitoring, public participation and zoning for conservation, recreation and commercial uses. The strategies would help ensure the long-term protection of important marine habitats and the biodiversity of marine plants and animals in the reserve. He said the community had been highly involved in the development of the plan through the release of an earlier draft plan, community meetings and workshops and a community-based focus group.

MARINA FACTS 'CONCEALED'
Weekend Courier
30 June 2006

Your June 16 page 7 article, "Backing for marina" quoting Rockingham Mayor Sammels is fascinating for what our mayor fails to say. Nowhere does he mention the standout feature of this project, that it is first and project. Without the profits from the canal housing there is no way the marina side of the project could possibly pay its way. This proposed project has been bedevilled by misleading statements from the outset. Naming it Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project is grossly misleading when the concept is number one, two and three a millionaire canal housing project with a marina making cheap use of the canals primarily built for housing.

But, hang on, it gets worse. The February 2006 Stratagen report for the Government promoting this project, "Strategic Environmental Review, Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project" presents graphics detailing shoreline accretion and erosion over the past 50 years from John Point eastwards to the BP Jetty, but amazingly ignores the south western side of the Cape Peron peninsula. Aerial photographs reveal there has been about 30 metres of erosion on the beach south west of Water Corporation in 1984 to 2004. If this erosion continues, the beach could be threatening Point Peron Road around 2030. We have a plethora of Government departments such as, CALM, DoE, EPA, Land Corp involved with the administration of this land and the proposed project, yet these vital and elementary coastal observations have remained concealed. Is this a disgrace or what?

*Warwick Hughes
Warnbro*

MARINE PARK IS TOO SMALL

Weekend Courier
28 July 2006

Naragebup convener Bob Goodale says the draft management plan for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park does not deal with the important need for sanctuary zones other than a few dotted lines around some islands and reefs. Environment Minister Mark McGowan released the draft management plan for the marine park last weekend. Mr Goodale said the Rockingham Naragebup Regional Environment Centre was pleased to see the draft plan released for public comment. He said it was more than 10 years in the making and there was scientific evidence that such small areas set aside for sanctuaries would not affect fish numbers and did not represent a balanced cross-section of habitat. "We have the golden opportunity here to have an easily defined 'no take' sanctuary zone by making the whole of Shoalwater Bay this zone," he said. "Also jet-skis, water skiing and spear fishing should be removed. Licensed commercial rock lobster fishermen (a sustainable fisheries industry) could be allowed to continue as would amateur line fishing. "There would very soon be an increase of marine life and this would support our rare sea lions and penguins, as well as our local tourist industry. The spin-off is more fish for all." Mr Goodale said the "no take" zones were already an important part of marine management in other parts of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines and were achieving great results in increased future fish stocks.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKES

Sound Telegraph
2 August 2006

Conservation minded groups have joined forces to form a new group called Friends of Rockingham Lakes. The existing Friends of Paganoni group formed the group with the assistance of Men of The Trees, Wildflower Society, Naragebup Environment Centre, the Department of Environment and Conservation and volunteers. Friends of Rockingham Lakes will concentrate on bushland restoration, rehabilitation and weed control in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, which is co-managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation and Rockingham City Council. The park includes Lake Cooloongup, Paganoni Swamp and Point Peron and is considered a regionally significant area of great conservation and heritage value. The group plans to run a number of activities such as "night stalks", fungi walks, bird watching and weed control.

COUNCIL IS SERVANT OF RATEPAYERS

Weekend Courier
4 August 2006

N. Dodson is frustrated by our council's inertia, and asks what has to be done to get a response (letter, Community, July 16). In a nutshell, you have to beat them over the head with phone calls, letters, and more phone calls, and more letters. You don't let up because, if you do, your query-complaint-request goes straight in the bin, never to be seen again. If you have patience, stubbornness and assertiveness to persevere, after six months or so you may receive a visit, to see what this amazingly persistent person looks like. In the wake of this happening, you may actually find something is done about your demand-request-query-complaint.

I have been told, off the record, this is an unwritten policy, undoubtedly aimed at weeding out the requests-complaints etc that are not sufficiently deeply desired. All I can say is I practised this series of actions for a good six months and did eventually get a result. Why the council considers it defensible to put its citizens through such difficulty, is one of those questions much like, "What is the meaning of life?" Maybe it is time to cause council to rethink its policy of ignoring us, by actively monitoring council's work, and insisting meetings be open to the public; that ratepayers' requests are not fobbed off with misinformation, and that reasonable demands and suggestions be put into practice. The council is the servant of the ratepayers, not the other way round. If we don't make this clear to our servants, we have only ourselves to blame. Think on it.

Carolyn Janson
Rockingham

PENGUIN WORRY EXAMINED

Weekend Courier
11 August 2006

Possible threats to Rockingham's little penguins were examined at a workshop at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre earlier this week. The waters adjacent to the City of Rockingham support an isolated population of little penguins of high conservation, social and economic value. But, the population is becoming increasingly subjected to threats from development pressures created by an ever-expanding Perth metropolitan area. Nic Dunlop from the environment centre said the long-term future of the little penguin population was problematic, particularly with potential changes to the marine environment. "Proposed developments include a boat ramp and jetty facility at Port Kennedy, an inland marina on Point Peron, a desalination intake and discharge pipe in Comet Bay," he said. "Already introduced is industrial wastewater into the Sepia Depression outfall and there is the possibility of a metropolitan white-bait purse-seine fishery all adds to the existing pressures." "It is hoped this workshop stimulated the development of partnerships for the future research, monitoring and management

WATER QUALITY IN SOUND DOOMED

By Rachel Watts
Weekend Courier
11 August 2006

Water quality in Cockburn Sound can be forgotten about if all the proposed developments go ahead in the area, according to UWA coastal oceanographer Chari Patriarchi. In response to claims Fremantle Ports' proposed outer harbour would lead to poor water quality for the desalination plant, Professor Patriarchi said the cumulative effects would restrict the water to industrial purposes only. He said the harbour, desalination plant and two power stations among other industrial uses of the coast line would all damage the water quality. "If all of these go ahead, basically you're going to have to classify the water as an industrial area and forget about the environment," he said. "Of course it's going to have a huge affect on water quality."

However, Kwinana Industries Council director Tonia Swetman said the water quality in the Sound could be preserved and industry would work with regulators to limit its affect on water quality. "That's why we have groups like the Cockburn Sound Management Council and the Environmental Protection Authority to use scientific rigour and address all of the community's concerns," she said.

A consultant's report on the desalination plant last week recommended extending intake pipe to avoid pollution from the Sound. Water Corporation spokesman Phil Kneebone said the desalination plant was set to start in November and any problems with the outer harbour would not be known until detailed environmental planning for that proposal was done. "We are aware that there is still a long lead time to when construction would actually begin but until we see detailed plans, which will not be available for some time, we are not in a position to determine what the impacts would be, if any," he said.

Professor Patriarchi said he had always had concerns about the plans for the desalination plant in the Sound and with each additional proposal his fears grew. He said the Water Corporation's own plans were contradictory in that the intake and outfall pipes would be into the same water body. "You can't have it both ways, you can't discharge into the Sound and still get clean water for desalination," he said.

TOUGH CONTROL ON SOUND

By Daniela Englmayr
Sound Telegraph
23 August 2006

The State Government has defended claims that not enough money is being poured into researching the health of Cockburn Sound.

Acclaimed oceanographer Chari Pattiaratchi, arguing for more resources, said the Cockburn Sound Management Council did not have the money to properly study whether the Sound could handle more projects, such as the desalination plant and an island port. "A few million dollars" were needed for a good monitoring system and a comprehensive study to look at the projects in context with each other, the Professor said. "I'm not saying it has reached saturation point, but it is definitely in a delicate balance and we've just been looking at individual effects of various projects rather than the holistic effect," he said. "It's dangerous to go ahead with anything before such a study is done, that is taking too big a risk."

Environment Minister Mark McGowan said there were already nine Government and industry programs monitoring the Sound. "It is no secret that the health of the Sound has suffered due to past unsustainable practices," Mr McGowan said. "However, over the past 20 years, successive Governments have put in place very stringent environmental conditions and approvals processes to protect the Sound from any further deterioration. "Any proposals for future uses are subject to stringent environmental impact assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority."

The Cockburn Sound Management Council was set up in 2000 to monitor and provide advice on the health of the Sound, which is WA's most intensively used marine environment.

MARINA CLAIMS REFUTED

By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
25 August 2006

Claims by the Preserve Point group chairman Bob Goodale that overwhelming resistance to the Mangles Bay marina based tourist development has resulted in the EPA extending the deadline so it can thoroughly consider the matter have been refuted by the EPA. Mr Goodale said he had personally checked the situation with the Environmental Protection Authority about public submissions on the Cape Peron Tourism Precinct proposal. However, according to an EPA spokesman there has been no delay in the process. "We have just received the proposal from the proponent and will be putting together a response for the end of September/beginning of October. The process is proceeding as it should," he said. Mr Goodale said the EPA received about 180 individual and agency submissions in relation to the strategic advice it was preparing on the proposal for State Cabinet. He said 74 submissions supported the proposal, of those 20 were from government agencies, many of whom said the project was "fatally flawed" or had major faults and there were 86 substantial submissions against the proposal. "Originally scheduled to deliver its verdict by August 11, the EPA is still waiting for a report on the issues raised in the submissions from the Rockingham Development Office," he said. "The EPA's strategic advice cannot be completed until it has received that response." Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project steering committee's formal response to the public comments received during the Strategic Environmental Review process had been finalised. He said they had been submitted to the EPA on August 15.

SUBMISSIONS

73 individual submissions supported the proposal.

86 individual submissions were against it.

258 pro-forma submissions were in favour.

3 submissions were neither for nor against.

20 government or stakeholder submissions were received.

WHAT ABOUT A PARK
Sound Telegraph
30 August 2006

I would like to lodge my protest regarding the proposed marina at Point Peron. It is about time Rockingham City Council and the developers gave something back to the people who put them there. Slicing up the land for a few idle rich yachties, who can afford yachts but not a decent anchor, and the millionaires, will only benefit the wealthy. The council has repeatedly ignored the general population of Rockingham with its high-rise buildings on the waterfront, that ridiculous council building, (something out of the Sahara) and the Long Point fiasco. What did I get out of this? I recently visited Kings Park, for the umpteenth time, and last weekend revisited Yanchep National Park. What about turning the whole Point Peron area into recreational parkland? It is an ideal location for a decent boat ramp, picnic areas, barbecues, nature walks, convention centre, school camps, the odd kiosk, maybe a restaurant set among natural bushland. As are Kings Park and Yanchep. Maybe even turn the whole area into an A-grade sanctuary. We have one of the few, if only areas in Australia, where you can wander around and see seals, penguins, dolphins, ospreys, etc. Everybody benefits, the tourist industry, local business people, and most importantly your constituents. And you want to turn this into another Mandurah. Can we please have an alternative project to the proposed marina project to benefit us all?

L. Liddiard
Safety Bay

CONCERN FOR SEA GRASS
Weekend Courier
15 September 2006

Residents are concerned dredging by Cockburn Cement is destroying sea grass and marine life in Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage. Greens MLC Giz Watson raised the matter in Parliament last month after she received a report from a resident that claimed Cockburn Cement had carried out environmentally damaging dredging operations in the past 20 months. The report claimed plantations had been "wiped out forever". Ms Watson's questions, which included whether Cockburn Cement had increased its dredging and where, were put on notice. She said it had been worth asking the questions in Parliament, whether the concerns were valid or not. Cockburn Cement executive general manager Martin Brydon said the company had complied with the terms and conditions set out in the State Government Agreement Act, issued in July 2002 by the Minister of Environment. However, Coogee resident Bob Poole said all dredging was a "no no" and the seagrass was "just about gone". The 81 year old said he had started fishing in Owen Anchorage when he was 12 and was concerned about how it had deteriorated. At the Cockburn Sound Management Council's annual meeting in Fremantle last month, Mr Poole asked the council to investigate how much shell sand was being taken by Cockburn Cement. Council chairwoman Professor Kateryna Longley said it had forwarded Mr Poole's verbal request to the Department of Environment and Conservation's Environmental Audit Section.

NOT ASKED
Sound Courier
4 October 2006

NO independent poll phoned me about the Point Peron land grab. It seems like another bogie push by the mob who wants to make a quid out of the marina. We will not go away, so drop off your phoney polls.

Majority percentage?

R. McKenzie
Rockingham

KEEP THIS SHOALWATER PARADISE
AS IT IS
Weekend Courier
6 October 2006

I have lived in Shoalwater for my whole life off and on. Like most of us, I was guilty of taking this fantastic environment for granted. Indeed, it is only now that money is being made from environmental tourism, that people realise we are lucky to live in one of the most wonderful places on Earth. Visitors from all over the world come to swim with the dolphins, kayak with the sea lions, wonder at the little penguins, and experience the best snorkelling in the metro area. We have migratory birds nesting on our islands and share the ocean with some fascinating creatures. Because of the efforts of people who created the environment centre, we also have some of our wetlands left as Lake Richmond.

My children and I love to walk around the lake and spot long necked tortoises in the side channels, and frogs, pelicans, ducks, purple swamp hens, even the occasional osprey on the lake itself. If you look at a photo of our area from space you can see that this block of land from Lake Richmond to Point Peron is the only green patch left. Come on Rockingham let's not take where we live for granted. Let's make our area really special. If developers get their way and are allowed to dig canals for rich yacht owners and foreign investors, we will be losing something that will become just as precious to us as our marine environment has become.

Imagine nature trails, picnic areas and historical World War II walks. This will act as a protective buffer, and complement the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park that is right next to the proposed development area. The debate has gone silent, and it is scaring me that those who will profit from this development may be trying to sneak it through. If you want to help, I am sure that the people at the Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre will have some advice.

Susan Di Mambro
Shoalwater

ROCKINGHAM PARADISE LOST?
Weekend Courier
13 October 2006

Standing in the shady of the magnificent tuart trees of Rockingham foreshore (the only such park in all of Perth), I wondered what the view would be like from the top of the apartments. What would it be like in the future? Could I see the thousands of sea containers stacked high on the proposed new outer harbour? Could I see the sunlight glinting off a nuclear power station at Point Peron? Or the swirling discharges of its cooling waters conveniently, supplied by the big new desalination plants?

Or would all the canal mansions with their boats stuck in the undredged waterways limit the scene in that direction? Perhaps it would be the smog from all the new industries in Hope Valley or the additional ships for the proposed Point Walter live export berth or the ethanol plant against the backdrop of an expanded Cockburn harbour and marina? Maybe, with the stench of algae and dead fish emanating from under the salt encrusted Cockburn Sound, I will just shut the windows, close the curtains and turn on the TV. Might even be a show on about some unspoilt paradise somewhere in the world.

Steve Beholawek
Rockingham.

WHO TOOK PART IN POLL?
Weekend Courier
13 October 2006

Re: Article, "Majority Support for Cape Peron", Community, October 5. There are many who would like to know how this is possible and in which part of Rockingham the phone poll was taken. Members in Conservation of Rockingham Environment (CORE) have spoken to residents throughout the Rockingham area. We are yet to come across anyone who had been contacted by phone. Many agree a marina is needed but are totally against a canal system. Rockingham does not need to be another Mandurah, which experiences yearly problems with the acid sulphate, algae blooms and odour. The Mayor appears proud of putting forth the idea of a canal system that will remove 4.5ha of sea grass, wipe out the King George whiting breeding ground and exacerbate the already existing problems. Just where is the social and economic benefit that Mr Sammels is referring to?

The environmental impacts are too great. As Mayor he should be leading hE example by protecting Cape Peron's environment for future generations, instead of spending ratepayers' money on a so called marina which is actually a canal system for the rich. The Rockingham postcode has more boats licensed than any other postcode, yet we have the worst ramps and very few that we do have can be used safely.

Andrew De Bruin
CORE

KEEP NATURE FOR FUTURE
Weekend Courier
13 October 2006

Like Susan Di Mambro (letter, Community October 6) we and most people do take our Shoalwater, Point Peron and Lake Richmond area for granted. It is such a beautiful, unique natural area and we are privileged to live so close and enjoy it when we wish. Let it not be changed by any type of development, because once it is gone it is gone forever. Let us save it for ourselves and for future generations.

Margaret and Robert Edwards
Shoalwater

MARINA CONCERNS
Sound Telegraph
18 October 2006

My concern about the proposed marina canal development at Point Peron was heightened after watching an ABC Stateline report recently. The report highlighted the silting and marine weed growth now being encountered in the canal development at South Yunderup. It seems the developers of South Yunderup canals are long gone with their profits and the locals are now left with canals silt laden and choked with marine growth. The environmental scientists at the time of South Yunderup's construction predicted this would happen, but nobody listened. Of even more concern is that the Murray Shire and its ratepayers have been left with the cost of what will be a continual requirement to dredge these canals. The annual cost will run into millions of dollars.

Canal developments are being shunned all over Australia, except here in WA. Why? Could it be exactly this problem? The fact is that once again Rockingham has been beaten to the punch on canal living by Mandurah, years ago. It's too late and from what has now been revealed at South Yunderup, its fortunate indeed that we didn't have those canal developments 20 years ago. If the above scenario is the future of the Point Peron development, then as a Rockingham City ratepayer I want none of it. Why should ratepayers be saddled with millions of dollars in debts after the developers have shot through with the money? If you don't particularly care about the Point Peron environment then have a think about your wallet.

Canals? No thanks.

Les Lowe
Shoalwater

NOT ASKED
Sound Telegraph
18 October 2006

Like R. McKenzie of Rockingham, we also were not asked in the "independent poll" our opinion regarding the proposed Pt Peron marina. As most of the people we ask don't want it at Point Peron but prefer it to be nearer to Wanliss Street, we would like to know who the 51 per cent in favour actually. After all, 500 is not a very big number to get an accurate reading for any poll. Is this push polling?

Let us keep Point Peron as it is, a regional park for the people, and enjoy its unique natural beauty.

Margaret and Robert Edwards
Shoalwater

CANALS A RISK: GOODALE
By Monique Mannile
Sound Telegraph
18 October 2006

Proposed canal developments at Cape Peron are a "ticking time bomb", Naragebup Rockingham Environment Centre convenor Bob Goodale said last week. Mr Goodale's comments followed reports of soaring maintenance costs in other WA canal developments, many of which are choked with weed after five to 10 years. With canals a feature of the marina-based tourism project suggested for the Mangles Bay area in Cape Peron, Mr Goodale said it was extremely likely algal blooms would become a big problem. "All canals are low drainage points and everything gravitates to the low points. In these low points there is a build up of nutrients and pollution. You don't see it on day one but over the years the sediment builds up," he said. "This leads to algal bloom which happens internally in the canal and, in the case of Cape Peron, will flow out into the ocean zone, smothering the nutrients in the sea grass bed and causing algal blooms in the sea grass." Mr Goodale said he was concerned about the marina proposal's side effects and implications for the community. "The environmental costs are horrendous, not to mention the costs to the community," he said. However, Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said extensive environmental research would occur before a final decision was made about the marina. He also said canals formed a minor part of the proposal. "It is in no shape or form a canal development," Cr Sammels said.

Two concept options for the marina are being considered by the Environmental Planning Authority. Cr Sammels said the next stage would involve the State Government looking at the concepts and considering the EPA's recommendations, after which further environmental studies would be done. If the proposal was approved, a seagrass planting trial, regular monitoring and back-up plans, such as mechanical flushing, would be part of ongoing maintenance. Preliminary modelling had already indicated a high flushing capacity for the concepts being looked at, Cr Sammels said. He dismissed claims that the wider rate paying community would bear the costs and said maintenance would be the manna's responsibility. But Mr Goodale was convinced costs would be widespread. It (the development) just lends itself to that sort of disaster," he said.

POLL QUESTIONS WERE SLANTED
Weekend Courier
20 October 2006

Re: Andrew DeBrum's letter (Community, October 13). I participated in the phone poll, and as I told the pollster at the time, the questions were all slanted to give a favourable result. The final question asked was, "Are you a member of any of the clubs based at Point Peron?"

I wonder why.

Barry Sellars
Warnbro

CANALS VIEW
Sound Telegraph
25 October 2006

I refer to your headline "Canals at risk (Sound Telegraph, October 18) and particularly Mayor Sammels' response to Mr Goodale's concerns. For the mayor to now say the canals formed a minor part of the proposal and "it is in no shape or form a canal development" is, in my view, quite absurd. If the marina (boats in canals) is now considered of secondary import by the mayor, then surely by inference the primary purpose of the development must be the building of residences, hotels, shops, restaurants etc. History shows that over 40 years we have moved from a catchcry of 'a marina for Rockingham' to "marina-based development for Rockingham" to "a Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project", the steering committee of which includes Mayor Sammels, and no mention of a marina.

I find the belittling of the marina aspect at this late stage does the mayor no credit. One can only wonder what is going to happen if Mr Goodale is correct in predicting the canals will silt up and the mayor's solution to this eventuality, of mechanical flushing, fail and the marina management refuses to bear any costs. Backfilling the canals might be a handy solution and so leave the residents and shopkeepers, etc on Point Peron in peace.

H. Balinski
Shoalwater

MARINA REMINDER
Sound Telegraph
25 October 2006

While we wait for the EPA to hand down its verdict, you may have noticed that the Rockingham Development Office now resorts to recycling old data in its attempt to have us believe this community supports a marina on Point Peron. Its claims about phone polls are old news. Thankfully there are letter writers locally who keep us posted, and just so that we are not tempted to forget: At the September 2005 Rockingham City Council meeting, member of this community asked, "If concerns raised by members of the public are not satisfactorily addressed, to what extent would the council be prepared to oppose the development of the proposed marina-based tourist development at Cape Peron?" You may recognise this as simply the council's question to its community, in reverse. Given 20 minutes or so to think about it, the mayor preferred to make no decision, but to write later. Just as well he was not responding to a phone poll. In the minutes of the October weeks later, you will find a long-winded explanation for the reasons council could not answer this question. All these events are detailed in recorded council minutes. We are expected to believe 500 informed people supplied a snap answer to a question which our learned council declined to these gross distortions of our will to prejudice the future of our unique Point Peron?

Doug Pritchard
Rockingham

AN SOS TO THE GOVERNMENT
Weekend Courier
27 October 2006

How much more environmental neglect are communities expected to take? Cockburn Sound has already raised the "no vacancy" sign. The Government either can't read or is choosing to ignore the SOS from the environment, scientists and surrounding communities. There are already high levels of air pollution, impaired water quality and many contaminated sites. The request for the cumulative effect has fallen on deaf ears within government, as has the repeated question "when will something be done in regard to industry exceeding noise limits?" The response that noise is very scientific has worn thin. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) should have realised before passing these projects and had the possible scenarios worked out. This supposedly is one of the reasons companies put forth models to iron out problems. Communities have a right to quality of life; at present we have anything but. If licences can't be enforced in Kwinana just what chance do the communities have in Wagerup, Hamel and Yarloop?

Anne Gade
Conservation of Rockingham Environment.

MAYOR BACKS MARINA ADVICE

Sound Telegraph
1 November 2006

Environmental Protection Authority advice about the tourist based marina in Cape Peron reflects the views of the majority of the Rockingham community, Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said. Cr Sammels said a recent telephone poll indicated majority support for the development, provided it met all the required environmental guidelines. But Preserve Point Peron members strongly disagreed with the Mayor's views. "All the clever use of language, artfully constructed telephone poll questions and out-of-context use of statistics cannot camouflage the simple truth — most Rockingham ratepayers do not want this project and for very sound reasons," Preserve Point Peron chairman Bob Goodale said. "Perhaps it is time Mayor Sammels paid attention to his mayoral obligations and publicly backed the majority of his ratepayers," Mr Goodale said. He called for Environment Minister and Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan to remain honourable and show leadership in the matter. "We would expect Mark McGowan to actively seek to protect the environment, namely the Regional Park and the Bush Forever sites located at Point Peron," Mr Goodale said.

MARINA A RISK TO THE SOUND: EPA

By Gareth Parker
The West Australian
2 November 2006

Cockburn Sound's besieged eco-system could face further strain if the long-planned Mangles Bay marina at Cape Peron is built, the environmental watchdog has warned. A new Environmental Protection Authority report said the environmental consequences of the 500-boat marina were "significant" and there was "potential for deleterious environmental impact" if it was built.

The report, which examined three marina options, said up to 10 ha of seagrass and up to 53ha of vegetation, roost of which was designated Bush Forever land or locked up in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, could be lost. It also raised concerns about the impact on water quality in Cockburn Sound and nearby Lake Richmond, an important wetland which supports two threatened species. The marina, which would be cut into the north shore of Cape Peron, is the centrepiece of plans which include commercial areas, low-cost tourist accommodation and public open space. The project is being driven by a steering committee which includes Rockingham City Council, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, LandCorp and the Royal Australian Navy.

The proponents plan to offset sea-grass losses by transplanting more than 10 ha of seagrass elsewhere in Cockburn Sound. EPA chairman Wally Cox said sea-grass transplantation had not been attempted on such a large scale. "The EPA has reservations as to whether the proposal can be designed to ensure that water quality within Mangles Bay does not worsen, leading to further loss of seagrass," Dr Cox said.

Despite the apparent setback, Rockingham mayor Barry Sammels, one of the manna's biggest supporters, was comfortable with the report. The EPA report was prepared under Section 16 of the EPA Act as strategic advice to Environment Minister Mark McGowan. Mr McGowan will not deal with the matter after ruling himself ineligible because he was both co-chairman of a task force which backed the project and a founding member of an environment centre opposed to it. The Government will now decide whether to approve the next stage, a full environmental assessment and other studies to cost \$3.5 million. Mr Sammels hoped Cabinet would deal with the matter by early next year but Mr McGowan was tight-lipped yesterday.

COMPLACANCY IS UNACCEPTABLE

Weekend Courier
3 November 2006

I am appalled at the suggestion of turning the beautiful Point Peron precinct over to the developers. The natural beauty and tranquil ambience of the region will be destroyed forever by short-sighted developers who are only interested in the profits to be made. There are powerful and compelling arguments that the development will bring tourism, jobs and money to the area. However, lifestyle is more than money - it is about people enjoying, nurturing and preserving a fragile environment so that it will be available for future generations to enjoy. According to the article, "Peron plans fragile" Community, October 27, the marina proposal will include "a tourist based marina, for 500 boats, incorporating boat clubs, commercial operations and public boat pens, tourist accommodation, retail and residential areas and public open spaces." Pray tell, if all of this development goes ahead, how much space will there actually be for "public open space"? Up until now, I have not joined any protest movement against the marina proposal. Having woken from my slumber, I now intend to do what I can to prevent this proposal from going ahead. I urge others who have been complacent, yet who value the natural heritage of Point Peron, to do the same.

John Steel
Safety Bay

POLITICAL VOICE

Sound Telegraph
8 November 2006

I have been watching developments on the proposed marina to be built in Rockingham and I can see there are various forces at work here. On one side we have the developers hoping to make money and on the other we have the conservationists wanting to preserve Point Peron for the future generations of Rockingham. Then we have the major political parties who are sitting on the fence waiting to see which way the wind is blowing. Developers have access to vast amounts of money that can buy influence and the conservationists need to find a way to counter this to have any chance of saving Point Peron.

From my experience there is only one way to do this. They must enter the political arena for politics is about numbers and if a member of Parliament believes there is a chance of losing his or her seat, with all the perks that go with it, they will back away from a controversial decision, more so when an election is due. People power worked at Bums Beach and the proposed freight yard development at Mosman Park and is working in Fremantle to send the live sheep trade out the Port into Kwinana.

My advice to the Point Peron conservationists is to form a political party and contest the next federal election due early next year. Run a candidate in Kim Beazley's seat of Brand and run candidates in the election for the nation's Senate. Your preferences could be vital and you would have the major parties looking for them. Then contest all the wards of the Rockingham council elections due in 2007. You must get your message across to the back room political power brokers that will decide the ultimate fate of Point Peron and, rest assured, they will come calling. Be vocal, active and demand a fair go for Rockingham and "maintain the rage"

Bernie Whitworth
Safety Bay

BUSH FOR A WHILE

Weekend Courier
10 November 2006

There is a great deal of opposition to the establishment of a marina at Point Peron, not Cape Peron as it has been so named by government officials and the like. Sometimes I wonder if learning English at school was worth all the trouble. I'm well aware "forever" means for eternity and, unless I need glasses, which I presume I don't, I believe there is a sign at Point Peron with the words, "bush forever site" printed clearly on this sign. In the event of a proposed development at this beautiful place, abundant with plant and animal life, one would think an educated person would conclude that forever means "forever"; therefore no such development would be allowed on this protected zone. Maybe some lessons in English should be included in next year's budget as it would help these people learn the importance of such words as "forever", and what they actually mean.

Michael Gorman
Cooloongup

WEEDS RIFE IN REGION

By Monique Mannile
Sound Telegraph
15 November 2006

Weeds are rife in the Rockingham-Kwinana area, Naragebup Environment Centre convenor Bob Goodale said last week. His comments came after scientists from the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed needed to detect new plant invasions before they take hold. Invaders threaten native landscapes before people realise the plant is a problem. "Weeds are destroying our biodiversity faster than any other issue besides global warming," Mr Goodale said. "Problems with weeds in our coastal zone are huge, with many South African plants and woody Mr Goodale cited the example of the carnation weed which is being targeted by Rockingham community groups such as Friends of Paganoni and Preserve Point Peron with the help of the Environment and Conservation Department. He agreed that early detection of new invaders was vital, as was the correct remedy for the pest.

PT PERON PLEA
Sound Telegraph
15 November 2006

Even before my wife and I moved to Warnbro four years ago we used to enjoy Pt Peron and surrounds at least once a week throughout the summer months. What we liked most was the unspoilt nature of the place, the fact you could walk, swim, your dog and there was always a different, relatively sheltered aspect, depending on which way the wind was blowing. Naturally we would be disappointed if the region were developed in such a way as to prevent the present free public access to all of these amenities.

However, it's increasingly disappointing that this area has become a haunt for young drivers doing burnouts, at any time, day or night, and graffiti artists defacing and destroying the efforts of the Rockingham City Council to make this pristine environment more attractive to tourists. But perhaps the most disturbing thing is the increasing incidence of random break-ins to parked vehicles, even when they are only left for a short period. The risk makes a visit to that area most unpleasant with the ever-present worry that you will return to your car to find some opportunistic thief has smashed their way crudely into your vehicle searching for anything of value. Most often the damage sustained is far more gut-wrenching than the loss of possible valuables. Many of the locals I speak to and including ourselves, are becoming increasingly wary of leaving our cars there at all, which means that we are becoming loathe to visit this beautiful place. Most innocent visitors to the being targeted in this way and I'm sure that many have had to endure the indignity of returning, after a short walk, to discover their vehicles have been subject to a smash and grab.

While I'm basically opposed to the thought of development and aware of the ecological concerns, perhaps such development will ultimately be the only way petty thieves will finally be diverted from their criminal intentions. Or is there something else that could be done, like security camera surveillance for example to guarantee our vehicle safety in this still delightful, family-friendly environment?

*Trevor Sykes
Warnbro*

DON'T PANIC ON BEACHES: DEPARTMENT
By Monique Mannile
Sound Telegraph
15 November 2006

Poor water quality ratings at two Rockingham beaches are not a cause for panic the Health Department has assured the community. Both Rockingham and Palm Beach rated poorly in a Health Department survey of bacterial levels on 34 beaches but the department said its concerns were long-term rather than immediate. During summer, beaches would continue to be monitored and Rockingham City Council would be asked to erect signs and undertake general community awareness if results indicated water quality was poor. The council said it was important to note the gradings in the report took into account samples over a five-year period, which meant elevated high bacterial levels identified in 2001 at Rockingham and Palm Beach due to rainfall were included within the analysis, affecting the overall grading. Council management initiatives aimed at improving the over-all bacterial quality of its marine waters had been implemented, such as improvements and upgrades to stormwater foreshore drains. "In the past 24 months Rockingham Beach has only returned one bad sample and this was in April after a heavy shower," Mayor Barry Sammels said. "All other samples have been within guidelines for the past two summers." The council will continue its comprehensive sampling program, with weekly sampling to be carried out at four sites along Rockingham and Palm Beach during summer.

Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan said the water quality in Mangles Bay was generally good and safe for swimming. "However, due to the shape of the bay, people should take care the first day following a heavy rainfall," he said. Mr McGowan said the readings were not industry related. Seabirds, dogs and stormwater drains all contributed to high enterococci readings following heavy. "The shallow water and the sheltered nature of the Bay make it difficult for enterococci to disperse quickly," he said.

CLOSE DOOR TO DEVELOPERS
Weekend Courier
24 November 2006

The Scissor Sisters (who, by the way, are a vocal group, not a new order of nuns) have a new song out called Don't Feel Like Dancin". If the proposed development at Point Peron goes ahead, I won't feel like dancing either - I'll be too damned depressed; not just because it went ahead, but because I was naive enough to think it could never happen and did not do my part to prevent it from happening. We may give our silent support to a particular protest; perhaps we need to speak up and be heard. It is certainly time to close the God damned door on these developers before it is too late.

*John Steel
Safety Bay*

EVEN BLIND FREDDY CAN SEE THIS PICTURE
Weekend Courier
1 December 2006

Well, the evidence against the Point Peron marina development continues to stack up. We have the evidence from South Yunderup canal development of silting, marine weed growth and proposed continuous, but expensive dredging. We have the imminent decline and death of the Peel Inlet as a fishery because of the impact of development. It has been revealed that the Dawesville Cut will not lessen this impact. The manmade pollution of the Peel inlet is simply overwhelming its capacity to flush it out.

Next we hear of the WA Health Department surveying 45 beaches from Warnbro, and all beaches to the north of Fremantle. The beaches named as possible causes of skin rashes and gastro-intestinal complaints were Palm Beach and Rockingham Beach. Finally, we are made aware of the massive decline in the crab catches in Cockburn Sound due to the death of their sea grass habitat. This death has been caused by man made pollution, overuse and a lack of seawater flushing. It's not getting any better is it? Is this starting to form a picture? A picture even Blind Freddy can see? How can the Mayor of Rockingham, councillors and Mark McGowan continue to support the Point Peron Marina? There is nothing in this development for any Rockingham ratepayers except a dead stagnant swimming hole, some overly expensive houses, a few more coffee shops, a massive dredging bill and a contribution to global warming in the shape of lost trees replaced by brick paving.

*Les Lowe
Shoalwater*

PENGUIN STUDY
Sound Telegraph
6 December 2006

Rockingham residents are set to play a key role in a new project designed to safeguard the future of the Little Penguins on Penguin and Garden islands. Murdoch University biologist Dr Belinda Cannell is using satellite tagging to help predict the effects of potential threats to the penguins. This is the first time satellite tags have been used to track penguins in WA and will enable researchers to gather essential data including where they travel and feed and the likelihood of interaction with boats in the area. "The population of Rockingham has trebled in the past 20 years and is expected to increase by 65 per cent in the next 15 years," Dr Cannell said. "With the increasing human pressure on the coast it's imperative that we develop strategies that can be used to effectively manage the population of Little Penguins." Rockingham residents could help by reporting the location of dead penguins to the Environment and Conservation Department ranger on 0407 478 969 or Naragebup Regional Environmental Centre on 9591 3077.

REPORT TABLED
Weekend Courier
8 December 2006

Cockburn Sound Management Council's State of the Sound report was tabled in Parliament last week by Environment Minister Mark McGowan. He said the report revealed exceedences in general light attenuation, tributytin contamination, phytoplankton levels in Jerviose Bay harbours and bacteria levels at swimming beaches in Rockingham.

GOVT QUERIED ON PT PERON

By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
15 December 2006

In its report to Parliament on a petition on the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct, the Environment and Public Affairs Committee questions the State Government's commitment to environmental and social sustainability. If approved, the proposal would incorporate a tourist-based marina for 500 boats incorporating boat clubs, commercial operations and public boat pens, tourist accommodation, retail and residential areas and public open space.

In October this year, Environmental Protection Authority chairman Wally Cox said more investigation would need to be carried out on the environmental assessment of the project if it progressed to the development proposal stage.

In the latest development, Preserve Point Peron chairman Bob Goodale said he welcomed the committee's rigorous investigation of a Preserve Point Peron petition signed by more than 2000 people. He said the committee's report called on the government to clarify its commitment to its Bush Forever Policy and to Regional Parks. Part of the proposed development area is zoned Bush Forever. He said the report also questioned the legal basis for the State alienating part of the land at Point Peron to private ownership. It echoed community concerns about potential threats to Lake Richmond and Cockburn Sound, including threats from acid sulphate soils. "It asks that the government takes into account the cumulative effects on Cockburn Sound, including desalination plants and the Outer Harbour proposals, when considering the risks from a marina at Point Peron," Mr Goodale said. "It is sceptical of the proponents interpretation of the hydrogeology of Lake Richmond and other claims about the feasibility of restoring seagrass meadows", and recommends a balanced and independent assessment of the social and economic benefits and constraints of both the Mangles Bay and Wanliss Street sites".

Chairman of the tourist precinct steering committee and Rockingham Mayor, Barry Sammels, has reiterated on several occasions that the Wanliss Street site was not on the agenda for a marina site. The brief for government funding was for the Mangles Bay site only.

COASTAL PROJECTS AT RISK

By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
5 January 2007

Height limits for coastal development that are now capped at five storeys, except in identified tourist or commercial centres where they can be increased to eight storeys, will affect future development along the Rockingham beachfront. Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan said last week that a building height limit of five storeys on land close to the coast, with the exception in certain circumstances, has been formally incorporated into Western Australia's planning framework. The maximum limit can be increased to eight storeys for developments in identified tourist or commercial activity centres where the proposal had community support and would not affect the coastal foreshore.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the height limit would affect the approved 12-storey Ramada development when the approval expired later this year. "Council has carried out a great deal of consultation and spent money on its Building Height Study and this will affect that," he said. "The trouble is too many companies do not regard five-storey developments as viable and the restrictions are of concern to council. It could also affect plans for the Cape Peron precinct proposal and is something the council will have to look at early in the year." Rockingham City Council has already approved seven developments along Rockingham Beach Road that are between seven and 12 storeys high.

An amendment to State Planning Policy 2.6 applies the height limit to urban development within 300 metres of the foreshore. Ms MacTiernan said changes to the coastal planning policy reflected community expectations that coastal development should be complementary to a location, rather than intruding on it. Height limits will apply to residential, hotel and short-stay accommodation, and retail and office developments. All local governments would have to incorporate the measures in future town-planning schemes.

The WA Planning Commission will apply the policies when it makes decisions, or provides advice to the Government. The planning policy is available at <http://www.wapc.wa.gov.au>.

GREEN WARRIER WINS TOP AWARD

Weekend Courier
27 December 2006

Rockingham environmentalist and activist Bob Goodale has been awarded the prestigious Bessie Rischbieth Conservation Award given annually to a volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the WA environment. Conservation Council of WA president Chris Tallentire presented Mr Goodale with the award last week. The recipient had to be actively involved in the conservation movement as a volunteer for several years, campaigned on an issue or number of issues and displayed qualities of courage, integrity, perseverance and commitment. The award is also specifically intended for a person who has the courage to challenge government and non government decision makers

Mr Goodale has more than filled those criteria for more years than he cares to remember. As a lad in New Zealand he collected and cared for small animals from the wild and had his own small "zoo" that he had to leave behind when he came to Australia. His love of wildlife and nature is inherent, something he says he inherited from his grandmother. His mother encouraged him to follow that love.

In the local region Bob and his wife Ann established the Kwinana/Rockingham/Mandurah branch of the WA Naturalists' Club, the oldest environmental group in WA. Ann and Bob are both life members. He took on the WA Government more than 10 years ago campaigning to try to stop the sewerage line from being released into the sea off Point Peron. More than 10,000 people gathered at one time to prevent it. He campaigned successfully to protect world heritage-listed Lake Richmond from inappropriate development and is presently involved in the Preserve Point Peron Group's fight to save Bush Forever land and Regional Park areas at Point Peron from becoming part of a Point Peron marina development. Mr Goodale said for him, the greatest part of the award was that his peers awarded it; those involved in the conservation movement too.

ITS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Weekend Courier
12 January 2007

Our coastal strip is to be protected from gross development of buildings over five storeys close to the foreshore close to the foreshore (article, "Coastal projects at risk", Weekend Courier, January 5). This is cause for celebration. It is the best thing that has happened to Perth development in decades. After extensive consultation with hundreds of people from all over Perth, including forums for youth, indigenous and general public, plus meetings with people from each section of the coast, the Government has concluded the people of Perth do not want buildings of over five storeys near the beach. The Government has carried out the biggest consultation process ever and listened to what the people said. Hallelujah. What a wonderful, incredible happening - celebrate.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham.*

TIRED OF POLITICAL DOUBLE SPEAK

Weekend Courier
12 January 2007

Recently I was at a public forum and goodness it was refreshing to hear a political candidate stand up, talk and answer questions with passion and openness on local issues like the Cape Peron development and the power station site. I thought I knew enough but Dawn Jecks had done her homework. I now look forward to the next forum on water and then everyone's favourite subject, at present nuclear. I was told Jo Valentine will be there. "I've always wanted to hear her speak. It would be great if all the candidates would do the same, then we might get someone honest who says what they mean. I get very tired of the double-speak. Here's hoping."

*D. Hitchin
Shoalwater*

GREENS SURVEY

Sound Telegraph
10 January 2007

Greens candidate for the Peel by-election Dawn Jecks will survey other candidates before deciding where to direct her preferences. Ms Jecks has given a list of questions to other candidates standing for the Peel seat, vacated by MP Norm Mariborough after his dismissal from Cabinet. "A survey conducted by the Greens (WA) in the Peel electorate shows people have serious concerns about a number of issues," she said. "These range from global warming and the lack of renewable energy sources to more local concerns such as the insufficient number of doctors, the health of Cockburn Sound, hoon behaviour and graffiti, another possible desalination plant in the area and the proposed marina, canal and apartment development at Point Peron. "People are also particularly concerned about ensuring we have honest, open and accountable government in WA and a better consultative process for decisions which directly affect them. "We wish to make our preference recommendations on the basis of what the elected member will do for the people she or he will represent."

CLEAN POINT PERON IS NOT A WASTE DUMP
Sound Telegraph
21 March 2007

A wardrobe, some beds and a handbag were all part of a rubbish haul that filled more than three skip bins at Point Peron on Clean Up Australia Day. The ecologically valuable area has been described as a "dumping ground", with trailer loads of rubbish dumped there instead of being taken to the tip. More than 74 people, including families with children, lent a hand on the day, scouring the beach and bushland for rubbish. Point Peron Aquatic Youth and Family Association caretaker and clean up organiser Kathie Schmah said she was thrilled by the turnout, which was the best me group had ever had. "We did a bang-up job," she said. But she was discouraged to find a fresh trailer load of rubbish dumped in the area last week. "To bring a trailer load out here takes malice and forethought," she said. "It is discouraging." People who are interested in helping keep Point Peron clean can contact Friends of Point Peron through Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre on 9591 3077.

BETTER SITES
Sound Telegraph
21 March 2007

Recent letters have degenerated to a defence of the sea rescue service, which in my estimation does not need any defence. The initial statement printed in your columns, however, was to the effect that, "It is silly to try to tow a 10 tonne boat with a three tonne boat and that is why we need a marina" ("Tragedy averted". Sound Telegraph, January 31). I am not equipped to judge whether a bigger rescue boat is needed. However the statement calls in further questions. What would happen if a super tanker was in jeopardy? How do ocean-going tugs manage? Would our local rescue boat not then bother? A bigger rescue boat would need deeper water to slip and that would preferably be in protected water. But world-wide there are thousands of rescue boats put to sea in far worse conditions than we have ever experienced in Cockburn Sound. Mangles Bay does not provide that deep water facility where the proposed tourist precinct is planned and there is absolutely no need for a private housing, complex for one boat, no matter how big it is. There are better sites.

Dave Worth
Safety Bay

HERITAGE VALUE GONE
Sound Telegraph
4 April 2007

I had to smile when I read your front page of the Sound Telegraph this week ("Challenge to city's pride" March 28). Deputy Mayor Richard Smith says he was personally challenged by the way that the eastern States' towns took pride in their appearance and heritage. Maybe we in Rockingham would do the same if we had any heritage left to take pride in. The one area of Rockingham that was of real heritage value is now buried under tons of ugly high rise concrete. I'm talking about Rockingham foreshore, that place was real old Australia. Sure it was run down, but that was only an excuse to bulldoze the place. With a bit of vision it could have been made into a really attractive heritage village. Too late now, it's gone forever, and no amount of street sweeping or dunny signs will restore the pride that would have ensued from such a venture. Thank you Rockingham council.

TAKE A LAKE WALK
Weekend Courier
11 May 2007

Birds Australia WA has a half-day excursion to Lake Richmond, Rockingham, on Saturday, May 19, at 8.30am on Safety Bay Road, Rockingham, opposite the Naragebup Centre on the western side of Lake Richmond. The walk around the lake will take two to three hours. Lunch is BYO. The leader is Mary and beginners are welcome.

HERITAGE AREA USED AS DUMP
Weekend Courier
11 May 2007

The area around the internationally heritage listed Lake Richmond is being used as a rubbish dump by builders and contractors from the Anchorage Estate in Shoalwater. Lake Richmond Reserve is vested with the City of Rockingham. Naragebup Regional Environment Centre convenor Bob Goodale looks after the reserve for the city. He said that after the devastating fire in the summer, the burnt out area at the end of Richmond Avenue, Shoalwater, was cleaned up by contractors for the council and by members of the Green Corps. Rubbish included old car bodies and a great deal of builders' rubble, plastic and cardboard. Mr Goodale said the area was totally cleaned of rubbish and new "lake friendly" plants had been planted. That work has now been jeopardised by people who are continuing to dump building rubbish on it. "About 20 pallets have been dumped by builders or new residents, crushing the new and rejuvenating vegetation. There's builders' rubble, plastic and cardboard everywhere," Mr Goodale said. "The Rockingham City Council has already fined five builders."

REPUTATION IN TATTERS
Weekend Courier
2 March 2007

The already sullied reputation of local government in WA has taken another severe battering at the hands of the Corruption and Crime Commission. While the current CCC focus has been on the influence and effects of lobbying on public officials and processes, numerous corruption scandals and council sackings in recent years have done little to restore public confidence in the ability of elected councillors to provide open and accountable governance.

The cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup, South Perth, Belmont and Cockburn have all suffered, with councillors and public officers exposed for corruption, poor judgment and mismanagement. When the Joondalup Council was sacked in 2004 for providing poor governance, the McIntyre Inquiry recommended that commissioners run local governments and that councils should be discontinued to avoid any further instances of corruption and poor governance. The CCC hearings have established that disgraced former State Premier, Brian Burke, has relationships with many local government figures and used his lobbying power to influence decisions that demanded to be made solely on their merits.

Something needs to change in local government for communities to feel secure in the knowledge that decisions affecting them are being made for the right reasons. The dwindling number of people who actually vote in local government elections is a sure indicator that many believe local government is fundamentally flawed. But, steering clear of the polls is an abdication of our power to help clean up the system. Increased voter participation may be one way forward. Any drive to clean up local government might also give momentum to the issue of council amalgamations to increase the accountability of elected officials and minimise the potential for corruption by providing fewer "marks" for corrupt lobbyists to target. The ball is squarely in the State Government's court especially if it wants to save itself any further embarrassment through inertia.

WHAT'S THE REAL EXPLANATION
Weekend Courier
23 March 2007

Our Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, recently made a passionate statement to Parliament. "Anyone who deals with Mr Brian Burke is morally and politically compromised." The Weekend Courier on the front page (article, "CCC ensnares city", March 9), reports councillors Barry Samuels and Frank Gibson having a bedside meeting with Brian Burke, explaining all actions were "accountable and above board." Now we are starting to get somewhere, and thanks to a correction (Weekend Courier, March 16). It was Gary Holland and Barry Samuels who met at Brian's house to obtain advice. Since the city is open and accountable, it would be helpful to find what advice could not be taken on the phone, and required Brian and Barry and Gary to sit together in private - unless they knew the subject for discussion was too sensitive to be handled by phone. We now know the CCC taps phones. Remember we are paying Gary's salary, and Barry scores a fee for the meeting, and Brian is getting a generous fee from taxpayers anyway. Grudgingly, we are told by Barry about the \$40,000 and we haven't started talking about the overseas tripping yet.

We haven't an explanation as to how a lobbyist for property development comes to be hired to talk trains - and in private. Will this community see the honest and open explanation it is entitled to?

Doug Pritchard
Rockingham

YES BUT NOT AT POINT PERON**Weekend Courier
6 July 2007**

Regarding the report headlined "Cape Peron is best - mayor" (Courier, June 29), the points that were raised by Mal McFetridge about a marina were on the mark. He, along with many others, is prepared to look outside the square. The area he spoke of had been raised previously but at the time fell on deaf ears. Rockingham's Mayor Barry Sammels has said there was overwhelming support for the marina at Point Peron. We beg to differ.

The overwhelming support was that Rockingham needed a marina, not necessarily at Point Peron. Cr Sammels went on to say how the area was totally neglected and that it was viewed by many as being unsafe and unwelcoming. Again as ratepayers, we believe the council should be ashamed for allowing the area to fall into such disrepair. There was a private study carried out in the 1980s around the time of Laurie Smith was mayor, to find a suitable site for a marina. Wanliss Street was chosen as the preferred site as it met the many requirements. Conservation of Rockingham Environment is all for progress and development but not at the expense of the environmental concerns that exist at Cape Peron.

The Environmental Protection Authority policy of 2001 stated that the environmental values must improve. A canal system, which would call for continued dredging, and the loss of five hectares of sea grass meadow would mean anything but. We look forward to reading the Public Environmental Review for the proposal on a Wanliss Street marina, and agree with Cr Phil Edman in regards to the project, as it would shape up as a fantastic piece of infrastructure for the community and the boating fraternity.

**Annette Gade,
Spokeswoman,
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment,
Hillman.**

IS THERE ANY ADVANCE ON FOUR**Weekend Courier
6 July 2007**

The Environmental Protection Authority has advertised for submissions for an assessment for a Wanliss Street marina. A six week public review period is now in place. Councillor Phil Edman says: "This proposal is a fantastic piece of infrastructure for the community and the boating fraternity." Cr Edman also supports the building of a marina residential complex on land at Point Peron. Mayor Sammels' preferred option is for a marina-residential development on Cape Peron. Former councillor Mal McFetridge does not support "a canal style development" on Cape Peron. Mal's first preference is for a marina to be built on Tern Island, a sand island, in Safety Bay. Mal has a second choice - a marina to be built at Port Kennedy. All this is very confusing for I believed that the Wanliss proposal was also deemed unsuitable because there is not a residential component that would make the marina even remotely financially viable. I am sure that a marina for 500 boats could be built on any of these sites but would that be enough to less than 20 years? Will four marinas be enough?

**Berne Whitworth,
Safety Bay.**

TALES OF WALK TRAILS**Sound Telegraph
25 July 2007**

The trail walks along Point Peron held in conjunction with NAIDOC Week were a great success, organiser Esther Grogan reported last week. More than 80 people took part in three walks on July 14. The walks, which lasted 45 minutes each, allowed those who took part to learn about the Aboriginal attachment to Point Peron as well as understanding the various burial sites within the area. Of most importance was the exercise that was on offer. Esther Grogan of Preserve Point Peron for the People Group and local Aboriginal Trevor Walley hosted the walks. Ms Grogan said the feedback she had received since the walks was positive. "Most of those who participated have encouraged us to do something similar next year." "Everyone enjoyed it and learnt a lot from Trevor. We had some great stories told from some of the participants, some of whom had Aboriginal heritage, wanting to know more about their connections to point Peron. The weather was kind to us also, which is a bonus."

ANXIETY OVER THE MARINA**Weekend Courier
21 September 2007**

I am really shocked to read the article in the September 7 edition of the Courier that the city council has been promoting the Mangles Bay Canal-Marina regardless of community feeling regarding same. I note the manager of capital works has carefully referred to an inland boat harbour instead of canal development, which is what has been proposed. That has multi storey apartments and commercial premises plus car park facilities for the 300 to 500 boats. Forward planning by the interested parties could mean the "unnecessary infrastructure" of road realignment, plus the unpopular closure of some roads between Lake Richmond and Palm Beach, the sewage pipe could be moved. All this is huge compared to the amount of infrastructure that would be needed to have a marina in deep water, off Wanliss Street. The proposed bus connecting to the railway station is already planned and restaurants are already there. I fail to see need to create more trouble - as the Mandurah canals have shown. Unless it is a case of where the money comes from and where it goes. I wonder?

By the way. Cape Peron is being cleaned up. That is by DEC or CALM as they were before a name change, plus Friends of Point Peron with a little help from Rockingham City Council.

Thank you to the volunteers who have worked so hard.

**Diana Hitchin,
Shoalwater.**

PROJECT IS IN OUR FRONT YARD**Weekend Courier
19 October 2007**

I read with interest the recent comments by Geoff Simpson and Max Bevilaqua in response to my letter regarding the marina (canal) development. Gentlemen, this is a plan for the future ratepayers of Rockingham. This is about the need for a marina in this area, the hard standing at Cape Peron is well used and we all know that safe anchorage is needed off Rockingham.

Folks, this is our front yard not mine or yours. During the consultation meetings, it was made clear that a marina was not viable without a canal development to fund it. All the problems involved in one place could be applied to the other that is parking, fuel storage, multi storey building and access to marina but could be overcome with good architects and planners. At Point Peron, it would be necessary to cut the limestone base and dredge as well as removing the groups using the area. What about the area that is already being redesigned on the foreshore, there is space and flat land, and that cannot be harder to develop than taking over a Bush Forever site? Infrastructure needed would, of course, take over a large area. Who will be paying the bills? The ratepayer – you and me. The area near the deep water towards the bulk loading already has apartments, hotel and transport in place with more planned.

Cockburn Sound is still reasonably clean but with a private port planned and more housing developments happening up our coastline, let us hope our grandchildren will still be able to enjoy all this in future years. It is up to us, you and me, to make sure it is.

*Diana Hitchin,
15A McKenzie Road,
Shoalwater.*

OPINION QUITE MISLEADING**Weekend Courier
28 September 2007**

Andrew Jones (Courier, September 21) and the completely misleading opinion that "large-scale development causes many social problems to become less" could not be further from the real truth. While not agreeing to live in the past and have no progress at all I certainly do not agree to large-scale development - which by the way is all about filling the pockets of already rich people.

*Denis Gorman,
Cooloongup.*

YOUNGSTER LOOKS FAR AHEAD**Weekend Courier
2 November 2007**

I am only 12, I cannot vote, I do not have a say, I am not important... yet. However, I understand what problems I will face some time in the near future, when my generation has families and jobs. The canal/marina is an example of an environment disturbance. It could destroy many native animals. It does not sound important now, but what about your great-grandchildren? They won't have as many animals around or beautiful sights in Shoalwater, and we will all know why they won't see these animals. However, think of the problems my generation are going to have to deal with, even though we did not make these problems. Please consider another location for the canals marina.

*Georgia Kerr,
Wellard.*

PUBLIC DEBATE TO START ON PORT PLAN**By Monique Mannile
Sound Telegraph
6 February 2008**

Environmental concerns are tipped to be at the forefront of public debate about the Port Rockingham jetty and marina proposal later this month. The Rosewood Grove proposal includes 500 boat pens, a 4000sq m retail precinct, charter boat access, refuelling and public use refuelling, and sillage facilities. Its design comprises an open pile construction pier extending north from the shoreline for about 200m and a breakwater extending northeast, parallel with the shoreline, for about 550m. Project environmental consultant Patrick Hollingworth said the environmental approvals process was well under way, following an Environmental Protection Authority recommendation for a Public Environmental Review last year. As part of the process, marine habitat surveys, marine water quality studies, groundwater monitoring, impact on fisheries and noise and vibration studies, as well as more comprehensive modelling, would take place. "The Public Environmental Review process recognises there are issues which need to be considered," Mr Hollingworth said. "We've already undertaken a lot of the work. It's a fairly lengthy process. It can take about 12 to 18, even 24, months. It's important that projects like these are assessed to rigorous standards."

A scoping document lodged with the EPA is expected to be signed off later this month. Mr Hollingworth said the project's break wall had a curved design that would help protect boats from storms but still allow necessary water movement. Preliminary studies have suggested water movement through the marina, which would occur through a pier component on the break wall, would lead to a high rate of natural flushing. Public meetings will be held at The Cruising Yacht Club on February 17 at 11 am and February 20 at 7pm. For more information phone 1800 467 733.

HOW GREEN?**Sound Telegraph
10 October 2007**

As a candidate in the council election and a founding member of Preserve Point Peron, I find it interesting that many other candidates have avoided mention of the proposed marina and canal development at Point Peron. The omission is surprising because Point Peron is the most controversial single issue that has recently divided the community, has absorbed more than \$600,000 of rate/taxpayers' money so far and is likely to have a bigger impact on the city than any other project. Voters are entitled to know up front how candidates stand on it and on alternative proposals.

I urge voters to look beyond the words "environment" and "sustainability" to the details of what councillors support by their actions. In my opinion it's not OK to say you're passionate about the environment if you support destruction of 45ha of the future "Kings Park of the South" and 6ha of sea grass vital to our diminishing fish stocks.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MARINA PLANS

Sound Telegraph
6 February 2008

Public meetings about a Port Rockingham jetty and marina proposal will be held at The Cruising Yacht Club, Val Street, Rockingham on February 17 at 11am and February 20 at 7pm. The proposed marina will be at the intersection of Wanliss Street and Rockingham Beach Road, Rockingham. In July last year the proposal was recommended for a Public Environmental Review by the Environmental Protection Authority. For more information phone 1800 467 733 or visit www.portrockingham.com.au

PORT ROCKINGHAM FOLLOWS AWARD WINNING DESIGN

Weekend Courier
8 February 2008

The director of the project management company working on the Port Rockingham proposal, Chris Carman, also heads Benchmark Projects, the company responsible for the multiple award winning Mandurah Ocean Marina. The proponent of the Port Rockingham development is Rockingham businessman Paul Ogilvie. The proposal would include a jetty and break water type marina on the foreshore adjacent to Wanliss Street, Rockingham. Mr Carman said the proposed offshore breakwater did not connect with the shore, so there would not be any problems with water quality, flushing and sand erosion. The breakwater would join the jetty, which would be a concrete and timber deck pier construction, similar to the Sorrento Quay Marina that would allow water to flow under it. The breakwater would eventually protect 500 moorings; 250 in the first stage and 250 in the second. The jetty would have restaurants and cafes along with boat fuelling facilities "rather like a mini Hillarys" Mr Carman said. "We have taken care not to cause a problem with the environment and have committed to monitoring through our environmental consultants. "We have gone to great pains not to interfere with the natural processes and the site where the development would end is on the edge of a shelf, which is an optimum spot for such a development."

Mr Carman expects the Public Environmental Review process to take at least a year. He said there would be no high rise development, and traffic management and car parking plans were in place. Further details can be obtained at two public meetings scheduled for February 17 and 20 at the Cruising Yacht Club in Rockingham. The proposal is up for public comment for the next six weeks. Visit www.portrockingham.com.au or call 1800 467 733 for more information.

Benchmark Projects is currently co-ordinating the Albany waterfront redevelopment and other major projects, including Champion Lakes at Armadale and the Joondalup city centre and Joondalup Arena. It is a multiple award winner for many of its projects.

BIG TURNOUT AT MARINA MEETING

By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
22 February 2008

IT was standing room only at the first public consultation meeting for the proposed Port Rockingham marina project on Sunday. Attendance was closed 15 minutes after the meeting began because the premises at the Cruising Yacht Club were licensed to hold only 200 people on the upper floor. People with various interests - residents, "boaties", environmental groups and businessmen - were keen to learn more about the project. Benchmark Projects director Chris Carman, whose company will deliver the project if it gets all the required approvals, gave an overview of the project and made it clear that public consultation was only the start of quite a lengthy process that had no foregone conclusion. Presentations were made by consultants from architectural, environmental, engineering and social backgrounds on the various aspects of the proposal. The proponent - Rosewood Grove, headed by Rockingham businessman Paul Ogilvie - was also on hand to answer questions and give details. He made it clear that it was a private development without government funding. The crowd was told the location was chosen because a sea bed lease already existed at the Wanliss Street fore shore site. Plans have been in place for more than 20 years for a development at the site. Mr Carman said whether that development went ahead or not, there would be a marina in the Rockingham area somewhere in the future because of the demand for boat moorings. Car parking appeared to be the main hurdle and Mr Ogilvie said if there was not enough parking then it would not go ahead. Negotiations are continuing with the Rockingham City Council about relocating the Rockingham Tennis and Bowling Clubs to Dowling Street and using those sites, along with a lowered Wanliss Street car park and an extra car park floor level with the jetty development.

PORT ROCKINGHAM PLAN COMPLEMENTS OUR FAIR CITY

Weekend Courier
22 February 2008

The meeting presenting a draft plan of a proposal for Port Rockingham is to be commended. It has been well thought out and will complement our fair city, bringing a much needed marina. The information given was comprehensive. One thing we would like to see incorporated that was not on the proposal is launching facilities for boats on trailers. This would make it even more attractive because launching facilities are sadly lacking in this area. In saying that, there may be a problem with parking for vehicles with trailers. Another benefit that can be seen is island values increasing near this proposal. We fully support this project, as it is the best option we have seen, still allowing beach access and not disrupting the hydrology of The Sound.

Allan Gade
Conservation of Rockingham Environment
Hillman

PROPOSAL WORKS WITH, NOT AGAINST, NATURE

Weekend Courier
22 February 2008

Few would disagree with the statement that "a marina in the right location would be good for Rockingham". Indeed many have been crying out for one for years. This week our community was finally presented with a well considered and forward thinking proposal to construct an offshore marina at northern end of the cafe strip at Wanliss Street. From both engineering as well as an environmental point of view, this proposal clearly works with nature rather than against it, unlike the proposed canal housing development disguised as an inland marina at Point Peron. As with all developments, there will be some people against it, particularly those living close by. However if we are going to have a marina in Rockingham I believe this is the best proposal I have seen by far. In short, I like it.

Dawn Jacks
Safety Bay

**PRESS RELEASE
ROCKINGHAM MARINA**

Preserve Point Peron Group
18 February 2008

Preserve Point Peron group supports the current process being under taken and supports the Rockingham Marina Project. We can see only some social implication which needs to be addressed but as long as government marine regulations are implemented we can see no environmental issues. This much needed facility for a growing Rockingham should go ahead. We would however strongly recommend the Government now close off the development proposal at Point Peron and let the people of Rockingham reclaim the area as a Regional Park and a Bush Forever site and that the draft management plan for this Regional Park be implemented immediately.

Bob Goodale, Chairperson, Preserve Point Peron (Inc)

GO FOR A REGIONAL PARK IMMEDIATELY**Weekend Courier**
22 February 2008

Preserve Point Peron group supports the process undertaken and supports the Rockingham marina project. We can see only some social implication that needs to be addressed but as long as government marine regulations are implemented, we can see no environmental issues. This much needed facility for a growing city should go ahead. However, we would strongly recommend that the Government now close off the development proposal at Point Peron and let the people of Rockingham reclaim the area as a regional park and a bush forever site and that the draft management plan for this regional park is implemented immediately.

Bob Goodale
ChairmanPreserve Point Peron (Inc)
Rockingham**ACQUISITION IS MOST HEARTENING****Weekend Courier**
11 April 2008

On behalf of our group, I wish to commend and congratulate the City of Mandurah for their proposal to acquire some land at Dawesville for bushland preservation. The fact that it contains a diverse range of local native flora in excellent condition and is the habitat of listed fauna of locally significant species adds to the importance of saving such an area from destruction by clearing for residential development. That it is adjacent to a crown land reserve that contains Warragup Springs, and hopefully will be preserved for posterity, makes it a larger and more environmentally valuable reserve. For all these reasons and because it is of indigenous and cultural significance to the local community we are very heartened with this advancement of the city's bush acquisition plan and look forward to future remnants of bushland being purchased for preservation of our unique and rich biodiversity. Perhaps it may inspire other levels of government to follow suit. We still have a way to go to have a Kings Park, Bold Park and Wireless Hill that Perth has.

Judy Trembuth
Peel Preservation Group
Mandurah**GET YOUR GLOVES ON FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY****Weekend Courier**
29 February 2008

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 2, will see many people cleaning up their local environment. Brand MHR Gary Gray did a bit of cleaning up in advance at Palm Beach earlier this week in a bid to encourage more people to step out and do their bit to clean up in Kwinana and Rockingham over the weekend. Mr Gray said it was a great opportunity to get together as a community to clean up the coastline, playground areas and reserves. According to Clean Up Australia Rubbish 1 Day reports, plastic rubbish made up one third of the clean up day waste last year, and cigarette butts were the most common item found.

MARINA SUPPORT**Sound Telegraph**
12 March 2008

I attended the presentation on the Rockingham marina proposal at The Cruising Yacht Club and was pleasantly surprised at the overwhelming acceptance of the idea. The proposal was professionally presented, covering all aspects and leaving little to question. There is always the loud voice of the negative minority; however most of the response was positive. There is only one way to better our view and that is to look out to a marina. At last, a genuine chance of a marina and of lifting Rockingham out of the backwaters.

P. H. Slater
Rockingham**SOUND PAST REDEMPTION****Weekend Courier**
18 April 2008

We are saddened by the case that it seems Cockburn Sound Management Council has fallen into the Kwinana industry spin trap (Cockburn Sound Management claims, Courier, April 10). We ask the question: Were these comments by CSMC approved by the full council? CSMC says we should forget about the past damage to Cockburn Sound, and claims that 75 per cent of sea grass in Cockburn Sound has been lost. However, many Government reports state that 97 per cent of the sea grass in Cockburn Sound is destroyed. Without doubt, most of this mass destruction has been caused by industry and can never be repaired. We are sure Kwinana industry would want the local community to forget about this, but we are sure that the wider community will not. Since 2000, Cockburn Sound has been described in many Government reports as the second most degraded marine environment in Australia. Claims made have awoken the local community. Many people are outraged at the way the Cockburn Sound issue is being portrayed.

Steve Hesse President
Kwinana Progress
Association**NO CHARGE TO FRIENDS****Sound Telegraph**
30 April 2008

Rubbish collection will be a little easier for the Friends of Point Peron group, following an agreement by Rockingham City Council to fund a skip bin service. The group is made up of volunteers who have adopted an area of parkland in Point Peron to keep free of rubbish and weeds. An increase in the amount of rubbish removed from the area - six cubic metres at last count - led to the request for the council's help in providing the service at no cost to the group. The 1100 litre bin will be placed at Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre.

BEACH REPAIRS TO BEGIN**Weekend Courier**
28 March 2008

Work begins next month to repair erosion damage on Penguin Island's South Beach. The work is being carried out by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in partnership with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. It will involve transporting up to 10,000 cubic metres of sand from the Point Peron sand trap to Mersey Point and then slurry pumping the material across the sandbar that links the island to the mainland. The sand will then be used to renourish and re-profile the southern beach of Penguin Island. DEC parks and visitor services officer Shawn Debono said Mersey Point and the sandbar connecting Penguin Island to the mainland would be closed to the public during the works that were expected to take three to four weeks. The access road to the Mersey Point boat ramp also would be closed to vehicles. Mr Debono said while the public would not be able to walk across the sandbar to Penguin Island because of the pumping equipment and pipelines, the ferry service would continue to operate during the repair work. "DEC will also ensure appropriate signage is in place before the project begins to alert the public to the temporary changes for access to the island," he said. The DEC will be carrying out an advisory campaign to keep residents informed.

WHO WILL PAY**Sound Telegraph**
7 May 2008

In February this year a local private developer outlined plans for a Rockingham marina at the Wanliss Street site which attracted strong community support. Many people who are opposed to the Point Peron marina and canals project may be under the impression that if the Wanliss Street option goes ahead then the Point Peron option will not. Unfortunately this is not the case. The Point Peron canal proposal is still "on the books" of both the Rockingham City Council and the State Government. The environmental concern associated with the Point Peron canals are well known however there are some social issues that I would like to highlight. At the Point Peron site, in addition to a big amount of public land being lost in the construction of upmarket housing in an exclusive private estate, I believe that Rockingham ratepayers of this and future generations are going to have to ultimately foot the bill for the ongoing dredging at the Point Peron site to keep the channel open and to flush the canals. From an engineering perspective the Point Peron proposal is going to be a very expensive exercise as ratepayers in the Murray Shire have discovered with their own canal developments. At the Wanliss Street site however, because it has existing naturally occurring deep water, any ongoing dredging will be minimal and will be paid for by the developer/owner of the marina. We need a marina in Rockingham in the "best place" where ratepayers don't have to "pick up the tab".

Dawn Jecks
Safety

Bay

CONCERNS ABOUT MARINA FUTURE
Weekend Courier
26 September 2008

As Greens candidate for the seat of Rockingham, I congratulate Upper House candidate Phil Edman on his success. I expect him to work for the long term welfare of Rockingham, socially, economically and environmentally. So when I read about his plans to "lobby for ... the next stage of the Mangles Bay Marina" ("Seat hopes high", *Courier* 19/9) I had some concerns. First it's not in Mangles Bay, its inland on Point Peron! There is a world of difference in terms of threats to the endangered thrombolites and plant community of Lake Richmond, not to mention the threat of dewatering to Palm Beach residents' bores and the impact of the earthmoving and dredging required. Second the project is basically a canal development, like those in Mandurah and Yunderup, and likely to be prone to silting, smelling, erosion and acid sulphate soil leaching. The scientific modelling appeared to many to be inadequate and nothing has been tested in the ground. Third the next stage is not a Matter of lobbying. It's simply the release of the EPA's recommendations which have been with Cabinet for over 12 months. Rumour has it that the EPA was not too impressed. Finally I'd request Phil Edman to look instead at the Wanliss proposal which is economically and environmentally much less risky.

James Mumme
Greens candidate for Rockingham

Editor's note:

It's understood from Mr Edman that he will lobby for an environmental impact statement so all environmental issues can be assessed 'before plans go further'. Mr Edman stressed that was all he was lobbying for. He said Point Peron was the headland on Cape Peron and that there was a need for a marina (the entrance would be off Mangles Bay) and the Wanliss Street jetty development. He said the EPA had not seen any assessment yet so it would be hard for them to make a judgement at this point. Mr Edman said Rockingham City Council had taken the right approach with regard to the project and the previous government had taken nearly two years to make up its mind on whether the project could progress to the next stage.

MAYOR: CANBERRA TRIP 'INVALUABLE'
By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
26 September 2008

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said his recent trip to Canberra with the city's incoming chief executive officer Andrew Hammond had provided invaluable opportunities to meet with various Parliamentary committees and Federal MPs. Cr Sammel and Mr Hammond were part of a delegation organised by the South West councils. The group represents Rockingham, Kwinana, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Cockburn and Melville on a regional basis.

Cr Sammels said the mayors and chief executives of all six councils were part of the delegation that travelled to Canberra to lobby and represent the South West region as a whole. He said they were very appreciative of Brand MHR Gary Gray's help in gaining unescorted passes for the delegation. Mr Gray also organised some meetings. "We received good advice on the Mundijong Road extension land acquisition issue."

The Federal Government allocated \$6.7 million for the extension but it has been stymied because of the land issue," Cr Sammels said. "There were meetings on climate change (and) defence issues, with the Federal Government now aware of the need for the realignment of the Point Peron Causeway in preparation for any future marina at Mangles Bay. "We also met (Arts Minister) Peter Garrett and talked about a range of issues. "We did ask about a performing arts centre for Rockingham but were told we would have to go through the Federal Infrastructure committee for that one."

Cr Sammels said he and Mr Hammond took advice on the Baldvis Community Service and Library infrastructure project. He said Mr Hammond was able to meet the other regional local government representatives and get a grasp of regional affairs. "We had a good hearing from the politicians and department heads," Cr Sammels said.

STINK HAPPENS
Sound Telegraph
27 August 2008

I refer to Matt Stafford's letter "Create a Stink" (Sound Opinion, August 13) and his thoughts on the reason for, and the result of, the proposed re siting of the Sewerage Treatment plant from Point Peron to East Rockingham. I think we can all take it as a done deal that this will happen, for no other reason than the development that will be happening very soon at Point Peron.

How could we expect the new owners of the land that was once owned by the taxpayers of WA for their recreational use to put up with a sewerage treatment plant in their exclusive area? Remember when Point Peron was given to the people and named "Bush Forever". As for Matt's surprise at the lack of comment, well it may just be that most of us know that the deal is done already for the above reason. Any argument against development of the kind that will be happening at Point Peron will just be a waste of time. Especially with an arrogant State Government, a local member with questionable value to this community and an area that will almost certainly vote Labor, as it always does, and therefore Labor knows it can get away with doing just about anything, or nothing, in this area.

We also have a Local Government that can always be depended on to make the wrong decision about most things when they come up with reasons why the Point Peron area should be developed such as "the whole area is littered with garbage and not used". Well hello, the only reason that there is dumping happening in the area and it's not used much is that the council has never done anything there at all to stop antisocial behaviour such as putting in some pathways through the bush areas and sending workers out there to give it a clean up occasionally.

Why not have the rangers go out there to look around? And what happened to the continuation of the dual use pathway from Arcadia Drive around the beach to Point Peron that was announced years ago? If there were a few facilities throughout the whole area such as I have mentioned above then people would start to use 'it much more and maybe it wouldn't look so run down. Even the causeway boat ramp is useless, with constant silting - it is literally falling apart due to lack of maintenance.

There are so many things wrong with the way things are done in this area and State that I could go on for ages but Matt, sadly mate; I think you are going to have to get used to the idea of the "poop farm" being relocated to East Rockingham at another big cost.

P. Edwards
Safety Bay

MAYOR GETS ROLE AS CHAIR
By Belinda Cipriano
Sound Telegraph
29 October 2008

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels has been elected chairman of the National Sea Change Taskforce after eight months as acting chairman. The taskforce, which represents 51 coastal councils around Australia and more than five million people, tackles the issues faced by coastal councils including demand for infrastructure in cultural, recreation, sporting and other community facilities. "Rockingham is averaging more than 5 per cent growth each year and is growing at about three or four times the national average," Cr Sammels said. "I guess people are wanting the beach lifestyle and there are a lot of the baby boomers retiring, and with this sort of growth comes challenging times in terms of infrastructure." As part of his new role, Cr Sammels said he would lobby the State and Federal governments for money to help with infrastructure in the Rockingham area. "We want to make sure we can tap into Federal money to help Rockingham and coastal members of the community with issues such as tourism," he said. "For example, if there is something wrong with a toilet block there is a lot of pressure on local governments to fix the problem. "If we can get support from our State and Federal governments it takes that pressure off." Cr Sammels will meet with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd next month as a representative for the taskforce and South West group of councils.

MARINA TICK
Sound Telegraph
19 November 2008

It is great to see that plans for a marina for Rockingham in the best location are "progressing well. I am of course referring to the well considered and forward thinking Port Rockingham development proposal to construct a pier and offshore marina at the northern end of Rockingham beach out from the Wanliss street car park. From both engineering and environmental perspectives, this proposal is clever because it works with nature rather than against it. It maintains beach access and existing recreation uses and will be fully funded by the developer. This is in stark contrast to the proposed canal housing development at Point Peron - that would need to take away and sell off our community assets - land - in order to pay for a marina at the Point Peron/Mangles Bay location. I see the marina at the proposed Port Rockingham development as the best option by far for both ratepayers and the environment.

Dawn Jecks
Safety

Bay

REGIONAL PARKS FOR EVERYONE TOO

**Weekend Courier
5 December 2008**

Freda Dixon makes some very good points in her letter (Keep boats at the yacht club, *Courier*, November 28). I especially agree with her statement that the "sea and the beaches are for everyone, not just the privileged few". I also believe that our regional parks are for everyone too. This is one of reasons why I am so strongly opposed to the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct proposal - because it involves selling a large section of Rockingham Lakes Regional Park along with most of the children's holiday camps to make way for hotels and luxury, canal-side houses. Apart from the social justice aspects relating to the sale of community assets/parks, there are some substantial environmental issues to be considered as well. Of concern is the soil disturbance at Point Peron, which would expose the acid sulphate soils and erode the limestone landscape, posing a serious threat to the nearby Australian heritage-listed thrombolite community at Lake Richmond. The destruction of large areas of seagrass during the dredging for a channel leading out to sea is also of concern. After initial construction this channel will require continuous dredging to stop it from silting up. In canal developments to the south it has been the ratepayers that have ultimately had to pick up the tab for these expenses. In conclusion, Freda is quite right about Rockingham not being a port - however regarding the use of the word "port" -they are the developer's words not mine.

**Dawn Jacks
Safety Bay**

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COASTAL STRATEGY

**Weekend Courier
12 December 2008**

Locals are being encouraged to have their say on the draft Perth Coastal Planning Strategy. The strategy will support decision-making on future land use, development and conservation of the coastline from Two Rocks to Singleton. Planning Minister John Day said the draft plan offered guidance for the location, scale and density of developments over the next 10 to 15 years. "The State Government needs a framework to work with, to help guide future management, balance competing interests and address the impacts of natural processes and climate change," he said. The draft Perth Coastal Planning Strategy is available from the WAPC website at www.wapc.wa.gov.au/comment.

WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR CARAVAN PARKS

**Weekend Courier
19 December 2008**

Our State Government in 2009 may have to look seriously into building or creating caravan parks in Western Australia. People who now live in caravan parks are facing very uncertain futures. I guess we could say its park owners being greedy but look at it from their point of view and developers are making offers to these owners that are hard to refuse. Our people, especially elderly residents, are losing thousands of dollars when these parks close but the worst bit for them is trying to find alternative accommodation. Our public housing is already under huge pressure as people have to wait on a very long waiting list. As each park is gobbled up and people are forced to move it adds more pressure to these lists. It is also very emotional and shattering for residents who loved the caravan park lifestyle and thought they were there forever. Western Australia is also a popular magnet for Aussies from all over Australia, along with overseas tourists, who have caravans and mobile vehicles. These people have to have a place to stay and our State Government could move into the caravan park industry and even make money. We are now on the edge of a totally different financial structure. As work becomes scarce in different areas, Aussies will be forced to move where the work is. The caravan industry may become the real modern lifestyle of the future. We will need to supply parks for these moving populations, not closure.

**Charlie Gibson
Falcon**

STILL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

**Weekend Courier
5 December 2008**

Freda Dixon is right to observe that a marina in Rockingham is a polluting, anti-social activity, and that it should not be in her back yard. However, it is not logical to assume that Mangles Bay is the alternative site. Before committing more funds to a canal/marina idea at Point Peron, there are still a number of questions to be answered, and the first seems to be afrequently quoted statement about the urgency for a marina to serve Rockingham residents. Looking to sea at the moment I see more unoccupied mooring spaces than moored boats so is the pressure for marina spaces more of an illusion than a reality? Is there really so much overwhelming evidence that this community has a need to accommodate polluting and anti-social activities that seem to go hand in glove with a marina complex? The present arrangement with swing moorings in the bay, and boats on hard stand in Palm Beach would seem a satisfactory answer to serve community needs. We should be asking if a marina is really necessary before we put the community, the environment, and our ratepayer dollar, at risk from short-term development plans.

**Doug Pritchard
Rockingham**

MINISTER MOVES ON BLUEPRINT

**By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
19 December 2008**

Cape Peron Marina is one of several major projects being driven by the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office over the coming year. Planning and Infrastructure Minister John Day also announced this week that the MLC elect for South Metropolitan Region, Phil Edman, is the new chair of the Premier's Rockingham Planning and Development Taskforce. The taskforce drives projects for Kwinana and Rockingham from the development office. Mr Day said other new taskforce members would be appointed early in the New Year. Mr Day congratulated Mr Edman on his appointment, saying his business background and experience in local government would be greatly beneficial to the role. "Some of the top priorities of the taskforce include the marina proposal, through its environmental assessment phase, the revitalisation of the Rockingham City centre, the redevelopment of the Kwinana Town centre and the Mundjiong Road project," Mr Day said. "I look forward to detailed proposals for these projects being presented to government under Mr Edman's guidance." Mr Edman said he regarded the marina proposal as a necessity. In regard to economic sustainability, local jobs and a safe haven for local boats. He said the taskforce would be working to progress the project's environmental assessment. "And as a candidate in the last federal election, I was privileged to be able to be help lobby for the Auslink funding with the council for that connection. "We need to get this on the table urgently otherwise we could lose the money." Mr Edman said as a local resident, he was committed to bringing more facilities and amenities to the region. He also said he was looking forward to working with the newly appointed Development Office Director Simon Proud.

CONSIDER IMPACT

**Sound Telegraph
10 December 2008**

Regarding the article "Stalled project making ground" (Sound Telegraph, December 3). For the mayor to make out that the previous government had placed the Cape Peron Marina on the back burners is incorrect. How many reports have been carried out at great expense to the taxpayers, revealing key environmental issues associated with the project, were it to go ahead? Has Cr Sammels taken any notice of the impact assessment process and findings so far? The significant environmental issues identified by the EPA included impacts on seagrass and water quality, Lake Richmond and terrestrial vegetation. The marina development could result in the loss of about 10 hectares of seagrass. In 2001 the Environmental Protection Policy of Cockburn Sound stated it must be protected from the effects of pollutants, waste discharges, deposits and loss of visual amenity and its environmental values must be approved. There are many other issues like the continued dredging, acid sulphate. Soils will be exposed if the canal system goes ahead as part of the marina, without due care being given to the ecological marine impact. The SER did not result in an environmental approval so by approaching Mr Day is Cr Sammels hoping for a different outcome or just wasting taxpayers' money?

**Annette Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment**

NO TIME FOR FURTHER PROCRASTINATION

Editorial
Weekend Courier
2 January 2009

It has been flagged that the new chairman of the Rockingham Kwinana Development Taskforce and MLC elect Phil Edman has been asked to help pursue the Cape Peron Marina proposal through its next phase, an environmental assessment in the new year. Planning and Infrastructure Minister John Day looks forward to detailed proposals on that and other major proposals for the region as part of his portfolio. Already the protesters are gearing up again, even before a long overdue environmental assessment has occurred.

Procrastination has dogged the proposal and lack of will by the previous Government to carry it to that stage continues to deny people in the southern suburbs a safe haven for the ever-increasing number of boats needing a marina. By not moving ahead with the environmental assessment and seeing if it is a "goer" or not, also leaves any alternative marina or boat mooring facilities in limbo. Former Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTieman said two marinas would be needed in the area in the future-so let's get a move on and try to catch up with facilities other areas have. After all, Rockingham does call itself an "aquatic playground" and its sea and coastline is in the front seat to be able to be just that.

Cape Peron is like many other areas of Rockingham's coastline - inaccessible to the general public to use or too frightening to use because of thieves breaking into cars, hoons using it as a rubber laying haven and perverts lurking in sand hills. South-of-the-river residents have very little sea and coastline access. Rockingham and the State Government should make its locked away beautiful coastline more user-friendly whether a marina goes ahead or not. Point Peron is a beautiful area for boating, diving and fishing and so is Warnbro. So let's start to make those areas more accessible in 2009.

DAY TAKEN TO TASK

By Laura Tomlinson
Sound Telegraph
7 January 2009

Former Rockingham Kwinana Development Taskforce chairmen Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan and Warnbro MLA Paul Papalia have spoken out about their dumping from the taskforce by Planning Minister John Day. Mr McGowan and Mr Papalia have been replaced with South Metropolitan Region MLC-elect Phil Edman, who is also a Rockingham councillor. A founding member, Mr McGowan started the taskforce in 2003 with Geoff Gallop, as a means to facilitate infrastructure projects and procure funding for the area such as the Perth to Mandurah railway, the Lark Hill Sportsplex, Rockingham beachfront's redevelopment and the Rockingham General Hospital upgrade.

On the day Mr Edman's appointment was announced, Mr McGowan said he was told he was no longer the chairman, a move he said was impolite and would result in the loss of considerable corporate knowledge. Mr Papalia joined the taskforce in February 2006 and said he was told he was sacked in a letter about a week before Mr Edman's appointment. Mr McGowan said he had no doubt politics was behind the move. "The Liberal Government sacked Paul and I because we're Labor MPS," Mr McGowan said. "Mr Barnett might like to claim credit for the taskforce's achievements but he can't." Mr McGowan said he hoped Mr Edman would fight to get money ' from the Royalties for Regions scheme for Rockingham. "I am very concerned that Mandurah is eligible for countless millions in Royalties for Regions, but Rockingham is not eligible for one cent - I think that is grossly unfair," he said.

Mr Papalia agreed, questioning why Madora Bay was eligible for funds, but Singleton was not. A spokesperson for Mr Day said it was the incoming government's prerogative to review the membership of a ministerial committee and the men were notified in writing. While Mr Edman's appointment was considered a positive outcome for the area, Mr McGowan and Mr Papalia were still welcome to provide input through Mr Day's office, the spokesman said. "Mr Edman's appointment is supported by both the City of Rockingham and the Town of Kwinana and he comes with considerable local experience and enthusiasm," the spokesman said. "The Rockingham and Kwinana Development Taskforce will remain focused on delivering best possible outcomes for the region."

TOUGH TIMES CALL FOR WISE HEADS

Sound Telegraph 21 January 2009
Weekend Courier 23 January 2009

With the tough times that we have ahead of us due to the financial crisis that was triggered by the subprime mortgage fiasco in the US, I believe it is more important now than ever that public money is spent wisely and to the benefit of the majority in the community. This is why I was disappointed to read that the Rockingham Kwinana Development Taskforce is seeking more public money for an environmental impact study to try to progress the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct proposal. Perth-based environmental consultants have estimated that it will cost at least \$5 million to undertake an environmental impact study for this proposed marina/canal housing project, and that will just be the beginning. The ongoing maintenance costs for similar WA based marina developments have cost local communities and the taxpayer in the millions of dollars. There are much better, more viable ways of improving our boating facilities without turning Point Peron, Rockingham's 'potential' Kings Park, into a concrete jungle and I believe that our elected representatives should be genuinely pursuing those instead.

*Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay*

WE MUST SPEND MONEY WISELY

Weekend Courier
30 January 2009

Dawn Jecks (Weekend Courier, January 23) has got it right. There is a need for prudence in the spending of public funds, not only in today's climate but at all times. A canal development in Mangles Bay is not the best result for the area and if implemented into private hands would never be returned to natural or public use. Phil Edman states that this proposal needs to go to the next stage of assessment. Sorry, but he is referring to a facility for pleasure craft. Unless someone can convince me that pleasure craft are necessary, then nothing associated with them is needed. Wanted by some they may be but, as Dawn stated, if they are to be subsidised by rates and taxes then they are certainly not needed and now wanted by fewer due to the financial melt down. A lot of letters to the Premier might help sort that one out.

*Dave Worth
Safety Bay*

NEW COASTAL BODY FORMED

Weekend Courier
13 March 2009

Local councils have joined forces with Australia's research community to establish a body to help guide future coastal research activities. The Australian Coastal Alliance was launched in Mandurah last week at the Australian Coastal Councils conference. National Sea Change Taskforce chairman and Rockingham mayor Barry Sammels said the new body would provide an effective interface between organisations with a common interest in the sustainability of the coastal environment and communities. "The Australian Coastal Alliance will help bridge the gap between the needs of coastal planners and managers and research organisations, such as CSIRO and many of our universities, which conduct relevant research in this area," he said. "There is currently no central body that keeps track of coastal research output or which provides an interface between organisations with coastal research needs and the teams conducting such research projects. The Australian Coastal Alliance is aimed at better targeting research efforts to make sure they meet the critical information needs of coastal councils and other government agencies involved in planning and managing the coastal zone," he said.

CONSERVATION GROUP FORMS

Sound Telegraph
1 April 2009

A new conservation group is set to launch in Rockingham this weekend with a meeting for interested residents to be held at Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre on Saturday at 10 am. The Friends of Rockingham Lakes group aims in part to promote community awareness of the Rockingham regional parks and regional conservation issues. Spokesman Doug Holmes said the group also wanted to unite all community conservation groups to create a bigger voice in the Rockingham community. For more information contact Mr Holmes on 9537 1621 or 0400 904 016

EARTH WORK CLEARS KNOWN TERN NESTING SITE

By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
4 February 2009

Just weeks after erecting a fence around nesting birds, listed as vulnerable by conservationists, the Rockingham City Council has cleared the area - including the nests - at the Point Peron boat ramp. Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the council was aware that fairy terns were nesting at Pt Peron but if sand was not removed the boat ramp became silted up, making it difficult to launch boats from the area. "We suspended our excavation works until the terns had finished nesting but once the Environment and Conservation Department informed us that the terns had moved to Carnac Island we commenced work on January 20," Cr Sammels said. "The sand at Pt Peron is removed annually due to the Garden Island Causeway blocking the natural flow of the sand movement into Cockburn Sound. "The stockpiled sand is then used to help replenish beaches that have been damaged by storm events."

Avid bird watcher John Evans, of Warnbro, said he understood the need to keep the boat ramp free of sand but as far as he could establish the last known nesting of these birds in the Rockingham was about 10 years ago. Mr Evans first noticed the birds, a colony of about 25 to 30 pairs, sitting on eggs before Christmas and was pleased the council fenced off a 10sq m area to protect the birds from motor bikes. However, he was angry that the council had destroyed the nesting area without any research because the number of fairy terns was listed as about 720. A spokeswoman said the department was not aware that fairy terns had used the area in the past as a rookery but this was not unexpected as they mainly nested on sand spits, islands or sea beaches. Fairy terns have been recorded in the Swan Estuary, Peel Inlet, Lake Richmond, Lake CooLoongup and Lake Walyungup.

JETTY, MARINA APPROVAL STEP CLOSER

Weekend Courier
3 April 2009

The proposed Port Rockingham jetty and marina development is a step closer with the Public Environmental Review (PER) opened for public comment. Developer Rosewood Grove Ltd plans to develop a predominantly offshore, 500-boat, maximum capacity marina in the southern portion of Cockburn Sound, adjacent to the intersection of Wanliss Street and Rockingham Beach Road. The PER describes the proposal in detail and considers likely environmental effects of the marina, and proposed environmental management procedures associated with the development. A spokesperson said the project was intended to provide an iconic destination for local residents, tourists and day trippers and will help to address the constant shortage of moorings for boat owners. PER copies can be downloaded from www.portrockingham.com.au from April 6, or viewed at Rockingham council libraries and Department of Environment and Conservation offices. Public meetings have been scheduled for May 3 (10 am) and May 5 (6 pm), at the Cruising Yacht Club Rockingham, to explain the PER process and findings of the environmental review. Public submissions will close on May 17.

SEA RISE RISK SPURS COAST MAP PROJECT

By Angela Pownall and Amanda Banks
The West Australian
11 April 2009

WA's shoreline will be digitally mapped in 3-D in a \$1.6 million project to assess how the State's coast could be affected by climate change amid fears that current planning policy is putting beachside developments at future risk. The State Government's planning guidelines are based on a 2001 prediction of a 38cm sea level rise this century while the latest calculations warn that climate change will cause the ocean to rise by up to one metre. Concern is mounting that the policy is approving seaside developments that will later be affected by rising seas and coastal erosion, leaving government open to legal action. "There is a deep concern that we are building liabilities for the future," Robert Kay, a leading coastal management expert, said. Dr Kay, who has done coastal climate change impact studies in Mandurah, Cottesloe and the Pacific islands, described WA's coastal planning policy as "hideously out-of-date".

Mandurah mayor Paddi Creevey fears that parts of the city's foreshore development could be affected by climate change over the next few decades. She said the council had asked the State Government to update the policy with the latest scientific information and increase coastal setbacks. The local authority fears future legal action from property owners because information in the public arena has not been applied to planning policy. "Part of the problem is what we approve today will be there for 100 years," Cr Creevey said. "It would be a great certainty if that policy was updated according to the scientific evidence available." Work has started to map the WA coastline from Yancheep to Cape Naturaliste by using rapid pulses of light to create a 3D map of the land and sea floor. The six month project will identify vulnerable areas. "Undertaking this study is a positive step in helping us understand the issues and risks on the WA coast from climate change impact,"

Eric Lumsden, chairman of the WA Planning Commission, said, WAPC's reviewing its policy for coastal setbacks. A Federal parliamentary inquiry held in Perth this week that funding for programs to tackle the potential impacts of climate change is ad hoc and inadequate.

MARINA PLAN FLOATED

By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
1 May 2009

Geoff Simpson of Rockingham is one of many residents who will be closely watching the progress of Rosewood Grove's Port Rockingham proposal for a jetty and marina facility on the Rockingham foreshore. Public consultation sessions are being held on Sunday at 10 am and Tuesday at 6 pm at The Cruising Yacht Club. The meetings will inform people about the Public Environmental Review document that has been released and which Mr Simpson says contains some real surprises. (See letters page). The site for the facility is at the northern end of Rockingham beach out from Wanliss Street and north of Bell Park. It proposes access under a pier structure via an upper deck over the existing Wanliss Street car park, level with the pier that features cafes, restaurants, tourist shopping, and boat sales. A rock breakwater would be open at both ends and environmental and engineering studies are being carried out to help produce detailed plans.

Mr Simpson said the project was so big that if the planned curved rock breakwater were to go the other way it would reach The Cruising Yacht Club jetty. He asked who would occupy the retail space given properties already in place had problems attracting tenants and how many cafes and restaurants the area could support. Mr Simpson is also concerned about the loss of 600 m of pristine north facing beach from Wanliss through to Victoria streets, traffic and parking problems, noise and the loss of his 180 degree water views which are to be replaced by a two storey building. He is also worried about pollution from the 500 boat mooring at the marina.

Opposing Mr Simpson's views will be the many boat owners and business people in the area who are keen to see long-awaited boating facilities established. There has been a lack of facilities for many years as infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the number of boat owners.

ASSERTIONS QUERIED

Weekend Courier
15 May 2009

I feel I must write to express my anger and confusion regarding the promotion of the "Cape Peron Tourist Precinct". I am wondering why the mayor and Phil Edman keep speaking to the newspapers as if their proposed Cape Peron development is going to go ahead and saying that the council is supporting this too? They seem to have convinced the new City of Rockingham chief executive of the matter as well. I know that there are several City of Rockingham councillors who do not support the proposed development at Cape Peron and I was one of several thousand local people who signed a petition tabled in Parliament against this proposal.

There are many issues at stake here and I feel it is wrong for our elected mayor to continuously go against public opinion. With climate change and the threat of rising sea levels it is up to all of us, especially those who have the power to make decisions that can have long-reaching implications, to seriously conserve and account for the environment because without it and its services (clean air, biodiversity, water and so forth) none of us will survive. The Cape Peron "team" mention investigating seagrass regeneration. It is my understanding that this has been researched and found to not work. So why do they insist on pushing a development at Mangles Bay that is slap bang in the middle of one of the few remaining seagrass areas left in the much-used Cockburn Sound? Healthy seagrass is necessary for several marine species to successfully breed and live, including the fish that many people wish to catch. Also, the contentious issue of whether the proposed canal development will adversely affect the water and quality of Lake Richmond is a case for applying the precautionary principle of sustainable development.

No one knows what the long term effects will be, so it is best to err on the side of caution and not go ahead. I also question the assertion that this development will attract "tourists". From my research most people are seeking unique, quiet, beautiful natural areas. There are many marinas and canals and they are much the same wherever one goes. Economically, any long-term economic gains would not just the huge environmental and social costs - it will be unaffordable for most to live there and once it is "developed" there is no going back. I suggest therefore that Mayor Barry Samuels and Phil Edman listen to the many concerned residents and voters out here and do not persist in pushing this unsustainable project.

Julie Byrne
Palm Beach

MARINA MATTERS

Sound Telegraph
20 May 2009

Former Rockingham councillor Phil Edman has announced a review of the Cape Peron marina canals project. I think one needs to be realistic about the review. It is only a preliminary step prior to a full public environmental impact assessment. One need not assume that the marina/canals project will go ahead regardless as to whether it has been in concept stage for three months or 30 years.

The environmental impact assessment will need to examine the merits or not of the project. Personally, I am strongly opposed to the development unless the environmental assessment can categorically deal with the threats and risks to Lake Richmond. However, I am strongly "pro" the rejuvenation of the Point Peron precinct, to turn it into a wonderful world class recreation and tourist point for the people of our region and the State. This is the opportunity for a unique tourist development which would bring healthy spending into the region. In the end, the 'Cape Peron project may not include a marina/ canals, and the leaders of this community -politicians and individual councillors - need to factor in this possibility. Why not bring together all the stakeholders and get them working collaboratively towards a Point Peron development that is environmentally responsible and sustainable and something that we the residents would be proud of? Furthermore, with the perilous state of the State's finances, the Government would be prudent to use its money carefully. My view is that the assessment study ought not be the real priority for the Government just now. I am sure there are significantly much better and more worthy uses for Government spending in the Rockingham region.

I acknowledge that a section of the community will disagree with this view. However, with the cutbacks and royalties for regions taking funds away from metropolitan areas I doubt if the Government would be in a position to invest heavily in Rockingham for a long time to come. We are fortunate that under the previous Labor government, Rockingham has been the beneficiary of substantial investment in worthwhile projects, over many years.

John Cotter

MARINA FOR ALL?

Sound Telegraph
27 May 2009

When the Point Peron was first proposed I contacted Phil Edman with my concerns regarding this development being accessible to the people of Rockingham, as I had witnessed such development elsewhere and had seen that locals were excluded by the high costs being charged for berths and facilities. I was assured that this marina development would be for all. I have heard a rumour that the cost of a berth in this fine edifice, if ever built, would be \$20,000 a year - can any member of the pro-marina development team confirm this? I know that this is a popular area and the moorings in the Mangles Bay area are close to, if not already, unsustainable, but I do not want a marina that caters only to the rich and affluent. I am a local ratepayer so I believe my opinion does matter.

I urge the council to think outside of the usual canal/marina development and look around the world for best practice. A floating marina would have less impact than a canal development, especially with the issues of acidic soils and the devastation that could cause. As for a haul out area for maintenance, a small area set aside for this purpose without having to build the canals should not be that difficult to manage. But I suppose this would not attract the amount of private capital that Rockingham City Council seems to assume is waiting there to develop the marina.

Just bear in mind that this council will have no control over what is developed there - they may think they have at the start, but I know that when it comes down to business and contract negotiation who would win out.

Name and Address
Withheld

DEVELOPMENT
Sound Telegraph
10 June 2009

The Mangles Bay canal development has raised its ugly head again. It is increasingly ugly, though. There are a number of supporters, though most of them would have a single benefit in mind without a concern for other ramifications. They are all trusting on those other aspects so they manage to trust that other concerns will be addressed. It's all a matter of trust, but that is the problem. Do you trust a politician who openly declares the only way to get a Mangles Bay marina was to join a political party – and went on to do so? Do you trust a local council that insists a local football club repay an electricity bill, yet wastes \$250,000 on surveying for a Mangles Bay marina? Do you trust a council that fines a swimming pool owner \$750 for non-approved fencing, yet only fines a business \$5000 for moving walls, changing ramp angles on a high-rise building, building eight units on an approved seven-unit site and does this without a current building licence and council approval? No? neither do I

MARINA VIEW
Sound Telegraph
10 June 2009

I refer to Dave Lund's letter "Get on with it" (Sound Opinion May 27) in regard to a marina in Rockingham. Dave says, "We have lost our chance of a marina between the 'fuddieduddies', the 'do-gooders' and the 'no gooders'. I take it that anyone in opposition to a marina falls into these categories.

That is an outrageous statement that many in our community will find offensive. We live in a democracy that gives everyone, from the very rich to the very poor, the same opportunity to put forward their views on this matter. On the subject of a marina that could have been built at Secret Harbour or Port Kennedy, maybe the land developers believed there was more demand for a golf course than a marina that would only be used by a few and would be very expensive to build and to maintain. Like Dave, I do not have a boat, but I will go along with any marina project where the developers purchase the land, do not want any taxpayers' or ratepayers' money to build it, and will bear the full cost of any future dredging and maintenance. And in the event of a financial failure it is their responsibility. That, Dave Lund, is "living in the real world".

*Bernie Whitworth
 Safety Bay*

PLEDGE FOR PERON PLAN
Weekend Courier
12 June 2009

Rockingham Kwinana Development Office is assuring residents that the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct will not be a 'Gold Coast type' commercial operating marina. Instead, it will be a low key, family friendly precinct in sync with the adjoining Cape Peron environment. RKDO chairman Phil Edman said it was one of several major projects for the development office. He pointed out that one of the many misconceptions about the proposal was that it would service only wealthy commercial boat owners. He said it would provide facilities for sailing, fishing, sea rescue clubs, recreational facilities, tourist infrastructure and short stay accommodation. He claimed it would also boost employment and add to the City's economic base.

The Cape Peron precinct has been a vision for 30 years, but stalled two years ago after \$600,000 was spent on a feasibility study, which Mr Edman said was not an environmental assessment but more about seeking preliminary advice from the Environmental Protection Authority. The RKDO is reviewing the 2007 Cape Peron Precinct Plan and hopes to approach the state government in six to 12 months to request a formal environmental assessment of the proposal. An assessment is expected to take at least two years and if successful, ground modelling would be done to finalise a footprint and design.

Environmental concerns include the protection of seagrass and water quality, the impact on Lake Richmond and the loss of terrestrial vegetation. "We recognise environmental issues are the key (issue) and we'll have to work really hard to make sure this project is environmentally acceptable," RKDO director Simon Proud said. He said the development office had played a major role in initiating and delivering key infrastructure projects in the region since its inception in 2004.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRUSADER KEEPS THE
 FIGHT GOING**

By Gabrielle Jeffery
Sound Telegraph
10 June 2009

.....travelled the world. Bob sees these things as his true inspiration.

These days Bob is working on the campaign to preserve Point Peron, which he says is under threat from a proposal for a marina put forward to be developed there. Seagrass in the area is an important habitat for commercially and recreationally valued fish, mollusc and crustacean species and the adjacent bushland areas of Lake Richmond and Point Peron serve as Rockingham's Kings Park for the people. Point Peron is presently protected under draft management as a Regional Park area. Bob with others helping on the "Preserve Point Peron" campaign, is pushing for a marina to be sited at Wanliss Street, Rockingham, because the area has deep water and is sterile of any seagrass. "I want to save Point Peron from the dreaded marina," Bob said. "It was a fraud – turns out it was a canal development with a little marina attached to it."

MARINA DEBATESound Telegraph
24 June 2009

Funny how the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct is only referred to as a marina when proponents want to flog its virtues, no reference to the canal development tagged onto the side of it. Mr Edman, last time I was at Rottnest Island I don't remember seeing big canals cutting into the land, and the acid sulphate soil leaching into the seawater and killing everything it touched. Or the algal blooms from poorly flushed canals, or the big pumps running 24 hours a day, seven days a week pumping sand out like you can see at Mandurah marina. Don't threaten me with possible lost employment opportunities. Instead, why don't you show me the studies and independent research that prove there will be a lasting benefit both to the population and the environment? While you are at it please disclose any possible benefits that may come your way and that includes the rest of the council. Why don't you let the Environmental Protection Authority do its "employment opportunities should also be a major consideration" (Sound Telegraph, June 17)? And please remember, if you hold public office, who you are responsible to in the end – the public whether you agree with them or not. I have an idea. Why doesn't the council mail out an independently developed questionnaire with our rates notice and find out whether the majority supports the tourist precinct or not and finish this debate?

*Karl Badstuebner,
Cooloongup*

RULES CHANGE FOR MANGLES BAY USESound Telegraph
15 July 2009

The growing popularity of the waters off Rockingham for recreational boating, personal water craft and other aquatic activities has resulted in a major overhaul of on water gazettals, including a new prohibited area and speed restrictions. Planning and Infrastructure Department navigational safety and compliance manager Ray Buchholz said safety concerns, coupled with the need to better define the mooring zones, had prompted a redesign of the gazetted uses within Mangles Bay. "Congestion in some areas had seen conflict between users increase in recent years and these changes, combined with improved education and increased compliance patrols, will ensure safer operation of the waters even at the busiest times," Mr Buchholz said. "As part of the review undertaken by the department, officers consulted extensively with the Environment and Fisheries departments, Rockingham City Council, peak user groups and local rescue and boating clubs."

The changes include the creation of defined mooring zones, an eight knot speed restriction area and boating prohibited area at Point Peron, making it safer for people to swim or snorkel. A boating prohibited zone will be introduced at Palm Beach Jetty to protect fishermen and others using the jetty and surrounding waters, along with the removal of the Shoalwater Bay ski area and the creation of a 12 knot speed restriction area incorporating the wildlife conservation zone.

The personal water craft area next to the Garden Island causeway will be increased. Twenty five marker buoys defining the new zones have been installed in Mangles Bay. An updated boating guide for the waters off Rockingham is available from www.dpi.wa.gov.au/limarine or by calling 9431 1011.

SEAGRASS STUDY SOUNDS ALARM BELLWeekend Courier
3 July 2009

Cockburn Sound, from Rockingham in the south to Owen Anchorage in the north, is one of the worst examples of seagrass destruction in the world. This is one of the findings in a major international study published in the US this week. Co-author Professor Gary Kendrick of the UWA School of Plant Biology said seagrass destruction contributed to global warming, coastal erosion and the extinction of fish and other aquatic species. Prof Kendrick said seagrass destruction in Cockburn Sound from 1968 to 1980 had been 80 per cent. "It has improved since then but still ranks with Chesapeake Bay in the US as one of the worst," he said. (Chesapeake Bay is one of the most historical coastal features in the US and was the landing place for the Pilgrim Fathers when they founded the First Settlement.) Prof Kendrick said seagrass destruction or depletion in Cockburn Sound was constantly monitored and the subject of major annual reports. "There has been a switch in the causes in recent history from primary production to industries. More recently it has ranged from 10 to 15 percent. In the global picture there are concerns about reductions of even 1 percent," he said.

Seagrass loss rates around the world were comparable to those reported for coral reefs, tropical rainforests and mangroves with potential negative impacts for the more than one billion people who live within 50 km of them. This was one of the conclusions in this study (one of 200) which the prestigious journal Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences published this week.

PLAIN RUBBISHSound Telegraph
5 August 2009

We belong to the Friends of Peron and we try to get people to adopt a patch to look after and remove Geraldton carnation weed. A rubbish "dump" is behind our patch and it horrifies us to think that people go through a lot of trouble to drive their cars into the area in order to dump their rubbish. They not only want to get rid of their stuff, but they also want to hide it, which makes it all the more difficult for the council to remove

*Cynthia de Boorde
Safety Bay*

DESTRUCTION OF SEAGRASS BAD FOR FISH STOCKThe West Australian
4 July 2009

Fish stocks off the South-West could dwindle further with the destruction of seagrass beds, a University of WA expert has warned. Gary Kendrick said industrial practices such as dredging could spell disaster for fish stocks, which were already so stressed recreational fishing rules were tightened drastically this week. Professor Kendrick was part of an international research team which revealed this week that WA was among the worst places worldwide for seagrass destruction. He said they were as important as coral reefs for ecosystems. Losing seagrass meadows through the deepening of Fremantle Harbour and the proliferation of marinas would harm fish stocks and increase erosion.

LAKE MANAGEMENT
Weekend Courier
21 August 2009

A revised management plan for Lake Richmond will go before council at its annual meeting on Tuesday night. The plan will be a guide to management and conservation of the lake, which is recognised as a significant ecosystem supporting numerous flora and fauna species and two nationally listed Threatened Ecological Communities.

SAND CLEARED TO SECURE BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY
Weekend Courier
18 September 2009

Rockingham City Council is assuring the public the Point Peron boat launching facility will remain open to the boating community and current sand excavation works will not impact on this year's cray fishing season. Heavy machinery is brought into the area at the start of every winter to remove built-in silt. Mayor Barry Sammels said while excavation was completed early this year, the onset of severe storms over winter had resulted in above average sand rates into the sand trap and launch facility. "The rough seas have been unfavourable to complete works up until now," Cr Sammels said. Sand is being excavated to alleviate pressure from boat launches so they remain in operation for the season. Work is expected to be completed by Monday.

REASON TO VOTE
Weekend Courier
2 October 2009

The Point Peron development announcement is a timely reminder of the importance of voting in local council elections. And with the strong support for this project from some existing Rockingham city councillors, we can clearly see that local government is about a lot more than barking dogs and fence disputes. While I certainly agree that we need improved boating facilities, I don't believe that the average ratepayer/taxpayer should be subsidising people who own very large boats. In addition to the 8.7 million, the proposed canal housing development at Point Peron will require the selling of public assets, a Bush Forever site and part of a regional park to fund the canal/marina development. There is already a "user pays" marina under development at the northern end of Rockingham Beach out from the Wanliss Street car park. This other marina development (Port Rockingham) will be fully funded by the developers with no need for any public subsidies. With funding being cut to police services, health services as well as the reduction in the compensation promised to victims of abuse through the Redress scheme, I am really starting to wonder what the Barnett Government's priorities are.

Dawn Jacks
188 Safety Bay Road
Safety Bay

MONEY IS WASTED
Weekend Courier
2 October 2009

With the Government announcement that it would proceed with the next phase of the Point Peron marina project, it again appears that residents are being ignored. It has claimed that detailed investigations would proceed for a formal public environmental assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection Authority. But I would like to know why previous studies are being bypassed, including the EPA report where a canal-style marina was refused. The Howard government contributed taxpayers' money; just how much more is to be wasted? Is the Government going to continue spending money until it gets the answers it wants - that's the way it appears? The environmental damage to marine life and removal of about eight hectares of seagrass (although figures did go as far as 13 hectares at one stage) in our opinion equates to nothing short of environmental vandalism, all for the sake of a dollar. We have seen the many problems Mandurah continues to have with its canal marina: aren't there lessons here to be learnt?

Annette Gade
Conservation of Rockingham Environment
30 Kurrawa Street
Hillman

ROCKINGHAM MARINA GETS EPA GO-AHEAD
By Michael Hopkin
The West Australian
30 September 2009

The planned profusion of marinas along Perth's coastline took another step towards reality yesterday with the Environmental Protection Agency approving the 500 pen Port Rockingham development. The \$40 million project is one of five marinas planned between Ocean Reef in the north and Port Kennedy in the south which would provide at least 2,000 moorings. It would address the State's chronic shortage of recreational boat pens along the metropolitan coast.

The EPA's report said the Port Rockingham development would not have a significant impact on marine plants or animals, mainly because there were no seagrass meadows in the area. EPA chairman Paul Vogel said the marina's construction would impact temporarily on local water quality and part of Cockburn Sound near the development should be monitored during building work. He said the finished development would not cause algal blooms or other water quality issues because its rock breakwater would be open at both ends, allowing rapid water movement.

A spokesman for Rosewood Grove, the development of the Port Rockingham proposal, said he hoped construction could begin before the end of next year. "The Port Rockingham development will provide an iconic destination for tourists and local visitors," he said. Conservationists said it was important not marinas in sensitive areas that were home to vulnerable marine life, such as Penguin Island, not far from Port Kennedy's planned new boat ramp. WA Conservation Council spokesman David Mackenzie said new marinas could

FEW LIKE PROJECT
Weekend Courier
2 October 2009

The State Government appears determined to push on with the Point Peron project despite wide spread public opposition and an unfavourable initial assessment by the EPA. There are at least three more stages to go before work could start but in the meantime I urge residents to ask candidates for council their views. Only two out of several hundred residents I have discussed this project with approve of it. The remainder question whether the project is needed by most Rockingham boaties and they find the plan lacks common sense. And yes, I do support Port Rockingham marina - it's in the water where marinas belong. To spend more than \$3 million on such a project when budgets are under stress and mental health spending is likely to be cut is unfortunate.

James Mumme
Candidate for Safety Bay Ward
36 Gloucester Ave
Shoalwater

BARNETT FIRM ON MARINA

Weekend Courier
2 October 2009

Premier Colin Barnett says he is determined to see the controversial Cape Peron marina based precinct succeed as it would boost the area, providing much needed and long awaited boating pens and services, as well as a range of recreational, tourism and business opportunities. Mr Barnett was announcing the government's intention to proceed to the next phase of the marina project - a formal public environmental assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). He said the independent and thorough process would provide the community with several opportunities to comment, but the project would only go ahead if environmental approval was granted.

Mr Barnett said the project, which had been stalled since 2006, had been talked about for a long time, up to 40 years. He said facilities in the area were far behind and did not cope with what was needed. "In fact, they are awful," he said. "Cockburn Sound is a magnificent recreational area, but there is no marina or services such as fuel, repairs, chandlery, boat stackers, hardstand or parking for boat owners between Mandurah and Fremantle. "The next stage would be an amendment to the Metropolitan Regional Scheme; LandCorp would seek private sector partnership for the project. If there were no private partners, the State Government would be involved." The next stage would take at least 2 years to complete.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the council supported a marina at Cape Peron and was delighted that there was finally some movement in the project after years of stalling. "We at the Rockingham Council support this project," he said. "I'm delighted with the Premier's announcement and the commitment the Premier has given for this project to move to the next stage." Cr Sammels thanked Rockingham Kwinana Development Office chairman and South Metropolitan MLC Phil Edman for his work in moving the project forward since he took over the chair, for his lobbying for funds, and thanked the State Government for its commitment to delivering the project.

PLAN TO PROCEED WITH MARINA IS**'MISGUIDED'**

Weekend Courier
2 October 2009

Responding to the announcement by Premier Colin Barnett and Planning Minister John Day last week to go ahead to the next stage of the Cape Peron Marina project - the environmental assessment stage - spokesman for the Preserve point Peron Group, James Mumme, said the canal project was misguided. He said no study had been held into the needs of the Rockingham residents and he did not believe the majority of "boaties" wanted canals. "The site for these canals is environmentally very difficult; most of it is Bush Forever land," he said. "The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has demanded the highest level of approval possible.

Major concerns remain about seagrass, water quality in Cockburn Sound, ground water in the entire area, acid sulphate soils and two threatened ecological communities at Lake Richmond." Chairman of the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office taskforce and South Metropolitan MLC Phil Edman said it was not a marina, nor a canal development, but a precinct plan with a residential component envisaged. "Whether it be a canal, finger jetty mooring site or a breakwater has yet to be determined," Mr Edman said. "But until the environmental assessment is finished, there is no real plan." Mr Mumme said his group's stance was not to oppose the wishes of the boating community as it supported the Port Rockingham jetty proposal off Wanliss Street.

PUBLIC LAND CHANGES PLANNED

Weekend Courier
9 October 2009

THE WA Planning Commission is proposing a number of changes to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), reclassifying areas of public land as parks and recreation reserves to enhance regional open space and add to the protection of Bush Forever Sites. Of the 155 separate proposals across Perth districts, several are within the City of Rockingham and Town of Kwinana. In Kwinana the proposals include transferring a portion of land on Gilmore Avenue in Leda zoned railways to parks and recreation and to transfer two lots on Rockingham Road, Kwinana Beach, from rural zone to parks and recreation (restricted public access).

Within Rockingham, areas proposed to be transferred are on Mandurah Road East Rockingham and the Mead Road reserve. These would also be included as Bush Forever sites. Other areas proposed for transfer include a road reserve north of the Port Kennedy Wastewater Treatment Plant: two lots on Ennis Avenue, Port Kennedy, a portion of Wambro Sound Avenue and a portion of Forty Road in Port Kennedy.

Another proposal is to transfer lots on Foster Road, Fisher Street, Lake Street and Epsilon Drive and a portion of Safety Bay Road from parks and recreation to urban. The MRS amendment is being advertised for public submissions until January 29, 2010. It can be downloaded from <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/> comment or phone 9264 7777.

TROUBLED SLEEP

Weekend Courier
9 October 2009

WELL, surprise, surprise - the Barnett Government has just promised to spend \$3.1 million of taxpayers' money on a feasibility study on an ill-conceived, unsustainable costly and unwanted project that aims to turn Point Peron into canals and a marina. I don't know how they sleep at night wasting taxpayers' money like this when they are cutting back valuable front-line services to the health, police and education sectors. Don't believe the rhetoric. The proposed project at Point Peron will not only destroy one of the few remaining seagrass meadows in Cockburn Sound and threaten the thrombolites in the freshwater Lake Richmond nearby but will also destroy acres of designated Bush Forever land. Still, this is in keeping with the Liberal ethos - if there seems to be a dollar in it then it's all right and hang the climate, environmental and social costs that may occur.

Julie Byrne
11 McLean Street
Palm Beach

LITTLE ASSURANCE
Weekend Courier
16 October 2009

It is my belief that Frank McAuley, along with most of the proponents for the Mangles Bay canal development rely on the premise that "it is easier to get forgiveness than consent" (Plan is exciting, Courier, October 9). I also believe that they would, if considering a major personal purchase, conduct due diligence to ensure minimum cost to themselves while ensuring maximum benefit and security. Why then are those who oppose it (but will have to pay for it in taxes and rates) considered to be anti-progress or tree-huggers. So far no one has presented anything substantive to give assurance to us with regard to:

- The oceanic environment with its impact on sea grass, fish stocks, water purity and beach cleanliness.
- The impact that will be seen when added to other developments also approved for Cockburn Sound.
- The possible impact on Lake Richmond, either by draining or salt contamination.
- The cost of lost access to existing Point Peron beaches and walks.
- The damage to flora and fauna on Point Peron.
- The change from a family oriented destination to a boat mecca and the aesthetic eyesore so created.
- The cost or benefits to existing businesses caused by the proposed changes.

There are many more questions that need clarification and there is no assurance to "this or that will be so" or "computer modelling indicates this or that" if the inputs are not provable. However, if the whole concept is approved and later shown to be unsustainable can the proponents place in trust the required resources to undig it and restock it. I'd like to see that.

*David Worth,
41 Waikiki Road, Safety Bay*

EGO TRIP
Sound Telegraph
21 October 2009

South Metropolitan MLA Phil Edman, when are you going to get into the real world and forget about your ego-driven Cape Peron marina and canal project and put some effort into the health system and housing shortage? We have Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels saying the council is all for the project - what about the ratepayers who will have to dig deep for your developer-driven project? Then along comes Premier Colin Barnett, who hasn't stopped crying poor mouth since he has been in power, but finds a lazy \$3.7 million for his mates to go on a gigantic ego rush. The Rockingham marina sounds good to me.

*Arthur Keeves
Rockingham*

BETTER MARINA SITE
Weekend Courier
23 October 2009

Your front-page report headlined "Waves to generate power" (Courier, October 16) quoting MLC Phil Edman shows the extremes he is prepared to go to get some green credentials for the Point Peron canal development. He suggests that the five megawatts of power generated by the demonstration wave energy plant could be used in the Point Peron development. As the generation plant would be connected to the grid, which has a load of more than two million megawatts, I don't think the demand from a canal development is very relevant. If Mr Edman really wants to get some greenie points he should drop any idea of digging up the Bush Forever site at Point Peron. It would make more sense to put the second marina out at the brownfield site east of the Cooperative Bulk Handline silos. It would make an ideal buffer to the Kwinana industrial area.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

'LANDCORP SEEKS PERON PARTNER'
7 OCTOBER 09

Vivienne Ryan article
E-mail from Julie Byrne <julie_d_byrne@hotmail.com>
Thursday 29 October 2009 14:25

Dear Editor

I am writing to complain about the bias shown in the article 'LandCorp Seeks Peron Partner' by Vivienne Ryan in the West Australian of 7 October 2009. I apologise for not writing sooner but I have been away at a conference and then did not have internet access. I am a member of a local group of concerned residents who have joined Preserve Point Peron. We are everyday citizens who are concerned that some elements of the City of Rockingham in league with the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office and big business keep pushing to have their project to turn Point Peron into canals and an attached marina go through, despite what a large number of us residents want. Many of us are very concerned about the loss of bush locally as well as across the metro area. Much of Point Peron is designated as a Bush Forever site - this does not mean that it is just an area sitting there ready for the next developer to come along and destroy it. The area has many traditional links with holidays and camps for not only locals but also the wider West Australian community. This should remain, especially seeing as their very little land left near the coast that is very close to its original state. Coupled with this is the increasing concern over climate change and the need to conserve as much green space and bush as possible, let alone how rising sea levels may impact on any coastal development as discussed in the recent report by the Lower House Environment Committee. The proposed 'development' has many serious environmental implications, the most important probably being the unknown effect that digging out canals and the associated de-watering process will have on nearby freshwater Lake Richmond where critically endangered and listed thrombolites grow. There are also many other environmental as well as social and economic costs that this unsustainable project will incur. I object to the article being written as if this project is going ahead with just a cursory sentence at the end about environmental assessment. This shows your newspaper's bias towards the Liberal and big business view of the world, especially only quoting Phil Edman and Barry Sammels who spend all their time promoting this project. This has also been assisted by the Barnett government giving them \$3.7 million for a 'feasibility' study which is a waste of taxpayers' money seeing as previous studies have said that this project should NOT go ahead. It is also likely that the 'environmental assessment' will be a flawed exercise seeing as the Liberal government has been quietly going about silencing the EPA. There is no acknowledgement that there are many people opposed to this project and we had a lengthy petition tabled in State Parliament stating this, also there were no quotes in the article from anyone concerned about this unsustainable proposal. This article represents very biased and misleading reporting.

Yours faithfully
Julie Byrne
11 McLean Street
Palm Beach

COAST COST
Sound Telegraph
21 October 2009

Question - why do we need a marina in Rockingham? Is it for money land to wreck the coastline? What about the environment? When you build anything on the coast or land it affects the whole area. Seagrass and crabs' breeding grounds will be affected. Fish stocks will also suffer. Other marine life will be damaged.

Look at Mandurah for a start. They have trouble with erosion and now have to dredge out the marina. Buildings have been damaged as well. What about the Swan River with all the boats in there? Try and catch a fish or prawn in there now. What about the breakwaters that have been built - look at how much it has changed the coastline. As soon as you change one thing it affects another. Nature shows us what happens when we try and change things - even when a child builds sandcastles on the beach nature puts it back to what it was. What about our future generations? Kids, there won't be any coastline left. The more boats we have in the water, the more pollution we are going to have from oil and petrol going into the water.

Boat owners - how much does it cost you in fuel, boat registration, Licence & fishing tackle, and so on? What about the really big boats that goes out with only two people on board? Is it really worth it? How many times do you really take it out? What about the paint you put on the bottom of the boat to stop the barnacles fouling your hull - another cost. Hardstands, cleaning the hull, the list go on.

*Rob Owen
Hillman*

CONFLICT?
Sound Telegraph
4 November 2009

I was amazed to hear Mayor Barry Sammels on ABC radio on Tuesday, October 27 talking about concern over rising sea levels. I know that he is chair of the National Sea Change Taskforce. I read on their website that they have a Sea Change Sustainability Charter and advocate planning for climate change. So, does our Mayor have a split personality? How can he be chair of a body that espouses concern over climate change and sustainability issues and planning for the future, yet also keep advocating for a project that must be one of the biggest environmental vandalism acts in the metro area - to turn Point Peron into canals, high-rise hotels and an attached marina? I say, bring on rising sea levels and if this project goes ahead we can all watch the Rockingham version of *Silvania Under-Waters!*

Julie Byrne
Palm Beach

HOPES PINNED ON PERON
By Yvonne Thompson
Weekend Courier
13 November 2009

Phil Edman, chairman of the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office (RKDO), says a call by LandCorp for expressions of interest from potential partners to deliver the Cape Peron marina-based tourist project also highlighted the importance of local community infrastructure and enhancement of the region's degraded environment.

The South Metropolitan MLC said Phase 2 of the project would entail environmental investigation, assessment and approval processes carried out for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), a process that included formal public comment. "Potential partners will be required to demonstrate how they would include public infrastructure such as opening up the beach at Mangles Bay to public access, providing dual use access paths along the length of the beachfront, and affordable family holiday accommodation with beachfront access," he said. "The partners will also be required to commit to a \$5 million package of remediation and enhancement to the public areas of Cape Peron outside the project area." Mr Edman said if the project successfully passed the environmental review process, \$5 million would go to remove weeds, replant indigenous species, repair dunes and provide low key visitor facilities such as walkways, signage, lookouts, heritage restoration as well as funding to the Department of Environment and Conservation to improve the management of the area.

Expressions of Interest are scheduled to close on November 24. Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said Point Peron was a great place to enjoy, but had been neglected for too long. "An investment in the marina project will bring a balance to the area that is desperately needed," he said. "I am hopeful the further public consultation processes will provide opportunities for submissions to highlight how and where funds can best be spent."

GROUP OPPOSITION
Weekend Courier
13 November 2009

THE Conservation Group Preserve Point Peron is gearing up to restart its opposition to the development of a marina, accommodation, education facilities and low cost holiday accommodation and other infrastructure at Point Peron. The group is concerned about adverse environmental impacts caused by bush clearing, threats to the protected Lake Richmond thrombolites and seagrass in Mangles Bay. The group lobbied the State Government when the issue was "alive" two years ago and felt their concerns were not addressed by the proponents at the time. Last month the Rockingham Council received a 359-signatory petition from the group opposing the project. The group plans to have a meeting let the people know what is happening and to reinforce its anti-development stance.

WALK WAS INSPIRING
Weekend Courier 13 November 2009
Sound Telegraph 18 November 2009

A big bouquet and a big thank you to the Heart Foundation, the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Friends of Point Peron. My family and I all went on the Walk in the Park on Sunday, November 1 along Cape Peron to the Point, including the School Camp and World War II relics. The standard of commentary and breadth of knowledge of the leaders was excellent. Special mention must be made of our DEC leader for the morning, Cathy, whose enthusiasm and passion for her job working with the environment were a joy to see. We also had interesting talks on the native birdlife, wildlife, plants, geographical and social history of the Cape as well as the Marine Park and an inspiring talk by Trevor Walley on the indigenous history and ties with the area. Well done Friends of Point Peron for taking part in such an inspiring event and I know that most of the other participants plan to attend future walks.

Julie Byrne
Rockingham

MORE DREDGING NEEDED TO STOP SILT BUILD-UP
Sound Telegraph
18 November 2009

Avid bird watcher John Evans of Warnbro says Rockingham City Council has done the right thing removing sand from around the Point Peron boat ramp earlier this year. However, Mr Evans was concerned that not enough sand had been removed because the area was already silting up again. He said he did not want a similar situation to 2008, when the area was cleared by bulldozers after fairy terns had already built their nests there.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels confirmed further dredging would take place at the ramp this year. "This work will be undertaken shortly in readiness for the heavy use the ramp experiences in summer," Cr Sammels said. He did not say what date the area had been dredged, but said there would be about "13,000 cu m of sand stockpiled following the completion of the excavation, which is well in excess of the average quantities removed each year of eight thousand to 10,000 cu m". Cr Sammels said there had been significant beach erosion west of the Point Peron boat ramp and adjacent to the Point Peron Camp School as a result of strong winter storms and tidal surges. "Removal of the sand is undertaken with the full approval and knowledge of the Environment and Conservation Department," Cr Sammels said. "Any future nesting of fairy terns in the area will result in the similar action taken by both the department and the council last year. "This includes the ceasing of any excavation within the immediate area, fencing of the nesting area and monitoring of the nesting site."

MARINA NOT A DONE DEAL
By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
2 December 2009

About 150 people attended a meeting opposing the Cape Peron marina proposal at the weekend. Organised by Preserve Point Peron, the meeting included a number of guest speakers such as Conservation Council biodiversity officer Nic Dunlop, who explained how the State Government and Environmental Protection Authority processes would proceed for the proposed development. Preserve Point Peron Chairman Bob Goodale said Dr Dunlop also explained how the planned development had progressed for the past four years. "He gave us basic information so that people could understand how they could have some input into the proposal," Mr Goodale said. "He explained (that) we don't have (access) to a public comment period until in maybe two years time. "In the meantime people should start contacting members of Parliament and Premier Colin Barnett to tell them there is a groundswell of opposition to the proposal in Rockingham."

Just-endorsed Brand Greens candidate Dawn Jecks said a Facebook page, Hands Off Point Peron, was set up about a month ago and already had more than 3600 signatures. Mr Goodale told the crowd about the area's environmental importance, which included the heritage listed Lake Richmond - home to two critically - endangered communities of thrombolites and sedges. He said Point Peron and Lake Richmond were part of the Rockingham Regional Park with a draft management plan, and a big area of the proposed development area was Bush Forever. "I highlighted some of the environmental issues of the proposal (one of which) is the risk of salt water brought in with canals and the marina (putting Lake Richmond at risk)," he said. "I reminded them that at this stage the marina was still just a proposal, not a done deal."

GROUP OPPOSES PROJECT
Weekend Courier
4 December 2009

Hands Off Point Peron on Facebook, or simply Hands Off Point Peron, is helping the Preserve Point Peron (PPP) group oppose the Cape Peron tourist project, with the primary focus being on related social aspects and planning issues. At a public meeting hosted by the PPP on Sunday, Hands Off Point Peron co-creator Dawn Jecks said the Facebook group had more than 3,600 members. She said the group was set up two months ago in response to the State Government's announcement that \$3.7 million had been allocated to fund the proposal. "Members of the group all have their own story to tell about their unique experiences at Point Peron. They don't want to see this go ahead," Ms Jecks said.

Hands Off Point Peron co-creator Mark Winter said the proposal did not have a fraction of the benefits the proponents would have people believe. He claimed it was an elaborate scheme that "laundered" government land to private owners. "The local ratepayer will have to cop the cost of the maintenance of a facility that only a privileged few will enjoy," he said. "Business will be split between this proposed complex at Point Peron and the Rockingham Foreshore. "We already have a fully functioning centre that addresses our lifestyle needs."

Greens MLA and Greens planning spokeswoman Lynn McLaren said scant details were provided to questions in Parliament regarding how the allocated \$3.7 million would be spent. "This shows we have an issue with transparency, or lack thereof, regarding this project," she said. "People raised concerns at Sunday's public meeting about the lack of accountability when the Government forms a partnership with a private developer. The response does nothing to allay the community's fears. "When asked in Parliament about how the consultants would be selected and what investigations were being commissioned, little detail was provided. "Through these questions we did learn that once the private sector partner comes on board, that partner will undertake planning, environmental and engineering investigations. "I have sought a further briefing with LandCorp."

Chairman for PPP Bob Goodale said the main concern was losing public land to a developer. He said a Regional Park Management Plan would see passive recreation increase on the cape as soon as the draft regional plan had been to the relevant minister and funding applied for. "There is a lot of history on the site. I did tell people that a marina remained a proposal only."

STUDIES LINKED TO TOURIST PROJECT
Weekend Courier
4 December 2009

Environmental studies being carried out at Point Peron are associated with the Cape Peron marina based tourist proposal for Rockingham. Rockingham Kwinana Development Office chairman Phil Edman said a flora study had just been completed in the project area. Fauna studies have begun to gain better understanding of native and introduced wildlife in the area.

Geotechnical testing of the ground and environmental soil investigations are due to start mid December in the project areas. "Small vehicle mounted, minimum impact rigs that can easily access the area will be used for the work," he said. The integrity of nearby environmentally significant Lake Richmond was critical for the Cape Peron marina-based tourist project. "Information gathered was essential to ensure there will be absolutely no impact on Lake Richmond and its surrounding habitats," Mr Edman said.

ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS
Weekend Courier
11 December 2009

The list of measures outlined by the Federal Government that the Water Corporation must undertake to avoid "significant impacts":

Endangered Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales ecological community:

- Ensure there is no clearing or disturbance of the area of the ecological community.
- Install permanent fencing around the area of the ecological community and manually remove weed species in the area every six months for a minimum of five years, and also protect the ecological community in perpetuity.
- Ensure groundwater is only extracted in the construction zone, and surrounding groundwater levels are not altered.
- Make available secondary treated wastewater and supply it to maintain the ecological community if a conservation reserve is established next to the proposal site.

The endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo:

- Within one year of construction, plant 300 Tuart seedlings within the proposal site or at the Point Peron Wastewater Treatment Plant site and protect them in perpetuity.

Listed marine species:

- Ensure that after treated wastewater is disposed into the ocean and that Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 99% species protection guideline trigger levels for toxicants are met at the boundary of the High Ecological Protection Area.

POINT'S OMISSION DEFENDED
Weekend Courier
11 December 2009

Important heritage sites in Cape Peron are listed in the Rockingham Council's Municipal Heritage Inventory (MHI), meaning there is no need to include the entire Cape Peron area, strategic planning and environment manager Peter Ricci said this week. Mr Ricci was justifying a decision by officers to remove Cape Peron from the list of heritage sites following a review of the MHI. At the Council's planning service committee meeting on Monday, councillors asked why Cape Peron had been removed and were told that the all the important sites, including the Cape Peron Battery Complex, Turtle Factory, Point Peron Recreational Camp and Alfred Hines Seaside Home, were covered.

CARELESS ACT RUINS WORK
By Laura Tomlinson
Sound Telegraph
13 January 2010

Seedlings planted by high school students in a Bush Forever rehabilitation site were flattened by a LandCorp contractor's heavy machinery two weeks ago, while the vehicle was collecting soil for the Cape Peron Marina development's environmental testing. Friends of Point Peron member James Mumme said about 15 seedlings on a plot of land between Memorial Drive and Lease Road had been flattened within the last two weeks. Mr Mumme said the block was a Bush Forever rehabilitation site and had recently been adopted by students from Warnbro Community High School's Bush Rangers, who planted about 200 seedlings and cleared weeds from the area. Within the last two weeks, protective bollards were lifted from the block and a heavy vehicle drove through the area, flattening the seedlings. Mr Mumme said he believed LandCorp had been undertaking environmental testing in the area related to the Cape Peron Marina development. "Environmental testing is required by the Environmental Protection Agency, but I would be surprised if the EPA would expect them to just drive carelessly over a regenerating area and across a bunch of trees," Mr Mumme said.

LandCorp metropolitan general manager Luke Willcock said the damage was caused by a LandCorp contractor, who drove over the land to get to one of several soil and ground water studies test pit locations. "LandCorp are disappointed that the contractor did not take more care and attention when working on site and did not bring this matter to our attention earlier," Mr Willcock said. "Any seedlings damaged at the site will be replaced as soon as possible and we will ensure that any further environmental investigations conducted as part of the Cape Peron Marina project will minimise incidental damage to the area. "LandCorp employees and its consultants are encouraged to always consider the environment and ensure that minimal damage is caused when carrying out investigations on site."

A SHORT POINT
Sound Telegraph
13 January 2010

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels has noted that with the growth of Baldviss there needs to be a rethink of current projects within the City of Rockingham ("Growth stalls projects", *Sound Telegraph*, January 6). In a spirit of conciliation, the Cape Peron development should be the first project that the council shelve. It is such a controversial project that has caused much disquiet with significant number of Rockingham residents, particularly in light of the environmental risks associated with the project that will be borne by both current and future generations of the city's residents.

*Leonie Stubbs
Singleton*

MARINA A DONE DEAL
Weekend Courier
22 January 2010

It is quite obvious that the site of the marina was a done deal from the outset. The government and council that we elected to represent us were not interested in the fact that we love the tranquillity and the bushland forever that we have at our doorstep. Can you imagine hundreds of acres of trees being bulldozed, leaving barren sand exposed and the wind barrier gone, so that Shoalwater gets more storm damage when the winter gales lash our coast. Apart from the people who have boats in the yards along this strip, hundreds of moored boats will have to be relocated – to where? There is nowhere to go. Can you imagine the ugliness of a lot of high-rise buildings? Can you imagine hundreds of trucks carting limestone and building material for a couple of years? Not forgetting the thousands of people bringing boats and sightseers, and how much parking would you need for this influx into a fragile and pristine area? Also not forgetting that the hundreds of millions of dollars that we are going to pay for this will benefit who? The rich, as always, and tourists, from who knows where. It is a depressing thought.

Don Burwood, Shoalwater

TEAM TO ACT SOON ON RESERVE FIRE RISK
Sound Telegraph
27 January 2010

A Naragebup natural resource management team will trim back vegetation on the Lake Richmond reserve, which a Shoalwater resident has claimed is a fire risk. Naragebup natural resource management officer Christine Comer said she would arrange for the shrubs to be pruned as soon as practicable. Ms Comer said she had only just been made aware of the problem even though the resident claims she has raised the matter with Rockingham City Council about eight times in the past 12 months. Tamara Toghill said she was concerned because the bush beside the lake had spread until it was now encroaching on the pathway between her Vitesse Approach home and the reserve. Ms Toghill said the whole area was overgrown and needed to have the amount of fuel reduced. "The vegetation is getting closer to the house, which is a potential fire hazard and there needs to be a firebreak," she said. "Or at least someone needs to come out and whippersnip the long grass!"

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said Lake Richmond was a C class reserve vested to the council but Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre was contracted to manage the area and would be asked to trim back vegetation 3m from the abutting walkway. Ms Toghill said she bought the block because she loved the bush but it was risky having it so close to her home. "When the big fire was here in early 2007 (but the shrubbery was much farther back then), we were not quite at lockup stage and there were building materials on our front lawn, which were catching on fire," she said. "A water bomber dropped water on our house to put the fire out." She believed the situation was more dangerous now.

QUESTIONS ASKED
Weekend Courier
29 January 2010

I read with disbelief that Rockingham City Council had formed an Economic Development Advisory Committee, the members of which are so-called high-flyers in the community. Please don't confuse economic development with the natural growth of our city that we are witnessing today. The question has to be asked why this committee was needed when council already has an economic development working party. In 2001 council also employed an economic development officer on a salary of \$54,000 a year, plus a vehicle. As a councillor in 2006 I was a frustrated member of the working party watching strategies being proposed that had no hope of success. I also complained to the Department of Local Government about the officer's interview process and was told it was council matter. It now it seems that the chickens have come home to roost and the advisory committee has been formed because council lacks the necessary expertise in house to drive the economic development of our city. In the years since 2001 our rates have been wasted with no return on this investment and the situation should be investigated.

*Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay*

ARTICLES APPLAUDED

**Weekend Courier
19 February 2010**

I noted with interest two articles in the February 12 edition of the Courier. Firstly, the appointment of MLC Phil Edman as the new chairman of the Port Kennedy Management Board, secondly, the opinion piece headlined "Ignorance now no excuse to fell trees". I applaud both of these articles. The first one as a hope that Mr Edman will take his "develop at all costs" attitude as well as his push for a canal-marina at Point Peron and place them elsewhere. The second because it recognises that lack of knowledge of ecology and the fragile nature of Australian soils in the past were associated with large-scale land clearing as well as urban bushland destruction - and that now we have greater knowledge it behoves all of us to protect and retain as much natural vegetation as possible. It is also a cry for better designed and built homes and suburbs to cope with climate change. Therefore, it makes no sense for Mr Edman, the mayor and the Liberals to be continually advocating for the proposed inland canal-marina development at Point Peron, which will destroy acres of native vegetation and "bush forever" sites, to replace them with engineered canals, luxury housing, high-rise development, paving and roads.

*Julie Byrne
Palm Beach*

GREAT NEWS

**Weekend Courier
26 February 2010**

As the councillor who re-introduced the Wanliss Street Jetty project to council way back in 1998 I'd like to congratulate the proponent, Rosewood Grove, on its patience and perseverance in finally getting environmental approval. This project will bring to Rockingham a wonderful visitor destination and will have significant multiplier effects for local businesses and our tourism industry. Now for a light rail to connect it to the railway station ...fantastic!

*Mai McFetridge
Safety Bay*

MARINA AT THE READY

**By Brad Ricks
Weekend Courier
26 February 2010**

Developer Paul Ogilvie says construction work on the proposed \$50 million Port Rockingham marina could start before the end of the year after the State Government gave environmental approval for the project this week. Environment Minister Donna Faragher gave the green light to the Wanliss Street foreshore project, subject to a number of conditions to ensure the protection of Cockburn Sound. As part of the approval conditions, Rosewood Grove, the proponents of the project, will have to follow a strict management protocol to minimise impact on resident dolphins. The Government has also asked that a marina waterways monitoring and management plan be developed and implemented to protect the ecological and recreational value of the Sound. Mr Ogilvie, a former Rockingham City Councillor and spokesman for Rosewood Grove, said this was a great outcome after what had been an exhaustive environmental approvals process. "We can now proceed to formal building applications and we're hoping to commence construction of the jetty and breakwater before the end of this year," he said. "The project will offer much needed facilities for Rockingham's boat owners as the closest existing marinas are Mandurah Ocean Marina, 24km to the south, and the Fremantle Yacht Club and Challenger Harbour, 20km to the north." The proposed marina plans include 475 public boat pens, a retail precinct and a breakwater open to the public for fishing. Mr Ogilvie said the project would also allow the expansion of the existing Wanliss Street car park and the upgrade of parking along Rockingham Beach Road.

The next step for Rosewood Grove will be to finalise building applications and submit them to council. Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the council had supported the Port Rockingham proposal and the environmental approval was a good outcome. "Paul (Ogilvie) has spent a lot of time and money bringing the project to this point and now we will have to wait for the company to submit its applications to build," Cr Sammels said. "Council still feels that there is room for both marina projects in Rockingham."

The second marina Cr Sammels referred to is the Rockingham and Kwinana Development Office's (RKDO) proposed 500-berth Cape Peron project. The RKDO is looking for a development partner for the project.

LITTER LEFT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN

**Sound Telegraph
24 February 2010**

Volunteers are wanted to help clean up Point Peron as part of Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 7. Last year 32 volunteers turned up at the meeting place in the RSL car park on Memorial Drive, Point Peron and helped fill five-and-a-half skip bins. This year, organiser and Aquatic Youth and Family Association member Kathie Schmah hopes even more people will turn up and help fill at least four skip bins. "Point Peron is an area of great natural beauty, as well as historical and heritage value," she said. "All this richness right in the middle of an urban area and yet people come out there to deliberately abuse the peninsula. "Besides all the usual careless litter such as bottles, paper and so on the area is used as a deliberate dumping area for those who can't be bothered going to the tip, so in the past we have picked up car parts, furniture, asbestos sheets, children's toys, and stolen goods such as bikes and handbags. "One year we even found a stolen or dumped bag, with a set of photos belonging to a British tourist. Fortunately, we also found an email address and were able to return the pictures, to her great relief. "By noon on the day, we will be hot, dirty and exhausted, but feel great about what we've accomplished. "Sadly, by teatime or earlier there will already be litter reappearing along the roads - sometimes even while we're still out there working!" Families with young children who volunteer will be given an area to clean up away from the road, trailers and trucks. For more information call Kathie on 9537 7997 or 0407 999 219.

MARINA SAILS AHEAD

**By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
24 February 2010**

Environment Minister Donna Faragher has given approval for the Port Rockingham Marina to go ahead. On Monday, a spokesman for Ms Faragher said final approval for the project was subject to stringent environmental conditions aimed at protecting the waters and marine life of Cockburn Sound and Rockingham's beaches. The spokesman said the Minister had set tough environmental conditions requiring the proponent, Rosewood Grove, to ensure that strict management protocols were in place during the construction phase to minimise impacts on cetaceans, particularly Cockburn Sound's resident dolphins. "Another (stipulation) is that a marina waterways monitoring and management plan is developed and implemented to protect the ecological and (recreational) values of Cockburn Sound," the spokesman said.

Ms Faragher also stipulated that the construction and operation of the marina could not cause changes to Rockingham beaches. Rosewood Grove spokesman Paul Ogilvie said the environmental approvals process had been exhaustive but would guarantee Port Rockingham was developed to world's best practice. He said the marina, which would include sheltered accommodation for about 475 public boat pens, a retail precinct, a breakwater open to the public for fishing activities, refuelling, sullage and water supply facilities for commercial and private boats, super yacht berths and expansion of the Wanliss Street car park, would transform the Rockingham foreshore. In September 2009, Environmental Protection Authority chairman Paul Vogel said the marina satisfied a long-standing need for additional boating requirements and as it would be in an area devoid of seagrass, it would not significantly impact upon any marine plants and animals. However, he said there would likely be some direct, localised temporary impacts on marine water quality during the construction phase.

MARINA APPROVAL A BIG STEP FORWARD

**Sound Telegraph
10 March 2010**

I refer to the article "Marina sails ahead" (Sound Telegraph, February 24). How nice it is to see Rockingham going forward. Having lived in Rockingham since 1981, it is a breath of fresh air to see that changes are happening. For too long we have remained Stagnant and watched other towns and cities go forward while we have come to a standstill. Rockingham is truly developing into a place where people will travel to and why shouldn't they? We have the best beaches; we have dolphins, penguins, a new shopping centre and exceptional high rise developments bringing tourism to this fantastic place. And now we have a marina in place. Well done, Rockingham. This will not only bring a lot of happiness to boat owners - I am not one of those fortunate people - but will also be another major drawcard for tourism and future developments. I would recommend everyone to go and have a walk along our magnificent beachfront and experience Rockingham for themselves and think about how lucky we are. Well done Rockingham council. Keep on punching.

*Carl Sanders
Rockingham*

CANALS IDEA DATED
Weekend Courier
16 April 2010

It is extremely disturbing that Rockingham City Council and the State Government are prepared to sell Point Peron (an area deemed significant enough to have been given reserve status and recognition as a Bush Forever site) to a private business, knowing it will be destroyed. How heart breaking it will be to see the bulldozers move in. There is no doubt that some development of Point Peron is needed - bike and walking paths, fishing and public facilities that are empathetic and in keeping with the natural environment and social values of the area, but not just another development. Canal developments have been banned in New South Wales and Victoria, and there is a moratorium on the construction of canal estates on Queensland's Gold Coast. There are solid reasons for this. Are the ratepayers of Rockingham going to allow outdated canal development to proceed when ratepayers in other states have been burnt financially and the environment devastated to the extent that there is now legislation protecting them from further cost burdens associated with these types of developments?

Don't let developers conclude that WA's coastline can be bought, destroyed and developed. Reserves are made reserves for good reasons and in this age of climate change, we need to preserve and improve natural environments wherever they are. Future generations who have no voice over the decisions that we make today will judge us harshly if the beautiful natural environment of the Point and the memories opportunity it presents are denied to their children for the sake of a quick buck. Point Peron is your Kings Park: preserve it.

*Denise Hardie
 Roleystone*

PRESERVE WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEM
Sound Telegraph
17 March 2010

I am writing to support and extend the suggestions put forward by Dr Tom Rose in the article "Trapped wildlife rescued" (Sound Telegraph, March 10). Dr Rose correctly points out that the raised kerbing used throughout much of Rockingham has a devastating effect on small vertebrates such as lizards and frogs. These kerbs force animals to travel along the road until they either fall into drains or are run over by cars. Last year, my daughter and I rescued more than 160 frogs from a length of road near the Palm Beach caravan park in one night. If the kerbs could be sloped, even by adding a small amount of cement to the existing kerbing, it would make a massive difference to the carnage that happens on the road in the first few nights of rain in the year, as the burrowing frogs travel to water sources to breed. We have some fantastically diverse ecosystems in our shire. We also have a large amount of remnant bushland which, although damaged, supports a valuable diverse number of species. A little help and planning will result in this remaining the case for many years to come, despite the large increase in population in recent years. The alternative is to lose it deny our children the chances that we had.

*Leon Harris
 Former Naragebup Frog Walk
 Coordinator*

**COUNCIL ADDRESSES FENCE, DRAIN
 PROBLEM**
Weekend Courier
16 April 2010

Rockingham Council was asked at a recent council meeting about damaged fences along the Garden Island Freeway and the state of the open drains along the freeway to Lake Richmond. A Shoalwater resident asked if anything was being done about the damaged fences on the highway neglected by owners backing on to them that had become overgrown, used as a rubbish tip and a speed track. The resident also asked if the drain that ran along the highway to Lake Richmond was going to be cleared of weeds. Questions were taken on notice and responses now obtained. Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said council wrote to the property owners in question about the fencing and rubbish and would approach them again about repairing fencing and removing litter. Cr Sammels said the Water Corporation maintained the Garden Island Freeway road reserve drain. He said that a request would be forwarded to the corporation to have the drain cleared.

POPULATION LANDMARK
Weekend Courier
2 April 2010

ROCKINGHAM'S population has officially reached 100,000 according to new population figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Almost 4,000 people moved to Rockingham in 2009, with the city now accounting for 4.5 per cent of Western Australia's population. The figures also revealed that 7.2 per cent of all people who move from interstate to Western Australia come to Rockingham.

STRONG PROTEST TO MARINA
Weekend Courier
16 April 2010

More than 150 protesters against the State Government's proposed marina tourist precinct at Cape Peron rallied on Sunday, sending a clear message that they want the project scrapped. The rally, held at the site of the proposed development, was the first of its kind for the Hands Off Point Peron group. Spokeswoman Dawn Jecks labelled it a huge success. "We were really overwhelmed with the response considering it was organised at short notice," she said. "There were a diverse number of people there and they all had a lot of energy, so we were really pleased. I could see that they were very passionate about the issue." Ms Jecks said Point Peron was the wrong spot for a marina in Rockingham and a more suitable location at Wanliss Street had already been endorsed for the Port Rockingham Jetty development. "Unlike a Point Peron marina location, this alternate finger jetty style marina is being fully funded by its private developer with no requirement for the sale of publicly owned land and no need for subsidies from the taxpayers of WA or City of Rockingham ratepayers," she said. In September 2009 Premier Colin Barnett announced that the State Government would proceed with the next phase of the controversial Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project by submitting it to a full public environmental assessment. The project, which will provide boat pens and services, will only go ahead if it receives full environmental approval from the Environmental Protection Authority.

CEDAR WOODS TO BUILD MARINA

Cathy Saunders
The West Australian
21 April 2010

Nearly 40 years after it was first mooted, Rockingham is to have a new, secure marina as part of a tourist precinct at Cape Peron after the State Government announced yesterday that Cedar Woods Properties had been chosen to partner the project. Lands Minister Brendon Grylls and Planning Minister John Day announced the win for Cedar Woods, which will join Landcorp in delivering the long awaited but controversial development. The Government expects work to start in two years. Cedar Woods State manager Stuart Duplock said the project would centre on Mangles Bay and would include a marina with 500 pens, permanent residences, a chalet park with affordable tourist accommodation and beachfront access, a site with marina frontage for boating clubs and an area for commercial charter operators to moor their boats. "There is already a vibrant ecotourism business with dolphin and seal watching," Mr Duplock said.

tourist hub would be built and include cafes, restaurants and short term serviced apartments. There would also be a marine science centre for research and a dual use path on the beachfront, winding from the cafe strip to the causeway that connects the Garden Island Naval Base to the mainland. "Cedar Woods has a long history of successful marina and waterfront developments, right back to Port Mandurah at Mandurah and more recently Mariner's Cover in Mandurah," Mr Duplock said. "This project is about creating a focal point for marine activity and flowing from that are commercial and tourism opportunities. On top of that, it will be a great place to live." The proposal has raised the ire of local conservationists, the Preserve Point Peron action group, which says the project will cause unnecessary damage to the local environment. The Government said the project would only proceed if all environmental approvals were granted.

MARINA DRAWS MORE FIRE

By Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
23 April 2010

Point Peron anti-development groups have lashed out again this week after the State Government announced it had secured a private partner to help it progress the Cape Peron marina tourist precinct. Cedar Woods Properties Ltd has jumped on-board the project following an expressions of interest submission process and period of review, and will work with the government's land and property developer, LandCorp. To move the controversial project forward. Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said private sector commitment was integral part of the long awaited project, and Rockingham residents had been talking for nearly 40 years about the need for improved boating facilities and a secure marina. But Hands Off Point Peron spokeswoman Dawn Jecks said the group was not prepared to stand by and watch the government sell the area of public land to fund a "very expensive and destructive engineering undertaking".

She said the proposed site for the project was on land transferred from the Commonwealth to the State of Western Australia in 1964 on the condition that the future use of the area was for recreation and/or parklands when the leases in the area expired. "This land belongs to all West Australians and I call on the Barnett government to honour the commitment made by the State of WA in 1964 and to make moves to formally and finally gazette this area as an A-class reserve," she said.

Environmental activist Bob Goodale and Greens planning spokeswoman Lynn MacLaren echoed Ms Jecks' position. "It was the dream of some people to develop public land because it's nice and cheap, and they can make lots of money, but it's the dream of a majority of people to have it as a reserve and have it as the King's Park of Rockingham," Mr Goodale said. Planning Minister John Day said having recreational boating and tourist facilities at Cape Peron would enhance the City's role as a major activity centre. The Rockingham community has waited too long for this to happen," he said. The project, which will provide visitor and boating facilities will only proceed if environmental approval is granted.

MARINA IRE

By Laura Tomlinson
Sound Telegraph
28 April 2010

South Metropolitan MLC and Greens Party member Lynn MacLaren has accused property developer Cedar Woods Properties Limited of a "public land grab" over the Cape Peron Marina project. Ms MacLaren said the project would come with a great loss of public lands, Cockburn Sound sea grass, rare bushland and Aboriginal heritage sites. "This is another public land grab - and they are counting on State Governments weak environmental protection to buy the seabed, put a marine sanctuary at risk and destroy bushland," Ms MacLaren said. "If this developer's dream is anything like the early concept plan, then for the loss of two Aboriginal heritage sites, at least 5ha of seagrass, and 53ha of public land (most within a Bush Forever site and Regional Park), we will see canals carved into Point Peron to build luxury estates for the yachting fraternity." Hands Off Point Peron group spokeswoman Dawn Jecks said the proposed site for the project was on land that was transferred from the Commonwealth to WA in 1964 under the condition that the future use of the area was to be restricted. Ms Jecks said a copy of the land transfer document stated that the area be established as a reserve for recreation and/or parklands and when leases for the holiday camps expired, the area would become an A-Class reserve. "Members of Hands Off Point Peron won't stand by while our valuable and publicly owned natural assets are being sold off, bulldozed and replaced with concrete, bitumen and canal housing," Ms Jecks said.

HISTORY REPEATING

Weekend Courier
30 April 2010

Recent newspaper article stated that Rockingham was to have a new, secure marina. That is old news as a marina at Wanliss Street; Rockingham has already received ministerial approval subject to a number of environmental conditions. In contrast, the controversial marina proposed for Pt Peron will result in the loss of 76 hectares of Bush Forever land and seven hectares of seagrass meadows in Mangles Bay, and the transfer of public land to private developers; those same developers are associated with another environmentally controversial marina built on the Creery Wetlands in Mandurah. It is like history repeating itself: politicians promoting and supporting unsustainable developments in the face of significant opposition from citizens concerned in this instance over long term environmental impacts such as threats to the Lake Richmond thrombolites, exposure of acid sulphate soils and sea level rise.

Leonie Stubbs
Singleton

FEARS FOR SEAGRASS

Weekend Courier
30 April 2010

I, like many other recreational fishers this year, enjoyed some quality crabs caught in the beautiful family friendly fishing area of Mangles Bay in Cockburn Sound. This was mainly due to government initiatives of closing the area to crab fishing to allow numbers to recover and then opening the area for a season, which should ensure good crab stocks for the future (what about the same season for the Swan/Canning Rivers?). Mangles Bay is also renowned for its squid, herring and tailor fishing, scooping in the shallows on warm summer nights and is one of the few places where divers can swim out from the beach and collect a feed of crabs from the seagrass meadows. Dolphin encounters are also common. It is well known that the seagrass meadows in Cockburn Sound, which have declined in many areas, are vital to the sustainability of all sea life in the Sound. Legislation to protect the remaining seagrass meadows would have seemed a sensible step to take after the initiatives shown by the Government to improve the crab fishery. Therefore, I was astounded to read that the Government had chosen a financial partner in a push for a residential canal development (yes that is what it is, not a "tourist precinct" with a residential component as the spin doctors are saying) at Point Peron. Should this project go ahead, a large portion of and possibly the whole seagrass meadow in Mangles Bay may be destroyed forever. One would think that during these critical times of fisheries and environmental management that our most accessible, sustainable and invaluable inshore recreational fishing areas should be protected for the future.

Keith Whyte
Leerning

VISION LACKING

Weekend Courier
30 April 2010

What a shame that the Barnett Government and Mayor Barry Sammels are lacking the talent and vision that our forefathers, such as John Septimus Roe had. He recognised and valued the importance of our natural environment (Kings Park is just one example) enough to protect it for future generations. How is it that John Septimus Roe and others of his generation could recognise how important these places of natural beauty would become when we were just a fledgling colony, but our politicians of today with our burgeoning population and environmental issues can't? The Cape Peron Marina development is a sad indictment of the qualities of the Government who can't think beyond the immediate future and the almighty dollar. One wonders what John Septimus Roe would think of the decision to give our fast disappearing public reserves to a private developer. A marina/canal development is not original, not necessary and not empathetic to the natural beauty of the area and has the potential to become an environmental disaster. I would suggest that Mayor Sammels and Minister John Day revisit their history books to learn that great leaders govern for the future.

*Colin Booth
Waikiki*

CLEAN UP ACT NEEDED

Sound Telegraph
12 May 2010

In my humblest of opinions, the council should forget about marina and canal projects and instead concentrate their efforts on the litter that lines our streets. It would be money well spent to employ a few extra willing and able men or women specifically to keep our streets tidy, especially the main ones. Until the feral element in town learns how to operate a bin, this will be an ongoing issue. How can the council chief executive officer get a substantial pay increase when the whole town resembles a rubbish tip?

*Mick Martin
Rockingham*

LAKE RICHMOND WATERS UNTESTED SINCE

2003

Weekend Courier
14 May 2010

The water quality of Lake Richmond has not been tested in seven years, the council's draft State of the Environment Report reveals. Rockingham Environment Centre deputy chairman James Mumme said he was concerned that although testing in 2003 revealed four measures well above Australian and New Zealand Environmental and Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines, no testing had been done since then. The report also contains no recommendation to retest the water. "At the same time six other water bodies were tested in 2006 and 2009 and found to have improved," Mr Mumme said. "While this is encouraging, council should retest Lake Richmond. Given that it is one of only two environmental areas with official international recognition, it is hard to understand why this was not done in 2006 and 2009." Concerned resident Colin Osborne said the lake needed monitoring given that there were three stormwater drains feeding into it. "Lake Richmond has been an icon for as long as I can remember," he said. "If it is not a slip of the pen, then somebody has been negligent."

POINT OF CONTENTION

Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
30 April 2010

The heat has been turned up on the battle to win the seat of Brand in the Federal election, with Greens candidate Dawn Jecks this week threatening to make the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct project an election issue. Ms Jecks, endorsed as the Greens candidate for Brand late last year, has challenged Liberal candidate Donna Gordin to a public debate on the merits of having "public bushland at Point Peron sold for residential and commercial housing." Becoming a member of the Greens party for this very reason alone, Ms Jecks said she thought it was in the community's interest to have a public meeting to find out where candidates stood on the issue. "I've already had a discussion with Donna and I challenge her to a public meeting. It's a Federal election, we're both candidates looking to be elected and I want to make this an election issue," she said. Ms Gordin, however, said she could not understand why Federal candidates would be having a public debate on a state matter. "This is the first I've ever heard of it and I don't see why Federal candidates would be debating something that is a state issue," she said. "I am more than happy to debate about paid parental leave or other Federal issues," she added. More than 150 people, including members of the Hands Off Point Peron group, of which Ms Jecks is also a member, staged a public rally earlier this month to voice their concerns with the long-proposed development.

ENVIRONMENT "IN DECLINE"

By Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
14 May 2010

The state of the environment in Rockingham has declined in many areas during the past two years and a new report reveals the City of Rockingham's response to some of the issues is being viewed as "inadequate". The City has released its draft State of the Environment Report 2010 for public comment, which reveals the condition of the environment decreased in seven out of 10 environmental issues between June, 2007, and June, 2009. The report also found the council's management of the issues was not seen as adequate by the public, with noise being the only area where an improved response was made. The report said the community felt bushland was a high priority issue and wanted to see council focus more on protecting and maintaining bushland rather than maintaining grassed parks. The clearing of vegetation for development was also a major concern. Areas where the community felt council's response to the issue was not adequate were coastal foreshore, on the back of demand for infrastructure, climate change and increased users, as well as maintenance of inland waters, energy and land management. Residents were also concerned about acid sulphate soils and contamination.

According to the report the state of coastal waters, waste, energy and heritage also declined. Mayor Barry Sammels said the City was one of the few councils in WA to hold State of Environment reporting to engage with the community on environmental matters and focus its response. The response to various environmental issues was also not the sole domain of the council. "The initial consultation process, which led to the rankings within the draft SoE document, was very thorough and included a range of different mediums, including a dedicated online internet forum," he said. Despite this only 19 submissions were lodged. "This low input could be taken that the majority of the community is satisfied with the state of the environment and management responses," he said. Submissions are open until May 31.

CANAL DEVELOPMENT WILL COST MORE THAN MONEY

Sound Telegraph
12 May 2010

I add my voice to the many concerned Rockingham residents and people across Western Australia about the recent announcement of a partner I for the controversial proposed inland canal marina development at Point Peron. When are they going to listen and stop this folly? Canal developments have been banned on the east coast of Australia for very good reasons - they cause severe devastation to the natural ecology and ocean cycles of an area, require constant, costly, ongoing pumping and maintenance, and are targeted at the "very rich" of society who engage in conspicuous consumption with little concern for the environment. So why do Rockingham City Council, the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office and Cedar Woods think that they are immune to facing these issues? That is not even factoring in potential sea level rises, the exposing of acid sulphate soils, the dewatering processes needed, risks to essential seagrass in Mangles Bay, the selling off of our public recreational space designated as Bush Forever, and risking damage to nearby Lake Richmond's critically endangered thrombolites. Start thinking about the long-term and the real impacts that this ridiculous proposed project will have and shelve it once and for all.

*Julie Byrne
Palm Beach*

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Sound Telegraph
19 May 2010

I refer to 'Point Peron under-used by public' (Sound Opinion, May 12) and a previous letter by Colin Booth, "Marina plan shows lack of vision for future" (Sound Opinion, May 5). Mr Palmer joins the ranks of the short sighted and claims that it is Mr Booth who has no vision for the future. By this he means Mr Booth sees a future for Point Peron other than that of a canal development. Far from seeing the evident value of Bush Forever, Mr Palmer sees only the "now" potential of a canal development for the affluent few. When John Forrest gazetted Kings Park, he was challenged by the sceptics of the Bush Forever plan. Who has been right? Thank goodness the Mr Palmers of the day did not win that debate.

As the southern corridor develops and the population pressures increase, where will the space for natural recreation in this area be, if Mr Palmer and his economic rationalists have their way? Our 'Bush Forever' today, is the southern Kings Park of tomorrow. I agree that better public access and recreational facilities are needed, but public access and canal development are very different things. Rockingham City Council can find money to participate in a multi-million dollar canal project with its inherent environmental detriment. It is cleverly called a marina development, but local residents should not hold their breath that their needs will be met. Point Peron has not only the potential to be the premier tourist park of a rapidly expanding southern region, but also has some of the most wonderful and fragile marine habitats left in WA. I trust our council will use a little vision and make sure that the lessons of history are learned and ensure that the wisdom of John Forrest does not go unheeded.

Bronwen Usher
Shoalwater

RATEPAYERS' CONCERNS NOT HEARD
Sound Telegraph
19 May 2010

When are the Government and Rockingham City Council going to heed what people have been saying for years about a canal style marina at Point Peron? This land belongs to all West Australians, not just the affluent few. The Planning Minister should abide by the agreement made by the state government in 1964. Point Peron should be gazetted as an A class reserve, keeping its heritage and natural beauty for future generations, not destroyed for the sake of the dollar. LandCorp will have a lot to answer for - their claim of being able to adhere to the environmental constraints is ludicrous. The new player, Cedar Woods, is in our opinion there for the purpose of making money at West Australians' expense. The proposed marina at Wanliss street should adequately suit the people of Rockingham. The council's concerns should be with people/ratepayers from the area, instead of catering to those from outside of Rockingham who are just looking for somewhere to keep their boat. Similar canal developments have proven devastating and extremely costly.

Allan Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment

MAYOR SCORNS "EXPERT" PANELS
By Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
21 May 2010

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels says all councils are being tarred with the same brush through the State Government's controversial introduction of expert panels to assess large development proposals. Speaking to the Courier this week, Cr Sammels said he felt it was unfair that planning powers of local governments who had been "doing the right thing" was being taken away because "some councils have struggled to make good decisions in relation to planning". The development assessment panels outlined in a policy released by Planning Minister John Day last month will deal with all development applications over \$7 million, made to local governments, including the City of Rockingham. The financial threshold was initially set at \$2 million when the development assessment proposals were first revealed in a discussion paper last September, but was increased in the policy last month following a review on the back of wide spread opposition. Of the 177 submissions made on the proposal, 83 had argued the \$2 million financial threshold was too low. But Cr Sammels said he believed the entire proposal was flawed regardless of the threshold and he did not see why a specialist panel was needed to do a job council had been doing "very capably for years". "In the case of the City of Rockingham, we make very solid planning decisions based on the Town Planning Scheme under the Local Government Act," Cr Sammels said. "Whether it's a \$10 million or a \$1 million (development application), we believe that we have the ability, the professional officers, and a very steady and reasonable council whereby we can make these decisions. "I don't think it's fair to tarnish all councils with the same brush."

Property Council of Australia executive director Joe Lenzo believed the development assessment panels would encourage both "sensible and fair planning processes", and also streamline the approvals process. "Finally, everyone in the development process can proceed with confidence that applications will be handled consistently, reliably and transparently across all local governments," Mr Lenzo said. The panels would comprise a chairman, two specialist members and two local government representatives. Rockingham Cr Richard Smith said he was astounded that he had already received a letter from the department saying he had been appointed to a panel and advising he would receive sitting fees of \$400 per-session when the policy had not even been adopted. Rockingham Council will vote on a recommendation by the City's planning committee to submit its "strong opposition" to the introduction of the expert panels at its next meeting on Tuesday night.

LAKE IMPORTANT LOCAL ICON, SAYS
COUNCIL
Weekend Courier
21 May 2010

In response to criticisms from community members about a lack of testing of the water quality of Lake Richmond, Rockingham Council says it views the lake as an important local icon. Rockingham Environment Centre deputy chairman James Mumme raised concerns in the Courier last week that the council's draft State of the Environment Report (SOE) revealed Lake Richmond had not been tested in seven years. Responding to the criticisms, Mayor Barry Sammels said the council's commitment to the lake was shown through its recent commissioning of an Environmental Management Plan for the wetland, adopted in August 2009. "A recommendation of the plan is that baseline water quality and water level data be collated and an ongoing (seasonal) water quality monitoring program be implemented," Cr Sammels said. "The city will now work towards satisfying this recommendation, subject to funds being available." He said the Environmental Action Plan, which would be adopted at the same time as the SoE report, contained the actions necessary for the council to realise the key priority issues arising from the report. "Three rounds of water quality monitoring have occurred since February 2010 as a result of the Environmental Impact Study for the new marina in accordance with the recommended Department of Water methodology." He said. "In response to Council's acceptance of the recommendations outlined in the Lake Richmond Environmental Management Plan, the City intends continuing this monitoring and the prescribed frequency based on these results."

POINT MISSED ABOUT MARINA DEVELOPMENT
IN ROCKINGHAM
Sound Telegraph
26 May 2010

I refer to "Point Peron under-used by public" (Sound Opinion, May U). Mr Palmer seems to have missed the salient point of my letter, which is that the proposed marina and canal development at Point Peron is environmentally and financially unsustainable, and not an original concept that is respectful and recognizes the social, historic and environmental values that natural environments will hold for future generations. How unfortunate it would have been if previous in vogue mentalities had seen had seen the dismissal of John Septimus Roe's vision and the approval of inappropriate development in Kings Park that we would regret in the future. It also seems that Mr Palmer has not visited the point in some time as we do have safe beaches and sailing clubs which are accessible to all, not just those who can afford a canal front home, cappuccinos and exorbitant club memberships. The current users of the point come for a variety of reasons and bring a diversity of economies with them - fishermen, camp users, bushwalkers, day trippers, swimmers, fitness fanatics, scuba divers, pensioners and nature lovers. This diversity of users from many different economic backgrounds is sustainable and consistent against financial downturns, unlike recent events which have seen similar developments like golf club resorts and canal developments become ghost towns. There is no argument that an urgent upgrade of facilities and low-impact, inclusive and sensitive development is needed. I would suggest that the mandate of governments and developers to sell this public-owned land of to the highest bidder, as with what happened with Port Kennedy, is why this has not taken place.

Colin Booth
Waikiki

FOR RICHER, NOT POORER
Sound Telegraph
26 May 2010

I refer to "Point Peron under used by public" (Sound Opinion, May 12). Rick palmer makes reference to the development at Point Peron being a good thing for the area. I do not share this view. How can a canal development in a Bush Forever site that environmentalists and the local community have protested against be a positive step? The developers will not need to "satisfy the clean up of Point Peron" as they will be bulldozing it and putting canals through the area, taking away the beautiful bushland, flora and fauna as well as any gun emplacements, lookouts, walking trails and sand dunes. Also the area will no longer be able to be used by the public as there will be million-dollar, canal-style housing and private jetties, like the canal developments in Mandurah. In case Mr Palmer and his friends don't know, the proposed development will not allow Rockingham residents access to all sorts of facilities they will appreciate - it will be accessible to a specific so - economic group, destroy up to 86 ha and require extensive initial dredging, meaning substantial losses of healthy seagrass and additional ongoing dredging. If the canal developments to the south are anything to go by, this will most likely end up being funded by ratepayers.

*Kairon Booth
Rockingham*

KEEP COMMITMENT
Weekend Courier
28 May 2010

James Brodie (Marina exciting, Courier, May 21). I and many others are the ones speaking out on the proposal that by some stretch of the imagination is being touted as a marina, when in fact it is actually a canal development to benefit only the affluent few who want to live by the ocean and park their big, flashy boats on their private pier at their back door. When I first came here in 1956 Rockingham was a quiet little seaside town that was a great place in which to grow up and raise a family. Not much has changed except the size of the place. A commitment was made in 1964 that transferred the parcel of land from the Commonwealth Government to Western Australia on the condition that future use was for recreation and/or parklands when the leases expired. This land belongs to all West Australians and the government should honour the commitment made to us so many years ago and finally gazette this area as an A class reserve to prevent anything like this fiasco ever happening again. If anyone had a good look at the environmental damage this proposal would have, they must surely come to the same conclusion as we do. And Mr Brodie, as for the vast members of ratepayers you claim do not oppose this canal development, why don't they voice their opinion?

*Allan Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment*

PROPOSAL DISGUSTS
Weekend Courier
28 May 2010

To whoever wrote the letter head-lined "Marina exciting", I am ashamed of you. It is not about "putting our beautiful town on the map", but about what is right. In this case, what you are doing is wrong. Point Peron has a lot of history and environmental importance, and yet you want to stand by and watch it get dug up for a few mansions and a canal. It is not something to proud of, it is something of which to be disgusted. I am disgusted by it. I hope you are the only one who thinks development is good. And if it means our city is never put "on the map" as you say, then I hope it stays lost. I would prefer it over the destruction of Point Peron.

*Kenneth Russell
Rockingham*

**CALL TO SCRAP MARINA AND CREATE
BOTANICAL GARDEN**
By Anlta McInnes
Sound Telegraph
16 June 2010

Rockingham conservationist Kevin Rhodes, a member of the Hands Off Point Peron group, says plans to build a marina at Point Peron should be scrapped and the area turned into a botanical garden similar to Kings Park. Mr Rhodes, who describes himself as passionate about conserving Rockingham's environment, said he was particularly concerned about saving the ospreys that lived in the area. "There are about four breeding pairs, which live in the Point Peron area, including at Garden Island and Mangles Bay, and building a marina will totally destroy their habitat," Mr Rhodes said. "The area should be turned into something like Kings Park, not a marina full of houses and boats that no one in Rockingham will be able to afford anyway. "The birds are very territorial, but they seem to use about four or five different nests in the area where they lay two or three eggs of which usually only one chick survives." He said ospreys were similar in habitat requirement to sea eagles, which according to information on the Federal Government's Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts website are found in coastal habitats - especially those close to the shore - and around terrestrial wetlands in tropical and temperate regions of mainland Australia and its offshore islands. "A study carried out in South Australia, on Kangaroo Island in 2005, strongly recommended the birds needed a 3km zone to protect them and their nesting areas," Mr Rhodes said. "If the marina goes ahead, the pollution in the water from all the extra boats will affect the ospreys and they will die out. "If the area became a park with barbecues and educational tours it could be used by all the people, and it would be preserved for the diverse birds and animals that live here." He said Point Peron had a spiritual significance for many people because of the number of soldiers who came to the area and then left on ships to go to war. The Sound Telegraph contacted the Conservation Council WA for comment, but a response was not received before going to press.

MARINA MAULED

By Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
2 July 2010

The contentious debate surrounding the proposed marina tourist precinct at Cape Peron was thrown into the national spotlight this week when Australian Greens Leader Bob Brown arrived and publicly rejected the proposal. During, a one day whirl wind stopover in WA on Wednesday, Senator Brown met WA Greens Senator Rachel Siewert and Greens candidate for Brand Dawn Jecks at Point Peron to throw his support behind the campaign against the development. After being on the backburner for several years, the project was put back on the agenda in September 2009, when Premier Colin Barnett said the State Government would proceed with detailed investigations and a formal public environmental assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority. LandCorp has since partnered with Cedar Woods Properties Ltd to help progress it to the next stage. Those against the project argue it is in the wrong location, will include unwanted residential canal development and is not needed given that the Port Rockingham Marina has been given approval.

Senator Brown described the area as "lovely" and said the issue had become a national one after it was revealed that the land at Point Peron was transferred by the Commonwealth to the State of WA in 1964 on the condition that the future use of the area was to be reserved for recreation and/or parklands. "If it's not illegal, it's a massive breach of faith," he said. "Places in Europe and Asia would give their eyeteeth for this land as it is. Why is it that taxpayers and ratepayers are being asked to subsidise this very expensive and destructive project by selling off their regional parklands to private investors for canal housing in order to pay for it?"

But South Metropolitan MLC Phil Edman said the project area under assessment was degraded land in Mangles Bay, not Point Peron. "Point Peron is west of the causeway," he said. "It is premature to even talk about canals, or any development, until the environmental assessment is finished, which is more than a year away. "Bob Brown, along with his Federal candidate Dawn Jecks, need to sit back and wait for the assessment to be finalised." Mr Edman said recent rumours that the Rockingham Returned and Services League would need to be moved were false, as it was not in the project area. However, the Perth RSL caravan park, Mangles Bay Fishing Club and Cruising Yacht Club would be moved if the project was granted environmental approval to proceed.

PROTESTORS' MARINA CLAIMS DOWNPLAYED

BY MINISTER
By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
7 July 2010

Planning Minister John Day has brushed aside a claim made by the Hands Off Point Peron Group that the area was meant to stay a reserve for recreation or parklands. A spokeswoman for Mr Day said a claim that the land for the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct was transferred from the Commonwealth to the State in January 1964 under the condition that the future use of the area was to be restricted to a reserve for recreation or parklands had already been dealt with. "This issue has been previously researched by the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office and it was found that the project is compatible with the terms of transfer by the Commonwealth," the spokeswoman said. Whether the entire area would become an A-class reserve when the leases for the area's holiday camps expired had also been considered.

Group spokeswoman and Brand Greens candidate Dawn Jecks said Greens leader Bob Brown and Greens Senator Rachel Siewert visited Rockingham last week to add their support to residents who "wanted to stop the flogging off of public land to private developers". She said many people were still misinformed about the development "Many people in the community still think that the proposed Port Peron marina is in the water, in Mangles Bay," she said. "Proper scrutiny of the proposed project shows however, that this is clearly not the case. "(Also) there have been denials that it is a canal development but the private development partner appointed specialises in residential canal housing developments." She said the development partner was on the record saying the project would include high residential housing and waterfront residential development. The group will hold a rally at Point Peron on Sunday.

COY ABOUT CANALS

By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
14 July 2010

The organisers of a weekend rally against the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct development plan to hold further rallies and campaign actions right up to the next State election, according to their spokeswoman Dawn Jecks. Ms Jecks, who is also Brand Greens candidate, addressed a crowd of about 200 people on Sunday and said the Hands Off Point Peron group and its supporters were opposed to the area being turned into an inland marina and canal housing development. Ms Jecks said despite constant denials that the project was a canal development, many were not convinced because Cedar Woods specialised in residential canal housing developments.

Cedar Woods WA manager Stuart Duplock said while the development was definitely an inland marina, with a boundary about 500m from Lake Richmond, it was too soon to say whether it was a canal development. Mr Duplock said the project was still in the preliminary design stages and the plan that went for environmental assessment would most likely have little detail about the eventual residential design. The process at this stage was "procedural more than detailed" as it had to define the project boundaries set by LandCorp and had to pass comprehensive State and Federal government environmental checks before it could proceed. "The whole idea behind the marina is to provide safe anchorage for the boating community, but not everyone (has a boat) so it's important that beach access in the area is improved for everyone," Mr Duplock said. He said the project's name was an unfortunate choice as the development, while calling for "remediation and enhancement of the cape", was "centred on Mangles Bay and did not extend west of the causeway".

Ms Jecks said the big number of people who were prepared to brave the wet and windy conditions demonstrated the strength of community opposition to the project. "(Our group) will continue in getting the truth out about this development as we build our support base," she said.

EDMAN PRESSES POINT

Weekend Courier
16 July 2010

Phil Edman says he will be the first person to lobby against the proposed Cape Peron marina project if it does not stack up to environmental standards. The MLC for the South Metropolitan Region and a supporter of the marina at Mangles Bay, Mr Edman lashed out at protestors and said they continued to jump the gun on the project. More than 200 people turned out for another protest rally at Point Peron at the weekend led by Dawn Jecks, the Green candidate for the Federal seat of Brand.

Mr Edman said the environmental assessment of the project would take another year and again stated Point Peron itself would not be part of the marina precinct. "I'll be the first to lobby against it," Mr Edman said when asked what he would do if the project failed the environmental assessment. "I don't want to be a part of something that doesn't stack up to the required measures. "But as I keep saying, this project will use degraded land and does not come west of the causeway, so Point Peron will not be a part of the project."

Ms Jecks, who also acts as the spokeswoman for the Hands Off Point Peron group, said people were still of the belief that the proposed marina would be based in the water at Mangles Bay. "The truth is that the only part of the development that is in Mangles Bay will be the entry to the inland marina, with channels being dredged through six hectares of healthy seagrass," she said. "There have been constant denials that it is a canal development by some in our community, including some elected representatives at local government and state government levels. "However, the private sector development partner Cedar Woods 'specialises' in residential canal housing developments." Ms Jecks said the Hands Off Point Peron group would hold further rallies and planned other action against the proposed marina right up to the next State election.

DEVELOPER GIVES MARINA NEW NAME

By Anita McInnes
Sound Telegraph
21 July 2010

The controversial Cape Peron Tourism Precinct has had its name changed to Mangles Bay Tourism Precinct, which better reflects the location of the project area according to Cedar Woods WA manager Stuart Duplock.

However, Brand Greens candidate and Hands Off Point Peron spokeswoman Dawn Jecks said residents would want to know why the name was changed when for the past five years Landcorp had called it Cape Peron. "I suggest the answer is that they know that the mass of the public will not accept (a marina) that looks like its inland," Ms Jecks said.

CANAL OR NO CANAL, THAT'S THE QUESTION

Sound Telegraph

21 July 2010

I refer to Graharn Dyke's letter "Marina needed at Point Peron" (Sound Opinion, July 14). He claims on the basis of his Google search that Tasmania is the only state that is even talking of banning canal estate developments. The New South Wales Government's Coastal Protection Act 1997 (1979) contains the following - a ban on new canal estate developments and a prohibition on development on beach fore dunes. The bans were imposed as a result of a range of problems with such developments, some of which we have seen in Dunsborough and Yunderup. And these bans were in place long before at least one insurance company excluded flood damage from house policies in suburbs like Shoalwater. It's interesting that Landcorp and Cedar Woods have recently been avoiding using the term "canal" and referring instead to waterfront residences.

I call on Cedar Woods to clarify whether there will be houses along canals in the proposed development and if so, which insurance companies will insure them against flood damage? Why is WA so behind the times in protecting our natural assets and protecting future residents? A canal/marina at Cape Peron is the last thing we need.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

NAME CHANGE ONLY

Weekend Courier

6 August 2010

The marina debate has popped up its ugly head again, this time with a new name. But the name change won't change my feeling about a marina. But when are the proponents going to come straight and tell us it is a housing development? I'd like to see a marina in Rockingham with a land-backed wharf where boats can be serviced with fuel, water and an area where repairs can be carried out, plus ships' chandlers, bait and tackle shops, cafes and restaurants. But we don't need canals and houses, hotels and motels. If the land was set aside for sports and recreation I see no problem why a marina shouldn't be built there. When it is said the waterfront will be opened up to the public will that mean I'll not be able to walk my dogs on the beach at Mangles Bay as I now can? A marina is a marina and a housing estate is just that - don't mix them up.

*David Lund
Rockingham*

MARINA A LAND GRAB DESPITE NEW NAME.

Sound Telegraph

28 July 2010

Regarding "Developer gives marina a new name" (Sound Telegraph, July 21). The name change for the Cape Peron project will certainly not affect my opinion of the proposed marina development. It is still a land grab and it will destroy a large part of our treasured Point Peron, especially with the digging of canals. It is pure destruction of Bushland Forever and regional parkland.

*Cynthia de Boorder
Safety Bay*

FACTS STILL THE SAME

Sound Telegraph

28 July 2010

You can change the name of this proposed canal and marina development, but it doesn't change the facts. This is a Bushland Forever site for the people, given by the Federal Government, and so is not any State Government's to give away for commercial development. Sure it is degraded in some areas, but it could easily be upgraded by tree planting, creating pathways and picnic 1 areas and become the Kings Park of the south.

*Bob and Margaret Edwards
Shoalwater*

LET PUBLIC DECIDE

Weekend Courier

30 July 2010

Phil Edman's comments (Edman presses point, Courier, July 16) tried to confuse the issue about the proposed canal development. He said there was no development planned for Point Peron meaning the very tip of the area, but we locals consider the whole area by that name. He is saying the development will be in Mangles Bay, which is also confusing because most of the proposal is for a massive 200 acres of the development to be inland consisting of high-density housing, artificial canals and another limestone suburb. Don't we have enough of those already? Do we need to dredge out our last piece of native bush to make way for more housing? Mr Edman is also saying "it's only degraded land" and yes, I think we'll all agree the area needs some TLC - a facelift, parks, cycle paths, maybe a nice cafe or even a pub. But we don't need private multi-storey apartments or intense development. Let's get some different proposals on the board and let the public decide. What we need is the public informed of the true nature of the proposed development and a council that is willing to put the future of Rockingham residents against personal gain. It shouldn't always be about the money.

*Pauline Clarke
Safety Bay*

BRAND VOTERS COME OUT SWINGING HARD

By Anita McInnes

Sound Telegraph

25 August 2010

Labor's Gary Gray says the Federal election result has highlighted the strength of the Green vote and what that could mean for development in and around Rockingham and Kwinana. Before polling closed on Saturday, Mr Gray predicted he could face a swing against him of at least 3 per cent. On Monday afternoon, the Australian Electoral Commission website showed Mr Gray's primary vote had dropped by 5.04 per cent and his two-party preferred support had fallen by 2.22 per cent. Most of these voters flocked to Brand Greens candidate Dawn Jecks, resulting in her increasing her primary vote by 5.72 per cent. Mr Gray said the swing, which he had expected and pundits had predicted to be worse, sent a strong signal from those voters that they were extremely interested in urban environment issues, renewable energy and compassion for boat people. "I think it also represents a very strong presence from the Greens candidate Dawn Jecks," Mr Gray said. However, Mr Gray said the Labor Party primary vote was still the biggest and that gave him "great heart as it means people do understand the work that we've done to shield families from the worst of the global financial crisis". He said one issue that clearly came through from voters for their dislike of the proposed Mangles Bay marina-based tourism precinct. "I would caution that a canal development out at Point Peron is not supported by the people of Rockingham," he said.

SPRAWL DOES NOT HAVE TO CONTINUE

Weekend Courier
10 September 2010

Greater urban infill and high-density residential areas are important steps toward making Perth a more liveable place. This is why Directions 2031, the WA Planning Commission's future planning document is a good thing. High-density coastal development must be supported because it will assist places such as Rockingham and Mandurah to develop into WA's Manly or Sunshine Coast. We don't have to replicate these places, but they attract tourists and we have an opportunity to look at what they have and better it. Efforts to create locales similar to Joondalup with its apartments and townhouses within walking distance of shops and entertainment should be encouraged. Those who reminisce about quarter-acre blocks with big back yards must remember that suburbs are now developed around a network of parks and public space that compensate for smaller block sizes. If we don't have high-infill development, our city will consume greater tracts of land for housing development as it expands ever outward. That is fine for those who already live in the greater Perth area but not so good for the next generation who already faced with being priced out of buying a house, will find themselves living further from work and family. Perth's growth cannot be slowed, but the sprawl does not have to continue. Directions 2031 can potentially change Perth from car-loving Dullsville to a lively city, where people don't have to travel into the CBD for their entertainment. The framework is there and it is now time to see some action. It is up to governments and councils to take the lead and for opponents to work for the greater good.

Look at how they have destroyed Mandurah with its developments and private jetties, out of reach of the average workers. Everyone can speak about the impact on the environment, but I can speak about the impact on the small people, the ones who don't have boats, marina homes and the like – the people who crave the simple and peaceful time away from the rat race of work; the people who cannot afford holidays down south or overseas. It's a place where families can meet and children can play in safety. I feel there will be some who are envious of this small, peaceful community and happy to destroy it, but least think about what you are really. It reeks of greedy developers who want the last piece of natural coastline fairly close to Perth. It's not about Rockingham needing another marina, as one is already planned for Wanliss Sheet. It's about making more money, for the developers and council, with very little benefit for the multitudes. Stop destroying the natural coast line and bay for overdeveloped tourist attractions.

P. Holland
Bibra Lake

COASTAL SETBACKS TIPPED TO INCREASE

Sound Telegraph
22 September 2010

Changes to the State coastal planning policy to recognise a predicted increase in sea levels could mean coastal setbacks for new developments in Rockingham and Kwinana increase by about 50m. Planning Minister John Day said the WA Planning Commission had adopted a policy position statement updating the sea level rise value for use in coastal planning, which reflected a sea level rise of 0.9m by 2010, up from an earlier prediction of 0.38m. Mr Day said a key objective of the policy was to create a coastal foreshore reserve that could accommodate coastal processes such as sea level change, erosion, accretion and severe storms across a 100-year planning time frame. He said adopting the changes should put the State in a sound position to avoid negative and costly impacts of sea level rise on coastal development.

ASK ABOUT THE MARINA

Sound Telegraph
15 September 2010

I attended a workshop at the council to discuss the future planning of Rockingham. There were about 40 people attending. I thought that as a member of Hands off Point Peron I was in the minority in my views. How wrong could I have been? I found that the vast majority of ordinary residents were very worried and do not want this development to take place. The general feeling among them was, "What is the use of objecting as the council will do as it likes anyway?". Unless we all let them know how we are concerned about issues like the environment and that this is the wrong place for a marina, then it will happen by default. A suggestion to the council - with the amount of our money you are spending to forward the marina, could you use a little of it to obtain a census as to whether the people of Rockingham want it? Or, is the council afraid of the result?

P. Whitehead

Rockingham Mayor and National Sea Change Taskforce chairman Barry Sammels said the new figures reflected the latest predictions on potential sea level rise. "The council acknowledges that an effective response to the impacts of climate change can only be achieved if the latest and most accurate information is made available and applied, (so) on this basis alone, the process to review the sea level rise figures is welcomed." Cr Sammels said publishing proposed sea level rise predictions was a small step forward in creating community awareness and much more was needed to be done to inform and educate the community. Mr Day said if the changes were adopted, existing development would remain and infill development within an established developed area would also be allowed. He said the proposed changes reflected the latest information from the 2007 International Panel on Climate Change and the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation 2008.

PROPOSED MARINA A 'HORRIFYING' THOUGHT

Sound Telegraph
15 September 2010

I am a relatively new ratepayer in the City of Rockingham, but my family has been visiting Point Peron for many decades on school camps, for scuba diving and now with grandkids. Because of our love of the area, we have recently purchased a little place close to Point Peron with view to retirement in the near future. We were horrified to learn about the proposed canal development on the Point I understand Point Peron was given from the Commonwealth to the State for the use of the people of the State. Though I have long been a "boatie", I am also aware that marina and canal developments restrict areas, usually to the wealthy few, and thus limit access by the majority of people. I have spent much of my professional life studying the values of human contact with nature, written a book on the topic, published a number of professional articles and am invited to teach on the topic around the world. There is good sound scientific evidence why areas such as Point Peron should be preserved as a free and accessible area for the physical and psychological well-being of all people.

George Burns
Subiaco

ABOUT NATURAL SELECTION

Sound Telegraph
22 September 2010

I just wanted to comment on the irony of the advertising for the new Hollywood housing estate. Ironic, when the first thing that contractors and the council do is bulldoze all the trees from the area, a subject you've published many letters about recently after the Settlers Hill debacle. I hope purchasers aren't fooled by the cute depictions and promises of "being close to nature".

Bonnie Sykes
Warnbro

WANLISS REMAINS THE BEST SITE FOR

Sound Telegraph
22 September 2010

I refer to response to "Marina a step forward" (Sound Opinion, September 8). My family has also lived in the Safety Bay area a long time, since 1966. We do not own a boat, but are well aware that those with boats wish to have a safe mooring. This should be provided by the new marina going to be built at the end of Wanliss Street, which will also be a sensible addition to the current tourism facilities in Rockingham. Surveys and research have shown that Mangles Bay is not the best location for a marina, let alone the major inland canals that are planned, due to its proximity to a valuable remnant seagrass bed, and being very shallow and prone to frequent silting up. This will require ongoing, expensive dredging. Construction of inland canals will also risk damage to the critically endangered thrombolites in Lake Richmond and cause serious dewatering in surrounding suburbs. Several eastern states have banned the construction of any more canal developments due to the huge environmental impacts they cause and ongoing disputes over upkeep. So the construction of inland canals on Point Peron would not be the "progress" that Ms Dobra hopes for. Also, the land on Point Peron is vested by the government in the community for recreational uses, it is not just an area of open land that is there for any developer to get hold of and sell off for maximum private profit.

Julie Byrne
Palm Beach

MARINA WILL IMPACT FAMILIES

Sound Telegraph
15 September 2010

I refer to "Marina a forward step" (Sound Opinion, September 8). I cannot believe Mangles Bay is the only location for a marina for the privileged few. My family of 10 has had a beach house at Point Peron for 50 years and now our children and grandchildren often use the facilities afforded to us. The facilities have been a God send for us as a large family, as we could never afford to hire a place for any holidays, such as Rottnest. The land at AIW on Point Peron Road was given to the Government workers to use as holiday location. It is well maintained and it is one little part of the coast that we can afford to spend our family holiday time on. We are just one family of 35 immediate members who are affected - there are thousands more.

UNSOOUND REPORT CARD

By Roslyn Hidding
Weekend Courier
24 September 2010

Key government departments responsible for managing the health of Cockburn Sound came under fire this week after a new report revealed serious flaws in monitoring and management practices have masked the extent of decline of the marine ecosystem. The news has created outrage and prompted claims the community has been misled over the state of the Sound and the pressure it is under from increasing industrial, urban and recreational use. Auditor General Colin Murphy tabled a report in Parliament on Wednesday that found "errors and inconsistencies" in reporting on the health of the marine environment meant the evidence of decline in seagrass health and water quality in parts of the Sound had not been highlighted. The audit also found reference sites in Warnbro Sound, used to compare the seagrass health in Cockburn Sound, had declined, leading to a lowering of standards for determining healthy seagrass. However, that lowering of standards had not been reported. Total contaminant discharges into the Sound were not being monitored and there had also been no formal environmental risk assessment since 2001. Management authorities responsible for the Sound are the Cockburn Sound Management Council (CSMC), set up in 2000 in response to community concerns, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Environmental Protection Authority.

Kwinana MLA Roger Cook said the findings showed the community had been deceived. He called on Environment Minister DonnaFaragher to review the DEC's role. "A lot of the decline in seagrass has actually gone unnoticed and I find it remarkable that DEC has allowed the situation to on for so long. "Cockburn Sound is an incredibly important environmental asset and I'm really concerned its health appears to have been neglected over the past 10 years." Conservation of Rockingham Environment chairman Allan Gade said he believed the CSMC had suffered from a lack of funding and needed to operate independently to have greater authority. CSMC chairwoman Kateryna Longley said the findings were useful and was pleased the audit confirmed the CSMC's key role in protecting Cockburn Sound.

BUSH MUST BE PROTECTED

Weekend Courier
24 September 2010

The latest Sub-Regional Strategy for the Outer Metropolitan Perth and Peel predicts a 34 per cent increase in population for the South- West Region (Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham) from approximately 208,000 to 278,000 people by 2031. Housing to accommodate this growth in population will primarily be met by new developments, with some infill opportunities. This highlights the precious nature of existing bushland throughout our region and under no circumstances should any of that bushland be cleared for development. In the City of Rockingham, areas such as Point Peron, Lake Cooloongup, Lake Walyungup, Port Kennedy and Paganoni Swamp should be protected from any proposal to construct marinas, roads or commercial and/or residential developments. Instead, our environmental agency, together with local government, should commit to a program of enhancing the quality of these bushland sites so that they are able to support greater levels of biodiversity. While our built environment rapidly expands to cater to our wants, the ecological services on which we rely for our very existence are dwindling. Protection of bushland in our region should be a priority for councils and the community.

Leonie Stubbs
Singleton

RARE MOTH COMES TO LIGHT

By Laura Tomlinson
Weekend Courier
8 October 2010

A moth flapping its wings in Peron could cause a tsunami of environmental ramifications for the developers of the Mangles Bay Marina project after the discovery of an endangered insect on the site. The Graceful Sun Moth (*Synemon graciosus*) is a declared endangered species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. According to the DEC, the day-flying moth, which has distinctive orange hind-wings, is found only on the Swan Coastal Plain between Quinns Rocks and Mandurah. During March, 2010, three Graceful Sun Moths were discovered during a 65ha survey of the marina site and surrounding Cape Peron region. DEC guidelines dictate that surveys for the moth must be completed before any development can occur in the moth's known habitat, or where their larval host-plants *Lomandra maritima* and *Lomandra hermaphrodita* are prevalent. However, the links to these plants has only recently been discovered, meaning the potential habitat of the Graceful Sun Moth includes many areas zoned for clearing in near-coastal - parts of Perth and the Peel region - like Cape Peron.

ENVAustralia survey report said the territorial moth was genetically isolated. "The greatest threat to this species is Wilbinga to Yalgorup for the GSM.

Hands Off Point Peron spokeswoman Dawn Jecks likened the moth's plight to the "very ordinary looking" gastric brooding frog; which became extinct in Queensland before scientists could properly study its ability to "switch off" its stomach acidity while incubating tadpoles. "There are many cases in the past where a species has initially appeared to be quite ordinary and insignificant; however, proper studies of the species' individual characteristics has gone on to reveal valuable scientific information that has had important applications for medicine, engineering and the like," MS Jecks said. "This is the wrong location for a marina and further demonstrates the need for our Bush Forever sites to remain exactly that; bush forever." A spokesman for the EPA said he was the marina project was undergoing the assessment process.

OPEN TO RIDICULE

Weekend Courier
5 November 2010

Rick Palmer's critique of the Naragebup Centre smacks of sour grapes at not being able to get the Point Peron development up and running. He opens himself up to ridicule in his letter, accusing the volunteers who run the centre of being a gang of "green saboteurs" of anything and everything. Mr Palmer should hang his head in shame as a former member of the Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, an organisation that subscribes to business at any cost as long as a profit is made.

Mr Palmer, I wouldn't vote for The Greens if you pulled out my toenails, but I do support the actions of the centre and other locals in repeating the call for no development at Point Peron. Contrary to your view, I reckon Bob Goodale would be proud of the stand taken by Naragebup on the Point Peron charade. The opponents of this development don't want negotiation, compromise or amendments. We simply want Point Peron left as is, alone, in peace, natural for another few generations. Like Bob Goodale, there are others out here who live what we preach. How dare you invoke the name of someone who was 100 per cent against proposals that destroy an irreplaceable, pristine ecology and cover it over with brick paving? What is it that you don't understand about the statement, "no development at Point Peron" Mr Palmer? No means no.

Les Lowe
Shoalwater

OPPORTUNITY COMES

Weekend Courier
12 November 2010

Last week's article in the Courier provided an opportunity to highlight the plight of Marapana Wildlife Park being forced to relocate due to proposed sand mining. This dilemma also provides an opportunity for Phil Edman, Rockingham council and the Rockingham Chamber of Commerce to support a local business and, as it were, kill many birds with one stone. The debate regarding development at Point Peron could be solved in part by offering a parcel of land in that area to Marapana Park. A native wildlife park close to Naragebup Environmental Centre is a natural fit. Such a relocation would solve Marapana's problem; provide additional visitors to Naragebup and increase tourism directly through the Rockingham Beach Precinct. But most importantly, a park area would provide the residents and ratepayers of Rockingham with something that enhances the area of Point Peron without drastically changing the natural feel of one of Rockingham's attractions. The canal and marina alternatives that are being pushed at the moment would restrict beach access solely to those who can afford a house in the canal development or a boat in the marina and be accompanied by the environmental damage to the sea grass in Cockburn Sound. Why not have a free, natural parkland area surrounding a wildlife park such as Marapana that we can all access. Come on Rockingham council; let's do something for us all and not just the rich few.

Oliver Mooney
Shoalwater

FUTURE MARINA DREDGING COSTS RAISE CONCERN
Weekend Courier
19 November 2010

Concerns have been raised that the costs for any future dredging at the proposed Mangles Bay Marina project will fall back to Rockingham ratepayers. The second phase of the approval process for the 500-berth marina project, to include a tourism and retail precinct on 70 hectares of land between Garden Island Causeway and Palm Beach, is under way.

Dawn Jecks, spokeswoman for the Hands Off Point Peron group which is opposed to the marina, said she was disappointed about the lack of details as to who was responsible for ongoing maintenance costs. "This issue of who will pay for the ongoing dredging was raised in State Parliament twice this year by Greens MLC for South Metro Lynn McLaren," Ms Jecks said. "The response from the Barnett Government to the question of who will be responsible for the ongoing dredging was that this will be decided upon once the marina is established. "It is totally unacceptable that Rockingham ratepayers are expected to stand by and wait until this project is completed, with no going back, before they are told who is going to be footing this bill." Ms Jecks said residents of Rockingham deserved to know the future financial requirements of this project, claiming taxpayers had funded the assessment process to date. "We need to remember that courtesy of the \$3.7 million of taxpayer the community who has been funding it," she said. "I am calling on the Barnett government to disclose now just who will foot the bill when the developers are gone and the problems emerge."

The Courier contacted Premier Colin Barnett's office for comment but had not received any response by the time of going to press. Stuart Duplock, State manager for Cedar Woods, the private development partner for the marina, said the environmental review for the project was a detailed process. "At this stage within the project, the management of the marina has not been determined," he said. "However, as planning for the project progresses, a management plan will include provision for the long term maintenance of the proposed marina, including any future dredging."

CALL TO RETAIN MORE BUSH
By Monique Mulligan
Sound Telegraph
24 November 2010

A final management plan for Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, home to two threatened ecological communities, has been welcomed by Naragebup Rockingham Environment Centre deputy chair James Mumme. But he called on Environment Minister Donna Faragher not to approve the proposed Mangles Bay marina, saying it would destroy more than 70ha of Bush Forever land in the regional park. The plan outlines the overarching approach for the protection and enhancement of the park's nature conservation, recreation, cultural and landscape values. Last week, Mrs Faragher said the park had "extremely high nature conservation values" and provided the community with a unique opportunity to enjoy the natural environment. She said the plan would protect the thrombolites at Lake Richmond and sedgeland in Holocene dune swales, which are listed as critically endangered in WA. The plan also preserves a 'remnant of the Rockingham-Becher Plan, which Mrs Faragher said was "unique and of international importance".

The plan is expected to provide the way forward for the sustainable and cooperative management of the park between the Environment and Conservation department, Rockingham City Council and the community. Mr Mumme said it was becoming increasingly difficult to educate the community about the environment when more and more bushland was under threat. "Given that only 1 per cent of the original coastal bush in the Perth Metro area remains and that Rockingham's population is due to increase massively, our precious public bush should be retained and developed in line with the DEC management plan," he said. He was pleased with Mrs Faragher's comment that the plan provided a "clear vision on the best way to manage and protect the park", but hoped this would translate to non-approval of the marina. Conservation Commission chair Pat Barblett said the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Community Advisory Committee had been instrumental in preparing the plan. View the plan on www.dec.wa.gov.au/landmanagementplanning

LITTERBUGS FACE BIG FINES
By Monique Mulligan
Sound Telegraph
24 November 2010

Someone has been dumping hundreds of McWilliams Sweet Sherry bottles and St Agnes Brandy bottles around Point Peron. Someone else has recently dumped a lounge, a cooler, some clothes and other general rubbish. It's people like these that deserve to be hit with the hefty new fines just passed in State Parliament last week, according to Hands Off Point Peron convenor James Mumme. Under the legislation, anyone who illegally dumps waste will face hefty fines of up to \$62,500 for individuals and \$125,000 for corporations, up from a maximum of \$1000 under the Litter Act for minor littering and bill posting. The Government says this will provide a very significant deterrent against dumping, and encourage waste minimisation and recycling.

Mr Mumme is not so sure and says there are other, more effective measures. "Friends of Point Peron members have been collecting illegally dumped rubbish from Point Peron for over five years now," he said. "The most notable things have been three-seater sofas, smashed televisions, sheets of asbestos, a car engine block, fridges, truck tyres, bags of clothing, dead palm trees, bags of garden waste, and a blow-up doll box (minus doll)." "The legislation is of token value as I don't think it's enforceable." "Firstly, it's almost impossible to catch people in the act partly because policing local areas of vegetation is time consuming and expensive and does not occur, and secondly I do not know of any convictions under the \$1000 littering legislation." He said stronger action, included naming and shaming major companies caught in the act, clauses in contracts requiring sub-contractors to dispose of waste properly, unmarked council security with cameras patrolling known dumping spots, container deposit legislation, signage at reserve entrances, and tip passes for all residents, was needed.

Mr Mumme said it was shameful that the Government "did not have the guts" to tackle container deposit legislation. "Our experience of dumping in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park tells us that by far rubbish found in bush off Memorial Drive, Point Peron, the largest kind of item dumped is drink containers - cans, bottles (sometimes smashed) and waxed cardboard," he said. "Two weeks after Clean Up Australia Day we found one drink container every 10m along both sides of Lease Road. In October this year we counted 134 drink containers along 300m of the same road!" The new rules will come into effect early next year.

WHERE'S THE FORWARD PLANNING
Sound Telegraph
24 November 2010

Reading "Marina Investigation", (Sound Telegraph, November 17), I noted that environmental issues and potential environmental problems continue to be the main focus of media coverage on the proposed canal/marina development at Point Peron. There has been very little discussion to date about the huge planning issues and problems that many locals believe will result from a project that is going to be an incredibly expensive and a very complicated civil engineering exercise. I also noted in the same edition the story "Disabled access stalled" and the very unsatisfactory and still unresolved issue of disabled access to the building in which Centrelink is located along Civic Boulevard. I find it hard to fathom how our planners and decision makers could have let this problem of the lack of disabled access happen. I would have thought that with the appropriate forward planning this would have been avoided. What really worries me is that if such a simple and avoidable problem relating to a lack of disabled access can occur and for it to take so long to resolve, what hope have we got that we could resolve the many and varied planning issues and problems that will no doubt arise from the proposed canal and marina development at Point Peron? If the proposed canal-marina development does go ahead, I fear that it is going to cost Rockingham City Council ratepayers dearly once the developers depart and the problems start to emerge.

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

COUNTING THE COST

Weekend Courier
26 November 2010

In response to the article headlined "Future marina dredging costs raise concern" (*Courier*, November 19), there is no doubt that significant ongoing costs for the maintenance of channels dredged for the proposed Mangles Bay Marina will be of huge concern for the Rockingham ratepayers, given that they pay for the boat ramp maintenance, the major proportion being for the dredging of thousands of cubic metres (depending on winter storms) of sand to keep the Garden Island ramp open. Fortunately this dredging can be done from the land as the area of the boat ramp is a pin head compared to the channel proposed for the marina. A huge amount annually will need to be budgeted as professional dredging services (depending on size of dredge unit and pumping requirements) charge \$400-\$800 per hour covering roughly 30 cubic metres per day. In addition, the sand/silt will need to be transported away from the site. This issue is only one of many, many issues that cause environmental concerns. There is no question that the best method of managing environmentally fragile areas is not to compromise what is there. Considering what is being risked on land and at sea the question that needs to be asked is if this site is suitable at all for this type of development?

Keith Whyte
Leeming

PRIORITY IS TO PROTECT

Weekend Courier
26 November 2010

The State Government has finalised the management plan for Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. In one of her final duties before announcing her resignation as Environment Minister, Donna Faragher released the plan to the public. Mrs Faragher said the 4,270-hectare park land had extremely high nature conservation values. "The park protects two threatened ecological communities - thrombolites at Lake Richmond and sedgeland in Holocene dune swales," she said. "Both of these communities are listed as critically endangered in WA." According to Mrs Faragher, the plan outlined the overarching approach for the protection and enhancement of the park's nature conservation, recreation, cultural and landscape values. She said the lands comprising the park also had cultural significance for Aboriginal people, and contained heritage places relating to the defence of WA during World War II. Co-operative management of the park will be handled by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and Rockingham City Council. The plan is available online at dec.wa.gov.au/landmanagementplanning

NO GO ZONE

By Monique Mulligan
Sound Telegraph
1 December 2010

For as long as they can remember, Oldbury residents Ray Tilbury and Deb Hind have accessed the beach at Mangles Bay via a track between The Cruising Yacht Club holding yard and the RSL caravan park. Wayne Rance of Rockingham and Dave Coutts of Warnbro are also regular users. They are up in arms about concrete barriers blocking access to the beach, a place they say is "out of the way" and one of their favourite spots to go fishing, crabbing and kayaking. It is also a spot where many people, including Ms Hinds, access their moorings. The blocks were installed by the club earlier this year. When Mr Tilbury approached the club about the issue, he said he was told that he could access the same spot with his car through the holding yards if he paid hefty application and yearly access fees. "I've been doing this for 45 years in the same location," he said. "It's extortion, revenue raising!"

Mr Coutts, who was carrying his kayak to the beach from the road when approached by the Sound Telegraph, said he was on the beach with his ute when the blocks were installed, and had great difficulty getting out. He said most people did no harm and the track had been in use for years. Mr Rance said he had been coming to this spot for years. "I just don't believe that they would take this access away," he said. "Nobody's done any harm down there. They are also upset that there was no warning before the barriers were installed and say the blocks pose a danger to residents who were unaware of their existence and wanted to use the track at night."

DEPARTMENT PROHIBITS ACCESS

By Steve Jenkins
Sound Telegraph
1 December 2010

The Cruising Yacht Club has defended its decision to install concrete barriers on a beach access track at Mangles Bay, saying the club acted on instructions from the Transport Department, which owns the land. The club leases the land from the department, which includes the area the track is on. Club general manager Scott Jarvis said the club was told by the department to block access, following a complaint about vehicle damage on the beach. A letter from the department to the club, written in January 2010, states: "All vehicular traffic to the beach via your lease area should be prohibited at all times". Mr Jarvis said the club was asked to arrange a barrier, which it did. "We're only going by what the department asked us to do," he said, suggesting people unhappy with the decision take it up with the department. He said the barrier was installed some months ago.

Department coastal infrastructure general manager Steve Jenkins said public vehicle access was not within the club's lease terms. "Public pedestrian access to the beach is still available - it is only vehicle access that has been blocked," he said. "The TCYC was requested to restrict vehicle access to the beach through its lease area and it responded by installing the barriers." He said the department did not directly receive any mooring fees from people with vessels moored in this area, but would do so in the near future.

HANDS OFF PREMIER TOLD

Weekend Courier
3 December 2010

The public fight to save Point Peron from development was taken to Premier Colin Barnett's Cottesloe's electorate on Sunday. Members of the Hands Off Point Peron group joined about 1000 people at the Protect the Kimberley rally to air their concerns the proposed marina development at Point Peron.

Hands Off Point Peron spokesperson Dawn Jacks said the group was gaining momentum as it worked towards taking its campaign statewide. "The show of support last Sunday was a great start," she said. "We had a lot of interest at the rally with many rally attendees signing on to lend a hand to the Hands Off Point Peron campaign. "Premier Barnett seems to be determined to take this land at Point Peron. However, he is going to have a real fight on his hands as more and more West Australians find out what he is proposing to do to our unique natural asset."

**CONCERNS OVER MARINA FORWARD
PLANNING**
Sound Telegraph
8 December 2010

I refer to Dawn Jecks' letter ("Where's the forward planning, November 24) about the lack of forward planning and potential for ongoing costs to the ratepayers if the proposed Mangles Bay canal/marina development goes ahead. I agree with her concerns. If our local government cannot ensure that a mandatory item like suitable disabled access is provided in a Government building for Centrelink, right next to their own offices, then how can we be sure that they will observe due diligence in assessing the plans for a major complex development such as that proposed for Mangles Bay?

This proposal is not only a flawed and out-dated concept to begin with, that is inland canals, but it will also cause huge disruption and stress in its construction. It is already difficult as a pedestrian to cross Parkin Street, so imagine how much harder this will be once large trucks thunder up and down on their way to Point Peron, as well as increased noise, dust and overall traffic. These issues will probably never go away once the project is finished, either. Add to that the fact that a development on Point Peron will be competing for business with establishments already trading on the Rockingham foreshore and on the new Wanliss Street marina once it is built.

I see that WALGA requires all local governments to use their Climate Change Management Toolkit to assess risks and to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, and on both those counts the proposed canal/marina development should not go ahead. Maybe I should not worry about planning for the future though, as when Peak Oil hits, it will only be the very wealthy who will be able to afford to travel in private vehicles, and the rest of us here in Rockingham will still be paying off and maintaining the folly called the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct built for those same wealthy people. That is unless the sea levels have risen and engulfed it anyway.

*Julie Byrne
Palm Beach*

CELEBRITY SUPPORT FOR POINT PERON
Weekend Courier
10 December 2010

Zoologist and world-renowned underwater artist Roger Swainston will today publicly lend his support to the Hands Off Point Peron campaign against the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development. Specialising in fish illustration and underwater art, Swainston is a keen advocate for protecting fishing resources. Some years ago, he discovered a new species of fish while diving in Cockburn Sound. WA Senator Rachel Siewert will also be available to talk about the legality of the proposed privatisation of public land at Point Peron, at the corner of Hymus Street and the Esplanade in Rockingham. People can meet in the car park to the west along the

RIGHT TO KNOW
Weekend Courier
10 December 2010

I was pleased to see the November 19 edition article where Dawn Jecks raised concerns about the future and ongoing costs if the proposed canal/marina development goes ahead in Mangles Bay. I have similar concerns. In these days of belt-tightening and increasing costs for all it appears to be highly irresponsible for developers to say that the management, and therefore the responsibility for the ongoing costs and upkeep of the development, have yet to be decided. As City ratepayers we have the right to know who is going to be paying for the ongoing costs and demand that this be a transparent and open process. We already have been hit with the largest increase in rates for the Perth metropolitan area and most people are buckling under the strain of trying to pay all their bills without being saddled with paying for an unnecessary and exclusive private development. As WA taxpayers we have already funded the Barnett Government's \$3.7million handout to the developers of this project: money that could have been much better spent on essential services. The City of Rockingham would do well to read the WALGA Climate Change Management Toolkit as all local governments need now to be assessing the long-term risks of developments and minimising greenhouse gas emissions. If this is done correctly then the proposed Mangles Bay development won't get a look in. I see that the Port Coogee development appears to have stalled and a colleague informs me that planned public and tourist amenities in that development have been taken off the plans.

*Julie Byrne
Palm Beach*

BEACH ACCESS CLOSURE
Sound Telegraph
15 December 2010

I refer to "No go zone" (Sound Telegraph, December 1). What next? Shutting off the track to the beach alongside the yacht club has put an end to my mum's days at the beach. My mum is unable to walk far and I was able to drive her almost to the water's edge so she could enjoy watching her grandkids play on the beach, and enjoy being part of our family on our day out. Not any more. Thanks to the yacht club and the Transport Department, mum will just have to miss out. Where will it end? Private beaches for the rich only?

*Lynette Mayes
Medina*

DON'T SELL OFF BUSHLAND
Sound Telegraph
29 December 2010

The blocking of access to the Mangles Bay beach is a warning of what will happen if the canal development at Point Peron goes ahead. At the moment we can walk or ride over all of the Bush Forever site and most of the rest of the regional park. But once there is a private marina, private housing along the canals with their own jetties and pontoons, and hotels, public access will be restricted to a few walk ways and an access road. I protest against this sell off of precious crown land for the private profit of Cedar Woods and its shareholders.

*V. Foster
Shoalwater*

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 10

Published letters to editors from January 2011 to October 2015
For and against the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development
(provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
FOR AND AGAINST THE MANGLES BAY MARINA
JANUARY 2011 TO OCTOBER 2015**

**PROPOSED MARINA SURE TO IMPROVE AN
EYESORE
Sound Telegraph
5 January 2011**

We hear so much negativity about the proposed Point Peron Marina by a small minority of people. Anybody who has driven down Mangles Bay area, where the marina is proposed to be built, have a good look - it's an absolute eyesore. Not to mention Point Peron, further down where broken glass and tyre rubber is strewn all over the roads and car parks.

Rockingham has more boats in it than any other suburb of its size and has the worst boating facilities. The moorings that exist do more damage to the seabeds and sea grass than any new floating facilities would ever do. Come on boaties, stand up for a marina in Rockingham and bring us into at least the 20th century. As for the Hands Off Peron Point Group, instead of being so negative, why not work with developers to achieve a world-class, environmentally friendly marina that all can enjoy? Compromise and everyone wins.

*Ray Jeakes
Rockingham*

**LOCATION OF MARINA IS THE ISSUE
Sound Telegraph
12 January 2011**

I refer to Ray Jeakes' letter "Proposed marina sure to improve eyesore" (Sound Opinion, January 5). I would like to point out that the people who are involved in the Hands Off Point Peron Group are not against development, marinas or the boating community of Rockingham. We fully support the other marina being built called Port Rockingham. It is much more suitable location on the foreshore of Rockingham at Wanliss Street and it is actually in the water, unlike the inland marina being proposed for Mangles Bay. In addition, the Wanliss street marina doesn't have the huge environmental issues that the Mangles Bay location does.

The Port Rockingham marina location has existing deep water which makes it financially viable. Being on the end of the café strip, it is in area suitable for a marina unlike the proposed Mangles Bay marina, which would be dug into regional parkland and Bush Forever area. One of our biggest concerns is that the Mangles Bay marina is just not financially viable and can't be developed without huge government funding. The money being wasted on the Mangles Bay marina would be much better spent on providing more boat ramps around Rockingham. The proposed area would need to constantly be dredged killing seagrasses and affecting the whole area. Point Peron and the surrounding sea grasses should be preserved so that fish can breed there and a decent fish population can be sustained.

*Kelly Brown
Warnbro*

**DREDGING COSTS
Sound Telegraph
19 January 2011**

I recently had a flyer placed on my windscreen at a local boat ramp telling me of the proposed mass protest against the Point Peron canal development on January 23. I'm not against a well-thought out marina, but has anyone who is for the canals seen how the Point Peron boat ramp silts up? I just hope Rockingham City Council has thought of this. Ten years down the track, who's going to pay for the dredging and maintenance of sea walls? I can't see that anyone owning a canal lot will pay. Just like the residents of Palm Beach they'll want everything and pay minimum rates.

*M. Evans
Cooloongup*

**NAME CHANGE, BUT DEVELOPMENT STILL
SAME
Sound Telegraph
19 January 2011**

It appears that Rockingham's lemon, the Point Peron canal development no longer exists. However, it's now called the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct. Cute name change, same animal. This new project still has an inland marina, including canals, with a channel dredged across sea grass meadows, across the bush and directly in to Memorial Drive. A hydrological report conducted by leading engineering company Worley Parsons in 2005, stated that the existing interface between saltwater and freshwater is at present only 200m from the edge of Lake Richmond. It also states that in the event of any construction, dewatering or excavation that leads to seawater ingress towards Lake Richmond then that boundary would reduce to only 50m. Additionally, it states that a storm surge as commonly occurs in Cockburn Sound, could force the seawater into the Lake Richmond water table. Such a short distance of only 50m could lead to the loss of Lake Richmond as one of the few remaining freshwater lakes on the coast. The report is available on the internet.

Saltwater into Lake Richmond will result in the loss of the current wildlife and the death of the thrombolites. If that doesn't grab your attention, then how about if you live in areas of Shoalwater, Safety Bay and Palm Beach and your bore water becomes saltwater? If we add to this the strong possibility of a rise in sea levels within 30 years, then it's a certainty your bores will become saltwater. I can't believe we have a city council that professes to acknowledge and plan for rising sea levels and yet is offering no resistance and is actually fostering a development that will allow seawater into an environmental conservation area, whilst simultaneously devaluing the property of its residents and ratepayers.

*Les Lowe
Shoalwater*

**USE VISION TO MAKE MOST OF POINT PERON
Sound Telegraph
26 January 2011**

Dawn Jecks, thank you for dropping Hands Off Point Peron flyers in my letterbox. I long for the day when we can begin work and clean up Point Peron and finally make it available to the broader community. Point Peron is largely an exclusive collection of various leaseholds preventing the public from adequate access to much of the area. Perhaps due to its neglected state, some members of the community do not give it the respect it deserves and use the area as a miscellaneous rubbish dump. It is a disgrace that no serious effort has been made to develop Point Peron with great public amenities, spectacular walk and cycle ways leading the public on an adventure tour around the Point Peron and Cape areas.

Instead of being a jewel of Rockingham, the area limps on as a playground for association lease holders, with usage and commitment being highly seasonal. Hands Off is not an option - the community desperately needs "Hands On Point Peron" and as part of that, a tastefully developed marina precinct with a vibrant blend of community, commercial and recreational features is high on the wish list. I find the canal idea bereft of vision and terribly clichéd, especially when we have the opportunity to design something from scratch, which could explore the most advanced features of renewable energy, water management and environmental compatibility to ensure high-energy efficiency. The whole thing could be a real life showcase of innovative and affordable great design. If Hands Off and Bush Forever is code for doing nothing, then I do not have any time for your agenda. I would want to see the Greens lead the way with some innovative/intelligent ideas rather than promoting the trite old visionless slogans, while giving the impression that the community is overwhelming behind the Hands Off and Bush Forever message.

*Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater*

CLUNKERS AS CENTREPIECE?

Sound Telegraph
26 January 2011

Ray Jeakes ("Proposed marina sure to improve an eyesore", Sound Opinion, January 5) is attempting to introduce a "cash for clunkers" deal to get another marina. He describes Point Peron as an eyesore and wants our money to dig a canal and fix it. When it comes to "marine clunkers", we have the most fascinating collection on public display when you follow the road out to Point Peron. The "flotsam" that is by the roadside, under the umbrella of The Cruising Yacht Club, can best be described as "rust and rot". In reality it's the refuge for orphan craft snatched from the graveyard, yet Ray wants to enhance our image by making this a centrepiece. This collection of craft should either be scuttled, or screened from public view. So, in this "cash for clunkers" deal, sponsored by State Government, Ray seeks your support to be a beneficiary? Maybe he can tell who else wants a handout?

Doug Pritchard
Wellard

NO LOGIC TO POINT PERON MARINA

Sound Telegraph
2 February 2011

I attended the recent Hands Off Point Peron rally. I was very impressed by the speakers who were professional and well informed. I am in Rockingham as a visitor from the UK and I know that a project such as this, which will cause the wholesale destruction of the bush, the sea grass and the water quality in Mangles Bay, and also threaten to contaminate Lake Richmond, would not even be considered in my home country. In Britain we are forever thankful that people with foresight and good judgment preserved big sections of natural Britain for future generations. I wonder if the politicians who are pushing for this devastation of natural habitat will boast about the role they played to their grandchildren, when times are more enlightened?

Before the rally I had thought the development was purely a marina, a safe haven for boats to survive the worst of the weather. However, the project is more about canal side homes, shops and restaurants restaurants. This will exclude the public from access to what is now a recreational space unless they can buy into the development or need some retail therapy. I had expected the arguments for and against the development to be largely a philosophical debate between environmentalists and developers. However, in this case there are practical arguments against the marina. In particular the problem with the silting up of the canals which will require a continuing program of dredging that in the long run will be the responsibility of the public purse. The population of Rockingham is continuing to expand and is lucky to have an asset such as Point Peron on its doorstep. With investment Point Peron can be developed into a landmark nature or heritage park.

Jon Walmsley
UK Visitor

PROTEST RALLIES SUPPORT

Sound Telegraph
26 January 2011

I was privileged to join the large number of people who attended the public rally organised by the Hands Off Point Peron group on Sunday to protest against the proposed construction of an inland marina at Point Peron. Those of us who attended the well organised protest rally were left in no doubt about the potentially devastating consequences to Point Peron's environment and marine ecosystems that could occur should the ill-advised canals proposal go ahead.

Despite assertions to the contrary, public access to the area would be significantly reduced - except of course if you were fortunate enough to own a canal-side property. Yet another attempt to squeeze the public out of recreation areas - do we still think Rottnest is an affordable holiday option for families on an average wage? The area for the planned canal development offers a unique opportunity for our leaders to display some moral fortitude and put the land to the use for which it was intended - public open space and recreation in the form of a nature or heritage park. The rally was an important event, not simply because it succeeded in awakening people to the inherent dangers of the Point Peron marina proposal, but also because it prompted a broad cross-section of the Rockingham community to demonstrate their concerns about the impending destruction of an area that has become dear to them. It is people power which will defeat the destructive marina project and save Point Peron for future generations.

Ron Chapman
Waikiki

FACTS ARE ENOUGH

Weekend Courier
4 February 2011

After reading your article (*Courier*, January 28) on the rally protesting against the Mangles Bay marina I can't help but wonder why people and groups who have a negative point of view to a proposal need to resort to misinformation and half-truths to make their point. If their argument is strong and their position sound then surely sticking to the facts is sufficient. For instance, can Dawn Jecks please tell us how the dredging of a 500m by 50m - or thereabouts - strip of degraded seaweed beds could possibly have an effect on fish numbers, let alone how this so-called destruction "will result in a loss of visitors to the area" and who the tourism operators with a similar view might be. Without this added information her statement is classic misinformation when there is not one shred of evidence presented to support such a claim. Even with respect to the original plan allowing for a dual-use path along the beachfront from Hyrnus Street to the causeway Ms Jecks isn't quite right when she says it is no longer part of the developer's proposal. The original concept included a bridge across the entrance of the marina to allow for such a pathway. As a 6m high bridge would restrict access to all but the smallest yachts the Marina Working Group, members of local boating clubs, insisted there not be a bridge and that such a pathway should go behind the marina.

So while access will no longer run directly from one end to the other, there is still to be a pathway, albeit including a diversion around the marina. As for the assertion that access to the beach will be reduced from present levels with this project, I am confused. Presently, that section of beach has open public access from about three locations - Hymus Street, between the RSL camp and the The Cruising Yacht Club hardstand area and between the Mangles Bay Fishing club enclosure and the causeway. Sure, the beach will be cut in half by the marina entrance but those that want to get to the beach will have increased access given that there will now be a dual-use path running the length of it where now there is nothing.

Trevor Taylor
Rockingham

AWAKE TO DANGERS

Weekend Courier
28 January 2011

On Sunday morning I was privileged to join the large number of people who attended the public rally organised by the Hands Off Point Peron group to protest against the proposed construction of an inland marina at Point Peron. Like many Rockingham people and visitors from further afield I have spent many happy hours snorkelling the area's unique underwater reefs and enjoying its beaches and walk tracks. Over the years I have also sensed a growing personal appreciation of the natural beauty that makes Point Peron such a special place.

Those of us who attended the well-organised protest rally were left in no doubt about the potentially devastating consequences to Point Peron's environment and marine ecosystems that could occur should the ill-advised canals proposal go ahead. Despite assertions to the contrary, public access to the area would be significantly reduced - except of course if you were fortunate (and rich) enough to own a canal-side property. It's yet another attempt to squeeze Jo Public out of recreation areas - do we still think Rottnest is an affordable holiday option for families on an average wage?

The area for the planned canal development offers a unique opportunity for our leaders to display some moral fortitude (if that's possible) and put the land to the use for which it was intended - public open space and recreation in the form of a nature or heritage park. The rally was an important event, not simply because it succeeded in awakening people to the inherent dangers of the Point Peron marina proposal, but also because it prompted a broad cross-section of the Rockingham community to demonstrate their concerns about the impending destruction of an area that has become dear to them. It is people power that will defeat the destructive marina project and save Point Peron for future generations.

Ron Chapman
Waikiki

ADVERT MISLEADING

Weekend Courier
4 February 2011

The advert from LandCorp and Cedarwoods about the canal marina (*Courier*, January 28) is misleading in several ways. For one thing it read: "The project will undergo a public environmental review in February." This is not so.

What may happen in February or March is that the scoping document will be put out for public comment. The document outlines the environmental issues that the Environmental Protection Authority will require the developers to conduct research into and show that they can manage responsibly. Then, after doing that research and writing the plans, the developer will submit the final proposal to the EPA. It will make it available to the public in the second half of this year or later. Then all of us have the chance to put arguments on environmental and other matters. It's a pity that the developers create the wrong impression that the project is further ahead than it really is. I believe that this project raises too many difficult issues - social, financial as well

as environmental - to be viable. The rally indicates how concerned the community is. I call on the Premier to intervene and prevent further waste of time and money. Meantime our \$3.7 million is being chewed up by this misguided process when it could be used to clean up the Point and develop it for the public as the Department of Environment proses. I also believe that most of the benefits the developers claim in the advert are either proposed elsewhere or already present (though of course they need work).

James Mumme
Shoalwater

DON'T MANGLE POINT
Sound Telegraph
9 February 2011

I read with interest the reports on the Hands off Point Peron rally and the subsequent letters to the paper. One writer took the opportunity to take a swipe at Green party policies. This rally was not about an individual's political views and it is counter-productive to try and make it so.

It is worthwhile to note that the people behind Hands Off Point Peron are local people who live in the area and are concerned for the future of this natural asset. I was born in this area and have lived here most of my life. I spent an idyllic childhood around the Point Peron area swimming, snorkelling and exploring as most children did back then. I attended the rally because I was horrified at the possibility of a canal development cutting off most of Point Peron from the people of Rockingham. I have extensively researched all available information regarding the development and the area affected by it.

If you check out Cedar Woods, they fail to mention the canal development - yet the EPA Strategic Environmental Review (2006) clearly shows canal housing taking up close to 80 per cent of the development. This review says the development of an inland marina minimises seagrass loss. However, this comes at the cost of removing 30ha to 40ha of "Bush Forever regionally significant" vegetation and removal of 39 to 50ha of Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. There is a commitment to seagrass rehabilitation for the areas damaged during construction of the marina/canals. They fail to mention that this technology has not yet been shown to work in the long term. Also, what effect will this have on the known fish nursery areas in Mangles Bay? What's the point of having boats, if there are no fish left to fish for?

My chief concerns are:

- The canal excavation will negatively impact the endangered Lake Richmond eco system.
- The entertainment/shopping precinct will compete with, and
- potentially damage small businesses on the Rockingham foreshore café strip.
- The need for a deep water access channel for boats will damage already stressed seagrass meadows and fish stocks and dissect the Mangles Bay beach restricting public access.
- Bush Forever doesn't mean demolishing and digging up significant bush sites.

It's hypocritical for one government authority to say a place is significant and should be preserved, then another says we'll make some money and sell it off! In an area dominated by heavy industry, surely it is worthwhile preserving one of the few pristine areas left in the region. This current proposal seems to raise more problems than it solves and caters to a privileged few. There has to be a better way than this.

Julia Burton
Waikiki

T SHIRT POWER
Weekend Courier
11 February 2011

I decided to act on the advice given at the recent "Hands Off Pt Peron" rally to wear my Preserve Point Peron T-shirt at every opportunity to help get the message across - "yes" to appropriate development, "no" to canal-style marina development. As a result I've had many interesting conversations with people who have approached me and what I have learnt is that people seem to think the canal style development is a "done deal".

While I am still learning about this development, I've had terrific opportunities to bring people up to date with process, progress and scientific data, and to assure them that it certainly is not a "done deal". My late husband John Dilley was one of the first people to spell it out in your newspaper circa 2005 when he wrote: "It's all about money". I am determined to do all I can to continue with his passionate objection to environmental vandalism disguised as community progress for the sake of lining a few people's pockets. Have no doubts, we taxpayers will be left with significant bills for having lost a precious asset.

So please folks, buy a T-shirt, wear it with pride, arm yourself with scientific facts and help to open up the debate. If you think you can't make a difference on your own, just think of a mozzie, and don't let our "bush forever" be lost to the developer's "push forever".

Pauline Dilley
Shoalwater

INTERESTS CONFLICT
Weekend Courier
11 February 2011

Perhaps Trevor Taylor (*Facts are enough, Courier, February 4*) should stick to the facts and not spread his own misinformation and half truths. He says there will be a path with "a diversion around the marina". He fails to mention that path will also have to be diverted around the inland canal development that is part of this project. I also heard Trevor recently on a phone-in on ABC's Drive program saying the canal development part was "very minor". As Commodore of The Cruising Yacht Club, he might declare a conflict of interest, as the club is hoping to be part of the marina.

Julia Button
Waikiki

MORE FACTS PLEASE
Weekend Courier
11 February 2011

Trevor Taylor is correct when he says that sticking to the facts are sufficient in the Mangles Bay marina debate. He's also right when he wonders, as I do, about "people with a negative point of view". So tell us Trevor, when are we, the general public and ratepayers, going to get some scientific facts from those who seem to know the extent and final design of this project but are only releasing the details to people such those in the city council, local yacht clubs and fishing clubs? When are we going to see less negativity from these people about the damage, the destruction and the seemingly unlimited ongoing cost to the ratepayers wrought by this canal marina development?

Some positive feedback would be appreciated. The ratepayers won't be getting a clubhouse out of this, as you will Trevor, so what's in it for us? More empty shops like those in Mandurah? Perhaps boatyards spraying paint and sandblasting grit all over cars as happens in Mews Road in Fremantle? Maybe an even longer drive around the houses to Point Peron?

Research shows that the beach between the Australian High Water Mark and the Australian Low Water Mark is the property of the Commonwealth and not that of Mangles Bay Fishing Club, The Cruising Yacht Club or The Department of Transport. As such it is freely available to us all to walk upon. The area between those marks is about three times the width of a dual use footpath and it belongs to all of us. So who needs the project or its new path to walk to Point Peron? There is already something there for us to walk on and the assertion that there is nothing to walk on is false. But should the project cut this beach in two then we will definitely have nothing but a long walk.

As spokesperson for HOPP, Dawn Jecks has a track record in research and not the glossy half-truths and fairy tales that Cedar Woods and LandCorp publish. At least Trevor, you have provided us with a little more inside information and that is that the beach will be "cut in two" and we'll have longer to walk as we pass the new "members only" club houses. Thanks for the facts Trevor. See if you can pry some more out for us mate.

Les Lowe
Shoalwater

MAKE PLAN HAPPEN
Weekend Courier
11 February 2011

I've been reading and hearing anti-marina organisations and individuals' disparaging comments and utterings of doom and gloom from canals for the rich, loss of bushland, the degradation of seagrass and the salting up of Lake Richmond. But I have not seen their substitute development proposals for Mangles Bay.

As a member of the combined clubs' marina working group I have had the opportunity to attend the LandCorp/Cedar Woods convened Stakeholders Reference Group (SRG), meetings. They were attended by a wide range of invited community representatives and stakeholders, both for and against the development. All meetings (three in all) were professionally facilitated and began by outlining the SRG terms of reference and were continued using various presentations by the selected consultant(s) who spoke on the project's planning and environmental requirements that had to be undertaken before the marina proposal could be forwarded to the State Government for approval. During these meetings the stakeholders were able to ask questions, state their opinions and concerns and every effort by the developer was made to discuss and constructive comments and answers were given. Several concept plans were tabled and SRG comments were provided for consideration. The developer made refinements and the plans were revisited.

Two plan options were settled on, which will be further refined and I believe a sensible mix of boating, commercial, residential and public open space areas have been attained. Only one of the developers' original terms of reference commitments, that of a dual use path along the beachfront from Hymus Street to the Causeway with a bridge across the marina entrance/exit

has had to be re-routed around the water's edge. I believe every inch of the beachfront will still be able to be accessed by the public and you will not need a cut lunch to get there. This alternate pathway route will also allow the public easy access to the development's shops, restaurants and public jetties. These meetings gave all who attended a well informed insight into the complete development. For 30 to 40 years the boating community has wanted boating facilities that are safe and secure and this marina will deliver that. And it is not hard to see that the complete precinct will generate significant economic benefits to the local community, both in its operation and construction phase. Come on Rockingham let's not wait another 40 year for a marina; let's get behind this development and make it happen.

*Stewart Dewar
Safety Bay*

FACTS, NOT PROMISING POSSIBILITIES

**Sound Telegraph
16 February 2011**

The recent article in the Sound Telegraph ("Seagrass replant bid") about seagrass destruction and regrowth comments by Cedar Woods spokesman Stuart Duplock displays ignorance of the importance of seagrass meadows to Cockburn Sound, and a "so what" attitude to its destruction for the Mangles Bay Marina. He even admits that swing moorings have already caused severe damage to the seagrass, while simultaneously expecting us to accept even further damage by dredging it. His comments tell us two things. Firstly, that he doesn't care and secondly, neither do the yacht owners that moor in Mangles Bay.

There are moorings specifically designed by the Marine and Harbours Department for use in sensitive areas such as Mangles Bay. Why are we not forcing people to use them instead of digging up the seabed just for yacht owners? Those moorings are there now, in place at Palm Beach, and I've never seen a vessel tied up to one. Yet - comments in that same article by Cockburn Sound Management Council cannot be taken at face value either. Only months ago, this council was found to have based its knowledge of seagrass damage and regrowth on data that was acquired from a similar area in Wambro Sound. That data was subsequently found to be false and out of date. If this management council has found a way of successfully replanting Posidonia and Zostera seagrass in Cockburn Sound then I suggest they tell the world about it because it's never been achieved anywhere else on the planet. Perhaps the management council can tell us the precise geographical location, the date of planting, the strike success rate, the growth rate and an indication of how long it will take, in decades, to grow enough to compensate for the We want facts from these people, not statements such as early days, maybe successful and promising signs, none of which are scientific bases for a damaging project like this Mangles Bay insanity.

*Les Lowe
Shoalwater*

SEA MEADOWS VITAL

**Weekend Courier
18 February 2011**

It is an absolute disgrace that the author of the letter headlined "Facts are not enough" (Courier, February 4) calls a seagrass meadow "a strip of degraded seaweed". I will admit it is not in pristine condition because of epiphytic growth resulting from elevated nutrient levels, but as these levels decrease the seagrass will recover. If this person had taken the time to research this he would realise these meadows play a vital role in the survival of small sedimentary marine life, also providing shelter for juveniles and adults of larger fish during their life cycle.

People such as Dawn Jecks, James Mumme, Bob Goodall and especially the Cockburn Sound Management Council keep people reasonably well informed. LandCorp and Cedar Woods have only the almighty dollar in mind with no regard for any environmental issues. I also noted the writer called the proposal a marina; it is no marina. Please call it what is - "a canal development" that will destroy an area of up to 44ha of bush forever and up to 10ha of seagrass that would take years to replant based on work on the replanting program of Cockburn Cement. Not having this canal system will have little or no effect on visitor numbers as we will have a privately owned marina at Wanliss Street that will also keep existing business in Rockingham on the waterfront who have serviced the tourists for many years. For that they definitely deserve a fair go and not have to compete with another precinct.

*Allan Gade
Hillman*

WHERE ARE THE FACTS

**Weekend Courier
18 February 2011**

While I don't want to get into a slanging match with those that oppose the Mangles Bay Marina, I can't help but think that the reaction to my letter of a couple of weeks ago actually confirms what I had to say. That is, why do people use unsubstantiated opinions rather than facts to support their view?

Take the response of Les Lowe (Courier, February 11) for instance. The Cruising Yacht Club has received nothing more than what is publicly available and is not privy to anything other than that available to the wider public. We did assist with the planning of what would be needed by a club should the project go ahead and this, along with a range of other information, was passed on to all interested parties via the Stakeholder Reference Group meetings. As for his assertion that there will be "unlimited ongoing cost to the ratepayers", where are the facts to back that up?

Why will council need to treat the residential component of this project any differently to the many other residential developments being carried out within our city? All ongoing costs for club built and managed pens and facilities within the marina area will be met through fees to those that use them, as is the case in the many club run marinas on the river and around the State, and not ratepayers.

To Julia Burton (in the same edition) I would point out that the publicly available documents show a footbridge across the entrance to the canals at the back of the marina. As to her second point regarding a conflict of interest, what conflict? The whole point of my interest, apart from the fact that I genuinely believe it will be good for Rockingham, is that I am the Commodore of the yacht club and own a yacht that I have to keep at Fremantle Sailing Club.

While not in direct response to my piece, Pauline Dilley tells us that "taxpayers will be left with significant bills" and that it is "environmental vandalism disguised as community progress" without enlightening us with any scientific data to support such a claim. I rest my case.

*Trevor Taylor
Rockingham*

GREEDY PROPOSALS CATER FOR THE PRIVILEGED

**Sound Telegraph
23 February 2011**

What an excellent letter from Julia Burton: "Don't Mangle Point" (Sound Opinion, February 9). I have only known your wonderful area of WA in a very limited way, not for a lifetime as your correspondent has, but would urge the powers that be to heed her point. My parents moved to Australia and took citizenship about 20 years ago. I have visited them most years and on one of my early visits expressed interest in Point Peron. I was told there was nothing there so it really wasn't worth going. Intrigued and not to be put off, I went about 6am one morning. This was some years before any of the roads or pathways had been put in or the viewing platform built. The magic of this untouched place was palpable. I heard and saw all sorts of birds there, including my first kookaburra. During 20 years, a very short span of time in the scheme of natural change, the coastlines of Rockingham and Wambro have been urbanised; the point and Richmond Lake have become parks surrounded by houses. Nature has been plundered for profit enough. It should stop before your area of natural paradise is ruined for ever.

Now, back home in the UK, I have my own battles to join. Our public woodlands and forest are threatened. They are to be sold supposedly for profit, but even the figures do not make sense, let alone the morality of the whole plan. Greed is universal; greedy proposals always only cater for the privileged few and should be opposed. I wish Julia Burton and the others involved with Hands Off Point Peron good luck. We must all just keep on with our opposition to all the ignorant, arrogant, obscene, short term profit motivated plans that would destroy our children's heritage.

*Joy Castle
Woodbridge, UK*

MARINA PLAN TO COST MORE THAN MONEY

**Sound Telegraph
23 February 2011**

Mr Phil Edman: I realise that you have not lived in the area for very long, unlike some of us whose families have resided here since the 1960s, so you probably are not aware of the close affiliation people have towards Point Peron (which is what we locals call the area, not Cape Peron or Mangles Bay). There are many of us who want to see Point Peron retained in as natural a state as possible, possibly being designated an A class Reserve and rejuvenated, as Bold Park has been. The majority of the area is designated Bush Forever and should remain as such as an important carbon sink. There is a very large, and growing, number of West Australian residents who are opposed to turning Point

Peron into inland canals, exclusive private housing, high rise developments, roads and car parks.

There is already going to be a marina at Wanliss Street to provide anchorage for boats as well as business opportunities in addition to the current Rockingham foreshore. That marina is going to be built where it should be - on the water and with no impacts on critical sea grass stands and Bush Forever sites. It behoves all governments and decision makers to consider the long term in any planning decisions made. As a concerned local citizen as well as a Murdoch University researcher, I am aware of where this project is in its passage through the EPA processes and also aware that the "consultation" processes undertaken by the proponents have been seriously flawed. I am also aware that there is a very large and growing community movement opposing this project. Due to your continued and persistent support of this project I am writing to tell you that I would never consider voting for you or the Liberal Party in any upcoming or future elections.

*Julie Byrne
Palm Beach*

IMPLICATIONS WIDER
Weekend Courier
25 February 2011

I read Stewart Dewar's letter (Make plan happen, Courier, February 11) regarding the canal/marina. Declare your vested interests up front, so that people can judge your opinions with all the facts in front of them, not just those you select. No wonder the public are so wary of the information they're being given. There's a lot of money in this development for a select few. Some of us are more concerned about the wider implications - damage to the environment, to the small businesses in Rockingham Beach and so forth - not where we're going to park our boats.

*Julia Burton
Waikiki*

OLD LOGO BETTER
Weekend Courier
25 February 2011

Whether we like it or not, our new City of Rockingham logo is becoming apparent. Recently I had the opportunity to see the two logos, old and new, side by side, and it did seem that the old one had more impact. However, it is one of those "done deals"; never mind that it was not budgeted for and council minutes revealed there was no public consultation. Isn't our lovely city named after a sailing ship Rockingham, yet there are no longer any sails to be seen, and aren't we supposed to be promoting ourselves as a sailing venue, according to the proponents of the proposed Mangles Bay marina-based tourist precinct? Apparently the matter of the new logo was decided by the mayor's casting vote. So it seems that any contentious issues are decided this way, for they must be contentious to go to a casting vote. So why does the mayor have the casting vote? Given that council is acting on behalf of the community and spending our money, perhaps a more democratic solution would be for the casting vote to go to a fully informed ratepayer, randomly selected from a prepared register. I wonder.

*Pauline Dilley
Shoalwater*

HEADS AND TAILS
Weekend Courier
25 February 2011

Commodore Trevor Taylor of The Cruising Yacht Club obviously has a vested interest in seeing the Mangles Bay marina through to completion. However, the people of Rockingham have a question to ask. Assuming the club gets its new club house at the proposed canal housing and marina project, what will happen to the old building and land that presently houses the club? We'd like to think that in exchange for that free, new clubhouse that seems so precious to Commodore Taylor, The Cruising Yacht Club will donate its present premises on the best beach frontage in the area, with its sweeping views of Palm Beach and huge private car park, to the citizens of Rockingham and Western Australia. Or will it be transformed into a private business venture such as a pub with attached restaurant with all profits going to the yacht club? My money is on the latter idea. Heads they win a free, new clubhouse and business venture; tails we lose Mangles Bay and Point Peron.

*O. F. Mooney
Shoalwater*

ALTERNATIVE THERE
Weekend Courier
25 February 2011

With reference to Stewart Dewar's letter (Make plan happen, Courier, February 1), I also attended the Stakeholders' Reference Group meetings. They were more professionally run than the previous meetings in 2006, but in my experience the whole community consultation process since 2006 has been a farce.

The main motivations of all the proponents have been to push through this canal/marina and to claim that it has community support. Sure, they have been willing to consider amendments but only within their basic plan that includes an inland marina and canal estate residential development. Mr Dewar asks where is the alternative plan from those who oppose the idea. I refer him to the Department of Environment's management plan for the regional park that contains the basic proposal for making the bush forever site a true community resource. Preserve Point Peron has been working on its own alternative based on the Department of Environment and Conservation's. Why have we not heard much about it? Well it's largely about resources. Give us a fraction of the \$4.3 million being spent on the marina and we will get an even better alternative designed and promoted.

Secondly, Mr Dewar says that he doesn't want to wait another 40 years for a marina in Rockingham. Mr Dewar, the good news is it could be here soon. Port Rockingham Marina has already been approved by the Environment Protection Agency; it is before council and the planning commission, and will cost one tenth of the inland marina. I suggest that Mr Dewar does not represent the views of the majority of Rockingham boaties who own trailerable boats and need better launching ramps, not an inland marina with expensive waterside housing. I have been travelling in the Mediterranean and have yet to hear about a single marina that is inland - all the ones I have seen have been in the sea where common sense says they belong.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

MARINA FRUSTRATIONS
Sound Telegraph
2 March 2011

I refer to "Marina plan to cost more than money" (Sound Opinion, February 23). The project is between the Garden Island Causeway and Hymus Street facing Mangles Bay, not at Point Peron. I am continually frustrated with certain and individuals who continue to describe the proposed project as the Point Peron development, which misleads and confuses the community. Furthermore, I would like to inform Ms Byrne that the vast majority of my childhood was spent growing up in Rockingham. My father regularly rented a house on the Esplanade where my family and I created everlasting, precious memories. It is for these very reasons I decided to set up a life in Rockingham with my wife and son. I spend avast amount of my time listening to our community and I believe there is a strong majority that support the Mangles Bay Marina Based Tourist Project. This majority support has been evident during the lengthy and extensive consultation this project has undergone.

In 2006, the project widely consulted the community with many local residents, relevant Federal, State and local government representatives, businesses, the chamber of commerce and tourism representatives, organisations and clubs, environmental interest groups and Aboriginal representatives. Community and key stakeholders will be actively involved as work continues on the master plan and environmental approvals for the project. In regard to Ms Byrne's voting intentions, I support unequivocally her right to vote for whomever she believes will ensure the best future for our community and the State. However, it should be noted that my passion for developing facilities such as a marina in the area, was a result of a terrible storm which hit the area in 2003, causing boats to lose their moorings and causing irreversible damage along the coastline. The incident reinforced the community's view that a marina or safe haven was badly needed to be built in the area I became a Liberal Party member the same year, after the then Brand MHR Kim Beazley wouldn't help me in developing these much needed facilities for the community.

*Phil Edmam
South Metropolitan MLC*

PEOPLE POWER TO THE RESCUE

Sound Telegraph
2 March 2011

I refer to "Marina plan to cost more than money" (Sound Opinion, February 23). I am a volunteer and past board member of the Alfred Hines Seaside Camp for Crippled Children. I have been watching very closely at all the developments and debate that has been raging over Point Peron.

Is this camp for kids and community groups from all over the State safe, or is it for the chop? I have, along with many friends and neighbours, decided enough is enough and as Aussies it's time to stand and deliver. Let's rally the locals - not the few but the many and put up our own candidate in future elections and oust the puppets we currently have. Like many people, I have a young family and they have a right to see our wonderful area as it is meant to be seen, natural. This area is for picnics, watching birds, swimming in the ocean, as well as kids out walking or playing. It is not meant for the rich few, but for us all. So enough talking while the puppets of the council take our area by a "who cares" attitude - let's show them what people power can really do. That is, not vote Liberal ever again and get rid of people who do not listen. The canals are not for my family, but someone from up river who can't moor their boat so close to Perth any more.

Pat Miller

ALL FOR MARINA

Weekend Courier
4 March 2011

I am so sick and tired of these people against the Mangles Bay marina writing misinformed comments to this newspaper. As a local businessman and a proud and loyal member of The Cruising Yacht Club I am totally for this project to go ahead. I have a few questions to ask of these misinformed greensies.

Was your house bushland before you built on it and did it go through an environmental study? What has that useless piece of bushland been used for the past couple of centuries. As for O.F. Mooney of Shoalwater (Heads and tails, Courier, February 25), where are your brains? Do you think the government is just going to give the yacht club a piece of land and put a nice club house there? No. The yacht club and the two fishing clubs will have to pay lease payments for the land and water, then find the funds to build a comfortable club for its members, future members and maybe you if you wish to join and have a nice social life instead of sitting home writing absolute dribble.

This club is not an elitist club; we have pensioners and social members who don't wish to sail but to enjoy the amenities and ambience by the water. What the yacht club does with its land is totally up to the club. The members have paid fees for years through its ups and downs and the club is freehold. Don't forget the years of training juniors who have turned out to be solid Rockingham citizens. I myself am tempted to organise a pro-marina rally and I will bet more than 500 people will attend. Remember, the government has done an environmental study for this project and it alone has the final say: not you or me. Rockingham will benefit greatly from this marina, financially and panoramically. Imagine the Point Peron beauty melded into a nice marina. I can't wait to see it.

Wayne McAulay
Shoalwater

CREDIBILITY IS IN FACT

Weekend Courier
4 March 2011

While I would be the first to respect the right of O. F. Mooney (Courier, February 25) to express an opinion; I have always believed that opinions based on fact have the most credibility. A free new clubhouse? What absolute and total rubbish. With regard to The Cruising Yacht Club of WA's now freehold property, described as "premises on the best beach frontage in the area with its sweeping views of Palm Beach and huge private car park", this has only come about by the forethought, planning and efforts of numerous dedicated club members over many years. Unlike some other entities that do exist within the council area, the club has always taken the responsible attitude of paying its way and not becoming a burden on ratepayers or taxpayers and I don't see the club's attitude changing. In support of the Mangles Bay marina, The Cruising Yacht Club has for the past 40 years or more sought a safe anchorage to be available in the area and the proposed Mangles Bay marina will provide this. What's more, give the water sport clubs of the area an opportunity to be part of it. If and when the proposed marina gets the go-ahead and the club becomes part of it, club members will make the decision as to what will happen with the Val Street properties.

Neil Pipe
Rockingham

MARINA DEBATE FRUSTRATING

Weekend Courier
4 March 2011

I am continually frustrated with politicians who use the representative system of government for their own, selfish agendas. For instance, it was Phil Edman who stated that the only way to get a Mangles Bay Marina was to join a political party to attain it. It was Phil Edman who started a "Mangles Bay Marina fighting fund". Not once has there been a public vote on the need for such a thing, in spite of the hundreds of thousands of dollars from council rates paid to try to achieve that same result.

I continually get frustrated with politicians who use semantics to try to discredit their opponents in spite of the fact they are wrong in their assumptions. For instance, Mangles Bay is a body of water. This is surrounded by Cape Peron and the Garden Island Causeway and the sea bed. To describe the proposal as anything but a canal development is incorrect and misleading. For Phil Edman to suggest he was voted in to achieve the marina would also be to claim that all Liberal voters wanted this outcome and to suggest there would be no cost to the public in general is to deny the cost that has already preceded.

To suggest that this is the only site available is to deny the other less environmentally unfriendly sites (north of the grain terminal) where a rock wall marina could be built without great cost and equally accessible. Think of Herdsman. No. The proponents want cheap land to sell expensively and it would be better for them not to excavate canals and sell more pricey blocks, but to do so they would lose the backing of the boating/yachting society and the political fallout would be unsustainable.

Dave Worth
Safety Bay

MANGLES BAY NAME GAME IS A PLOY

Sound Telegraph
9 March 2011

I refer to the letter from Phil Edman last week stating his frustration at no one being taken in by the change of name of the proposed canal development to Mangles Bay. He has been in the area long enough to recognise that people around here call all the area west of Safety Bay Road and Hymus Street Point Peron. It is this area that he proposes to clear and dig up. Calling the place Mangles Bay is a red herring. On the charts, Mangles Bay includes the sea all the way to Kwinana. It would better describe the location of Port Rockingham. Maybe that is what the developers want us to think, to get us off the track. The ploy has failed.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

END THE CONFUSION

Weekend Courier
11 March 2011

It is enlightening to go to the LandCorp website to see just where the Mangles Bay marina based tourist precinct is located. As most of us know, it is within the bushland forever zone. I wish that MLC Phil Edman could be just as frustrated by that fact as he is by environmentalist groups that use the name "Point Peron" instead of "Mangles Bay", creating, he says, "confusion" as to its location. Why don't LandCorp and the developers, and of course Mr Edman, call their folly "The Bushland Forever marina-based tourist precinct"? Surely there can be no confusion then as to its location.

Jenifer Pommerin
Safety Bay

INSURE AGAINST STORM DAMAGE IN**MANGLES BAY**

Sound Telegraph
16 March 2011

Phil Edman informed us ("Marina frustration", Sound Opinion, March 2) that his drive behind the Mangles Bay Canal Development has its roots in the storm that wrecked a number of boats in Mangles Bay in 2003. There are two aspects that need his attention.

First, the recent cyclone disaster in Queensland shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that a coastal marina is not necessarily the solution in view of the havoc among marina sheltered yachts. Second, storm damage to houses is normally covered by insurance. Believe it or not, boats can be insured in the same way. If Mangles Bay boat owners would take out an adequate insurance policy, the cost of any wreckage, namely the premium, lies fairly and squarely where it should. To dream of man made protection shows compassion and is, of course, commendable.

However, to contemplate coverage of the Mangles Bay risks to be carried by the population of Rockingham and Western Australia is, frankly, a

few bridges too far. To break up the coastline in this process, excavate up to one million tonnes of soil, sand and rock from monumental bushland in the face of potential sea level changes ("Sea level, media concern", Sound Telegraph, March 2) and jump a few other hurdles, all against the background of the future Port Rockingham marina on the other side of the bay, is sheer madness. At least we now know what is driving it. Lamentably, it is not to development, but to destruction.

*Hugo de Boorder
Safety Bay*

ELITE FEW TO BENEFIT
Weekend Courier
18 March 2011

In reply to Wayne McAullay (All for marina, Courier, March 4) who claimed the Point Peron area is a "useless piece of bushland", the land has been gazetted Bush Forever by the State Government, who, according to World Conservation Union guidelines, identified the Point Peron area as "regionally significant bushland to be retained and protected for ever". I am not a greenie, but as the population of Rockingham and Western Australia grows, I know that the need for open space for recreation and enjoyment will become paramount. For an investment of a tiny percentage of the money proposed to be spent on the new canal development, this "useless bushland" can become a regional jewel in the crown of Rockingham's tourist potential, quite apart from its ecological worth. While protecting flora and fauna of the area it is possible to develop Point Peron to become as important to Rockingham and the south as Kings Park and Bold Park are in other areas of Perth. This would bring enjoyment and benefits to West Australians for generations to come.

The proposed Point Peron canal development and marina, so carefully renamed Mangles Bay Marina, (note the word "canal" is missing) will benefit the elite few made up mostly of foreign investors and those who can afford to pay the exorbitant prices. This is not for the average Rockingham resident. The Rockingham community will be left with no access to a good beach, but more significantly, they will pay for the upkeep of the development. Just ask the Mandurah or Busselton councils just how much it costs their ratepayers per year.

What an awful place to put such a development. No infrastructure, no public transport, limited road access and the nightmare of what to do with the traffic to and from HMAS Stirling. As a businessman, Mr McAullay, surely you realise that surrounding infrastructure and accessibility for the public are keys to business success. The proposed development will have neither.

Does Rockingham need a marina? Yes. But please put the marina in the right place, near existing infrastructure and with easy road access and good public transport.

*Richard Usher
Shoalwater*

NEAR TO INSANITY
Weekend Courier
18 March 2011

On Sunday, February 27 we went for a bike ride through Mandurah. We cycled along the waterfront where we encountered a very lively atmosphere, lots of people visiting the Sunday Market, walking along the waterfront or sitting down for a coffee, enjoying the view of the open water. Then we cycled along canals with empty eyed villas and bored looking boats to the marina where it was considerably quieter. The cafes were half empty and the only view to be had was of a marina with what looked like hundreds of boats lying unused.

Can you imagine our surprise to find most Mandurah-based seagoing craft still at their berths at about 10.30 on one of the warmest Sunday mornings of the year with a refreshing breeze on the nearby ocean? From this, two questions came up in connection with the Rockingham plans for the Mangles Bay canal development. Does it really make sense to dig up a Bush Forever site to create a parking lot for boats that are used maybe a few times a year? And won't the pull of the attractions of the Rockingham foreshore be always stronger than a canal development where the dominating view will be that of parked floating real estate?

In this day and age of ever-growing tension between expanding development and fresh air in its widest sense the proposition of yet another private hole in the coast for the benefit of a few serious sailors and a crowd of not quite so dedicated boat people is totally unacceptable to say the least. To do so at the expense of 55ha of monumental public bush land borders on insanity. Knowing that construction of a marina close to the Rockingham foreshore is about to start turns a Mangles Bay canal development into a very bad dream: wake up.

*Cynthia de Boorder
Safety Bay*

DEMOCRATIC?
Weekend Courier
23 March 2011

It seems to me that the problem with the Mangles Bay/Point Peron canal development is that it has not been arrived at through a democratic process. It is not good enough for a few people to decide that they would like to build a canal development in that location and then to graciously ask the community what colour they would like it to be. We expect and deserve better. As a Mangles Bay mooring owner and regular cruising sailor, I resent the way that we are being put forward as the excuse for this proposed development. Now that the moorings are being registered it will cost us approximately \$440 per year for the lease of a mooring while a marina style pen costs around \$4000 per year. The majority of us who currently have boats on moorings in Mangles Bay will not be able to afford a pen in a marina. We live with the risks of keeping our boats on moorings and make sure that we maintain our moorings. Now that the moorings are registered there will be rules in place to ensure that the moorings are installed and maintained to an adequate standard.

For those people who can afford to pay pen fees, there are a number of options including joining Fremantle Sailing Club, Port Coogee and the proposed Wanliss Street marina. I would like to suggest that the majority of boat owners in Mangles Bay do not want this development, but to be honest we have never actually been asked.

*Roselt Croese
Nedlands*

BEWARE BLACK OOZE
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 April 2011

I hope those ardent supporters of the canals at Point Peron took a close look at the recent newspaper reports showing the black sludge being pumped out of one of the canals at Mandurah and onto one of their pristine white sandy beaches. If we get canals, this will be a future by product we will leave as a legacy for our future, and we certainly won't be getting any thanks for it.

This black ooze is one of the hidden horrors our council and those developers would have hoped had not surfaced until the proposed Point Peron canals were signed and sealed. Now it has, I hope the people of Rockingham realise that if the canals are built, in addition to the well publicised concerns and objections already lodged and ignored by our representatives, we can now add the black ooze to this list. We can be sure when the time comes, regardless of objections of the public of Rockingham, cost will dictate this black ooze can "grace" the pristine beach waters of Shoalwater Bay or add to the garbage in Cockburn Sound. Come on, Rockingham, the clock is still ticking and those developers are relying on our apathy not to recognise canals will only bring misery and muck in our midst, as well as create a class structure where the public will be priced out of having any access to Point Peron.

*Ron Smith
Safety Bay*

ROCKINGHAM IS SOMETHING SPECIAL
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 April 2011

I have just spent a month living in Rockingham, near the fore shore. I am on my way to live in Bridgetown where I hope my daughter completes her primary schooling in a close knit community setting. I'll be working in the Northern Territory in Aboriginal housing for the next couple of years and commuting every fortnight, two weeks in the Central Desert and two weeks in Bridgetown.

However, as a prolific letter writer I cannot miss the opportunity to describe how beautiful and appealing Rockingham is. I am stunned by the natural beauty of the foreshore, the beautiful waters, the evening fishing off the piers and the community gatherings. I pray that Rockingham never sells out its foreshore to unwarranted commercial development and to an excess of marinas, that it remains pristine, with its seaside parks, and low level residential and business developments.

I'd be happy to spend my days living in Rockingham - this last month has done me the world of good. You have something special in Rockingham and Perth and Fremantle could learn heaps from you, that is if they paid attention.

*Gerry Georgatos
Bridgetown*

UNFAIR PRIVILEGE
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 May 2011

Dear Lesley White, your narrative about the fisherman's wishes carries a lot of wisdom to which we can all relate. Nevertheless, the story does no justice to the reality at Point Peron. As it is, significant tracts of land on the peninsula are occupied by leaseholders and these prime real estate beach frontages are gated establishments and some are even padlocked, effectively denying the general community access and use of the area. Essentially it is unfair that it is the privilege of public holiday visitors to occupy land on the peninsula in this manner. At the moment it is impossible to access the peninsula safely and enjoyably by foot or bicycle. The only safe access is by car. As long as this situation remains, there is no prospect of establishing public amenities such as walk and cycle ways, lookouts and so forth away from car traffic, because the lease holdings are in the way. This needs to change, but the owner, the WA Government, is reluctant to spend taxpayers' money unless it can recoup the cost, which leads us to the Mangles Bay marina development story.

Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater

MANGLES BAY NOT PLACE FOR MARINA
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 July 2011

I would like to clarify the statement made by Phil Edman in the last issue regarding damage to boats moored in Mangles Bay. "Flood of thoughts on marina" Weekend Courier, July 8. There is a document being sent out to local boat clubs in the area from the council that advise owners to regularly check mooring ropes, as the cause of most incidents is the rope secured to the bow wearing through. Mr Edman seems dead set on destroying the beautiful coast of ours for the benefit of a few boat owners who fail in their obligation to securely fix their boat moorings. The damage to the yacht pictured was as a result of too long mooring lines, which resulted in the collision of two vessels. I too believe we need a marina in Rockingham, but at Wanliss Street, which would bring a myriad of business to the foreshore and give Rockingham back its holiday atmosphere and much needed jobs. Leave Mangles Bay alone as it is for nature and the future benefit of our marine life that flourishes in the area.

Kevin Rhode
Shoalwater

BOATS STAY MOORED
Weekend Courier
Friday 20 May 2011

The people who have holiday homes at Point Peron and Mangles Bay don't privately own them. They are owned by a business or institution and they have been there for their workers, who probably couldn't afford a trip overseas or a cruise around the world. And these holiday homes have been there for generations but who cares; the rich have to have somewhere to park their boats.

If Mangles Bay is such a mess why don't Mr Sammels, Mr Edmonds and the Premier help to clean it up? You don't need a marina to keep Australia clean. A few people keep saying we have been privileged to have these holiday homes. Maybe we have been, but if the government sells this land, it will be "the privileged few" with money who will be able to afford to buy and build there and then park their boats there. Have a good look at South Perth, Sorrento and Fremantle. How often do these boats go out on the ocean? Many Australians must have four wheel drive vehicles, caravans and boats. Why should someone from the north of the river park their boat at Rockingham? Will the owners of the boats now moored in Mangles Bay (who now spend money in Rockingham because they live there) be able to afford a bay in the proposed marina?

I don't think the owners from outside of Rockingham will spend any money in Rockingham. My guess is that they will bring their food and drinks with them and just sit on their boat. We were one of the so called privileged few who had holidays on Point Peron but did it cost you anything? If the proposed marina is built, it is going to cost us, the rate and taxpayers of Rockingham, to maintain the marina for the privilege of a few boat owners from out of town.

Name and address
supplied

POINTS OF REBUTTAL
Weekend Courier
Friday 22 July 2011

I would like to rebut Kevin Rhodes' comments in his letter headlined "Mangles Bay not place for marina" (Courier, July 15).

Firstly, the letter does not make any valid argument against a marina in Mangles Bay as the title indicates, simply an assertion that there should not be on there.

Secondly, he states that a document has been sent by council to local boat clubs in the area advising owners to check mooring ropes on their vessels. As a boat owner with a mooring in Mangle Bay I am not aware of any such council instruction. Nor is it any business of local council anyway as it does not own the seabed lease.

Thirdly, he is obviously unaware that in 2010 the Department of Transport, Marine Safety required all mooring owners to upgrade their moorings to their new standard by the beginning of 2011 and have them surveyed. Despite this being done, in the storms of recent weeks five boats whose owners complied had their boats swept onto the beach even though their moorings were upgraded and surveyed. The failure is with the new mooring design not with the mooring ropes. The need for a marina in Mangles Bay is still valid as it is doubtful that the Wanliss Street marina will have the capacity to house safely all the boats now moored in the bay ... if it goes ahead at all.

George Sulc
Rockingham

NEEDS AND WANTS
Weekend Courier
Friday 29 July 2011

The sting is in the tale of George Sulc's letter (Points of rebuttal Courier, July 22). Even if the Wanliss Marina goes ahead it is still not a "need" but a want by some. Even if the Mangles Bay canal development goes ahead it is still a want by some and even if both go ahead not one single swing mooring will be removed other than those obstructing the development (and these have been steadily increased without use for the past five years). The middle of winter is a perfect time to assess the "need" as he calls it by just counting the number of unused swing moorings and then reflect how much they are used throughout the year. This is a move to monopolise Rockingham by the few and for the few. The ratepayers of Rockingham have and will continue to pay for it by way of rates and or loss of facility.

Dave Worth,
Safety Bay

GO A SMARTER WAY
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 June 2011

The article headlined "Seagrass warning (Courier, June 3) is just one of the many reasons why the canal and inland marina development at Point Peron should not go ahead. The development is actually about taking public land to hand it to private developers and that the marina component is just the carrot being dangled to get all the boaties on board and make it look like community infrastructure. There is no doubt that some areas of Point Peron need a good clean up due to years of neglect by government agencies at both local and State government levels. Who has allowed this neglect to happen and why?

Why bulldoze nearly one-third of the bush land at Point Peron making the remaining habitat unviable for wildlife and replacing bushland with canals when a smarter way to go would be to develop a world-class coastal conservation and recreation park that would provide health, social and tourism benefits for both the Rockingham community and Perth's expanding population? Over the long term, businesses and job seekers in the area will benefit far more from tourists to Point Peron seeking natural passive recreation opportunities than they would from short term residential building construction.

Dawn Jecks,
Safety Bay

EDMAN PUERILE ON BUSH SITES
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 31 August 2011

I draw readers' attention to a recent extract from the Hansard report on the debate over Perth metropolitan Bush Forever sites. A motion was put forward by MLC Alison Xamon which was supported, in great detail, by our MLC Lynn MacLaren. "Ms MacLaren outlined serious issues in relation to the potential loss of amore Bush Forever sites at Beclair Wetlands and Point Peron in the southern metropolitan area. She is to be commended for her consistent and passionate support for protecting our remnant, but dwindling, bush as well as associated fauna. It is a pity the same cannot be said for fellow MLC Phil Edman. If one reads the entire speech, Mr Edman made several interjections while Ms MacLaren was speaking, but did not add anything sensible to this important debate. In fact, from the tone and content of his puerile comments, it

appears he is not taking his job very seriously at all. He displays much arrogance and it is a pity tax payers' money keeps him in Parliament. Bring on the next election so we can elect more sensible, considerate and thoughtful people than Mr Edman.

J. Byrne
Rockingham

VISION BLURRED
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 September 2011

I received a Rockingham council election flyer from incumbent Councillor Joy Stewart who is seeking a further term. She states in her flyer: "My vision sees the Point Peron area as our own Kings Park of Rockingham." I do interpret her vision is to remove all the existing grotty environmental eyesores (caravan parks, yacht club annex, fishing club and so forth) from the Point Peron precinct as Kings Park in Perth is devoid of such eyesores. One wonders to what area will Cr Stewart relocate these eye sores. Or is this just an election gimmick?

Robert Rae
7 Pegasus Street
Rockingham

SAFETY IMPERILLED
Weekend Courier
Friday 7 October 2011

I am one of the people who opposed the Wanliss Street marina project. We have one of the most beautiful and safe beaches in the world, and they that "be" want stick a marina in the middle of it. All we hear is "environment, environment". Don't get me wrong, I'm very environmental but I do not have tunnel vision. What about the safety of our children, grandchildren and the elderly who swim and walk our beach? I've read nothing about how the marina will affect the area and how safe it will be for our children. Wake up people: don't let the spoil our beautiful beach. The marina should be away from our swimming beach.

Kathleen Hodgetts
Shoalwater

LETTER OF CONTRITION
Weekend Courier
Friday 13 January 2012

We would love to see the 4WD vehicle driver not yet identified who drove off-road at Point Peron last week, thereby wrecking young trees that were protected by tree guards, write a letter like this.

Apology to the people of Rockingham

I am the driver of the 4WD vehicle that killed trees at Peron recently. I am sorry for the damage that I did to the vegetation and to seedlings planted by volunteers last year. At the time I did not think it was important to keep to the road and respect people's efforts to improve the vegetation at the Point. I did not think of leaving by the same track I made on entering and I made sure more trees died. Having thought about it, I now understand that it is up to all of us to do what we can to protect the tiny remnants of bush we have in Perth. Here is \$100 to enable Friends of Point Peron to plant another 50 trees next winter. I am sorry for the harm that my actions have done to the reputation of all 4WD vehicle drivers. In future I will help to monitor the Point, take photographs and report harmful 4WD vehicles to the rangers. When I feel the need to show off, I will take my 4WD to suitable places for bush bashing.

We live in hope.

James Mumme and Richard Usher
Friends of Point Peron
Shoalwater

TIME TO DITCH GOLDEN BAY PLAN
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 25 January 2012

With 90 per cent of public submissions against the Golden Bay development at Secret Harbour, it really is a no brainer that it should not proceed in its current form. History shows us that the best decisions are made when governments actually listen to the people that they were elected to represent. So, the community have spoken, right? It's their neighbourhood that will be adversely impacted, after all. Submissions will soon be called on another State Government proposal, at Point Peron. The 10-week public environmental review period is expected to be called in February by the Environmental Protection Authority. By putting in a submission, citizens will have the opportunity to tell the Government what they think about the housing development proposed for regional parklands at Point Peron. A petition against the development is available to download at handsoffpointperon.com.

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

VERY MUCH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sound Telegraph
Friday 8 February 2012

The suggestion made in a letter published in the Sound Telegraph (February 1, Change needed) that I am against any sort of development in Rockingham is actually incorrect. Although it is true that I am totally against coastal canal estates because of the adverse economic impact and environmental impacts, I am very much in support of viable alternatives.

In fact, I am a member of coalition of groups who are working on a plan to develop a world-class coastal and recreation park at Cape Peron based on the vision expressed by the community. This soon-to-be launched vision is an alternative plan to the State Government's proposal to bulldoze about 40ha of public bushland to construct an inland marina and canal subdivision at Point Peron.

Unlike the proposed canal: development, which would need never-ending maintenance and remedial work to great public expense, this vision is viable, sustainable and environmentally responsible and would provide profound economic and social benefits in both the short and long term. This land is part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park and presents us with a fantastic opportunity to develop world-class coastal park in concert with the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, and I am looking forward to seeing it happen.

Dawn Jeck
Safety Bay

INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 February 2012

Development must be appropriate to time and place. The Point Peron canal development will result in the loss of public open space, part of which is a Bush Forever site. Our public open space is precious and should be protected at all costs, particularly at a time when housing densities throughout Rockingham are being significantly increased. The Point Peron canal development would also require significant dredging and loss of seagrass meadows at a time when these meadows are under threat from a range of other factors. This canal development is not appropriate under any circumstances; instead development that enhances the natural assets of the area should be pursued.

Leonie Stubbs
Singleton

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CAPE PERON
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 February 2012

I was very pleased to see the recent announcement that the Port Rockingham Marina has been approved by the WA Planning Commission. It is where a marina should be – in the ocean, with little impact on the surrounding environment, and adjacent to existing businesses and facilities. I also support the recent announcement by Ms Dawn Jecks of the public release of a community vision for the future of Cape/Point Peron. This vision is in line with the DEC's strategic plan and will go a long way to ensuring sustainable and public development of the area into an 'A-Class Reserve' like Kings Park or Bold Park. Readers are encouraged to take part in the public environmental review process of the Environmental Protection Authority in relation to the proposed canal/marina development of Cape Peron. The PER is due to be released on February 13 and people have several weeks in which to send in their views or concerns regarding this project. The Preserve Point Peron and Hands Off Point Peron groups will be able to provide support and assistance to people in writing a response to the PER.

Julie Byrne
Rockingham

CANAL WINNERS NOT THE MAJORITY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 22 February 2012

Rockingham residents have every right to ask who wants a canal development in Mangles Bay. Here are some suggestions. Cedar woods, as developers, and most certainly their shareholders, will benefit from a gift of 80ha of prime water frontage land, donated by this community. Yes, there will be some boat owners. In fact, we are asked to believe that the predominant species in Rockingham is boat owners. There will be a few speculators tempted into living the Rockingham canal lifestyle, but when you think about it, we are the ones on struggle street, and our State Premier is right behind us or at least I think so? Need to check that one.

The dredging companies must be rubbing their hands with glee. Every inland marina and canal development supports dredging machines. As ratepayers you already spend on dredging but this will move to a new level. Let's not forget the workers of the world. Multi-storey development on the waterfront, lots of concrete, and smokos with a view. They could be doing something similar elsewhere in Rockingham but we are told it's the canals or we all hungry.

Who pays? Well, you do. You have spent (well, the Premier has for you), over \$3.5 million on a 400-page report to convince you – you wanted this. In fact local history says wanted bushland and public toilets on Cape Peron, but that was five years ago. You are now being told. The environmental review constantly notes "we expect that..", and I have been around long enough to recognise that's not certainty. If you are a ratepayer, or taxpayer you may think you are entitled to something the majority wanted, but I am afraid that in Rockingham, being told you will have a marina at any price, it's your hip pocket that's going to suffer.

*Doug Prichard
Wellard*

JOBS PROBLEM
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 22 February 2012

Phil Edman, your estimate of construction jobs on your pet project at Mangles Bay is 1100. Your mate, Stuart Duplock, says 600 to 700 jobs. I hope you have nothing to do with the final costing of the project, if it ever takes place. Also, you never comment on the Wanliss Street Marina. I wonder why?

*Arthur Reeves
Rockingham*

ALL BEEN SAID BEFORE
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 February 2012

So Cedar Woods claims that the problem of the Cape Peron canal-marina is "manageable" (Courier, February 17). That's what the developers of Port Geographe canals said back in the 1990s. But each year it costs at least \$1.6 million to clean up and would cost an estimated \$2million to "fix" the problem IF they could find someone willing to pay. Eighty percent of the canal-side lots are undeveloped resulting in lost rates. Ignoring problems with other canals in Yunderup, Mandurah,

Port Coogee and Exmouth, here's the record in Rockingham the Causeway blocking water flow in Cockburn Sound since the 1970s, the lagoon at the Causeway needing dredging every year, and the Bent Street jetty silting up. All possibly manageable but who pays ratepayers and taxpayers? From what I've read so far, Cedar Woods's Public Environmental Review sounds just too good to be true - all problems either manageable or not significant. Surely it's time to be smarter about interfering in our dynamic, unpredictable poorly understood environment. Let's be happy with the Port Rockingham marina the sea off Wanliss Street.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

MARINA SUPPORTED
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 February 2012

The Rockingham Kwinana Chamber Commerce is fully supportive of the new marina in Mangles Bay. We have full confidence in Cedar Woods meeting and exceeding all the necessary environmental obligations it must meet for the project. This is a well-overdue project. As well as creating jobs both in the short and long term, it also improves the area dramatically. At present the area is looking very run down, overgrown and with a lot of rubbish regularly dumped on it. I would also like to point out that the new marina is in Mangles Bay, not Point Peron. Point Peron will be left untouched and will still attract locals and tourists to the area.

*Justin Smith, President
Rockingham Kwinana
Chamber of Commerce*

SO MUCH DESTROYED
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 March 2012

How do we keep allowing mayors, councillors and developers to get away with destroying yet more bush that is habitat for our dwindling nature flora and fauna. I have been in the area for five years and while there is much to love, I am broken hearted at the destruction of so much from Russell Road to Forrestdale, Baldivis and Kwinana through to Rockingham. Birds and animals like us are territorial. They don't just relocate to the next convenient tree. Blue

wrens are no longer seen in the inner suburbs and the black and red cockatoos are facing extinction in the next two to five years. This year many have had to be put down because of starvation. Who cares? I do.

*P. Luon
Medina*

PERSUASIVE MODEL
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 March 2012

I spent a fruitful three hours at Musselport wearing a T-shirt proclaiming "Preserve Point Peron", and showing people a scale model Mangles Bay with the proposed development superimposed. There was a huge amount of interest so managed to speak to a lot of the Rockingham community. It did not take a lot of effort to persuade most of them to pick up a pen and sign our petition to prevent this loss of our land. Of all the people I spoke to, only one couple were adamant that the "marina/canals" need to go ahead. They explained that this would tidy up Mangles Bay, and all the boats on swing mooring would now be on pens in the marina with no further damage to sea grass. They were not boat owners. I explained that this meant a difference maybe \$400 a year for a swing mooring as opposed to \$8000 for a pen in a marina. I do think all the boats are going to be in this. Finally, we did both agree that with the marinas, each with a capacity of 500 boats in operation, the environment was bound to suffer.

*Doug Pritchard
Wellard*

CAUSE FOR CONCERN
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 March 2012

A four-metre deep trench, 55 metres will cut into the sea floor, 550 metres long all the way to the beach. Then four metres deep, around 30 metres wide, up through the beach off into the bush. Meeting up with an inland canal system, which will need to swap 12ha bush and soils, for 12ha of tidal saltwater? That's 12ha of salt water moved closer to fragile freshwater wetland eco system, Lake Richmond. It will have its level drop by 3.2cm during construction and 3.8cm on completion. A significant amount I would think. The salt wedge gets pushed and moves closer to Lake Richmond.

I remember an article in the newspaper about toxin measurements done around the Sound. The southern end had high toxin readings on hot summer, windless days. Won't those toxins eventually gather in this inland marina? Being that the marina is at the bottom of a funnel caused by the Rockingham beaches on the east side and the Garden Island causeway on the west with only one entry into it. Then our winter storms we get every year, blowing down the Sound past Woodman's Point, Alcoa, BP and the grain ports, bring all that floats and a lot that doesn't. Putting all that pressure on the southern end of Cockburn Sound (Mangles Bay); and it will go up the proposed dredged channel, into the marina and the salt water pressure again acts on the salt wedge some more. With Lake Richmond and its wetlands being up for State Heritage Listing surely this in itself shows its natural importance and vulnerability. Nothing of this Mangles Bay Marina project in my mind will be any good for the Lake Richmond wetlands or the Point Peron area.

If you think the same, then put your support behind groups that care; such as the Hands of Point Peron Group and Preserve Point Peron Group. The Public Environmental Review ends on April 23. I agree with most that Point Peron needs something, but I don't believe this is it.

*Adam Woodcock
Safety Bay*

DON'T BE FOOLED
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 March 2012

The people who want a canal development at "Point Peron" are attempting to confuse the public by misnaming the location of the project. The president of the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce is one of them (Marina supported, Courier, February 24). The "Port Rockingham Marina" is at the east end Churchill Park from Wanliss Street, out into Mangles Bay, part of Cockburn Sound. This project is approved to go ahead and we hope it will in the near future. The so-called "Mangles Bay Marina" is proposed to be excavated on land clearly marked on all street maps as "Peron". To all who go there it is known as Point Peron. Don't be fooled by this marketing ploy.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

MANY DO CARE
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

In response to the letter from P. Luoni headlined "So much destroyed" in last week's Courier - I care. And I can assure the author of the letter that there are lots people who care about the devastation of our beautiful trees and bushland around Kwinana and Rockingham, which provide home for so many birds and creatures. You have only seen the land destroyed for five years, so you can imagine what I have seen in over 40 years that I have lived in Kwinana. I know people have to have homes, and I know builders have to have jobs. I also know council has to sell off land to wealthy developers, so that people can build new homes and the council can then collect from residents annual rates that are among the highest in WA.

If that's progress, so be it, but do spare a thought for the preservation of trees, birds and all the little creatures in the bush. Yes, P. Luoni, people do care in their own way, but mostly not enough to write to the newspapers and their local councils. So many people I have talked to ask "what is the use", as the councils and planners have already decided to get the bulldozers in. Just one more thing - if you have a spare bucket or pail, please fill it up with water so the birds can have a drink in the hot weather.

*M. O'Donnell
Medina*

STICK TO TRUTH
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

I was aghast at the absence or at best misuse of truth in the article headlined "Fears raised over penguin colonies" (Courier, February 24). I was at HMAS Stirling 10 years ago when we funded a scientist from the university to research and manage the penguin colony on Garden Island. The navy's main concern was the injury and death of penguin resulting from boat and ship movements in and out of the Naval Base. At that time we introduced several measures in an attempt to reduce attrition. I would suggest that the movement of naval vessels still has a greater influence on penguin deaths than private vessels. At that time, we already knew that the penguins at Penguin Island were feeding at Point Kennedy and we had established that the Garden Island penguins were feeding around the mussel leases, mostly to the east of the Sound. Now there is an attempt to use penguins as a reason why the Mangles Bay development should not go ahead. I am appalled at the many attempts by so many people to misuse or misrepresent data to stop this development. I wonder how many of those so actively opposing the development, including those associated with save Point Peron, are lease holders or regular users of the "closed community" of facilities that will become displaced when the development gets approved.

*Peter Higgins,
Port Kennedy*

SANCTUARY NEEDED
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

If coastal development goes ahead at Mangles Bay, the marine environment will suffer - how much is unpredictable. It is important to maintain areas without human impacts we want little penguins and other marine life to survive into the future. The best way is to put marine sanctuaries in place as a buffer for these impacts, helping to conserve important habitats.

*Emma Gate
Warnbro*

DISASTERS AHEAD
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

The proposed Mangles Bay marina-based tourist precinct project is totally irreconcilable with the natural geography and biology of Mangles Bay. Canals and entrances will require continual dredging. The disposal of the dredged sand is where? What guarantee is there that it will remain where it is dumped? Sand drift occurs, and has occurred since time began, in this area. On land the gross disturbance of the Peron acid sulphate soils creates a toxicity that can kill plants, contaminate drinking water, and corrode concrete and steel. Do future home owners and businesses know this? The thrombolites of Lake Richmond will be endangered through the unknowns near the canals. No amount of "controlled action" will mitigate all these disasters created by developers who won't be around to deal with all the stuff-ups. Cape Peron is a place where each visit can offer a different nature happening. The marina and buildings can offer noise, pollution, and another site for graffiti.

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

DOLLARS GO ELSEWHERE
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

I can't believe it. I live close to the beach like most Rockingham residents but keep finding myself towing our boat to Mandurah, South Yunderup and Fremantle to find interesting places to take my on-board guests and visitors for boat cruises and meals. We did four different Mandurah canal cruise evenings with different groups in December to enjoy their canal homes' Christmas lights from the water and purchased dinners from boardwalk eateries in their marina. In January we took interstate visitor up the Swan River from Freo to enjoy lunch at a water's edge restaurant at 'Claisebrook Inlet by the city. In February we had another boat load of people cruising up the Murray River from the South Yunderup canals to have lunch at the Ravenswood hotel on the water edge. Each time out, there were hundreds of dollars being spent on meals from our one boat and our visitors.

So where are our tourist dollars being spent? Not here. Don't get me wrong, we love Cockburn Sound and enjoy boating days here as well, but we don't have those facilities. Rockingham has only one jetty that public boats are allowed to tie up to and even then you're in the way of fishermen and swimmers (boats are banned from Palm Beach jetty and the ramp jetties are for launching and retrieving only. Can you believe Rockingham has the second highest boat ownership to population ratio of all councils in WA and that all we have to offer?

Come on, let's get behind our Mangles Bay marina along with its restaurant cafes, boardwalks, shops, interesting luxury boat pens, beautiful canal homes, affordable holiday accommodation and public parks on the protected water's edge. This will attract new small business and employment opportunities for us. The best part is you don't even have to own boat to enjoy lots of what a marina has offer. If you have had a look at Hillarys Boat Harbour or Mandurah's marina, you will see we are missing out. Therefore, please get behind the marina proposal. This attraction will take our fine city up to a new level of enjoyment.

*Stephen Spiers
Rockingham*

TROUBLE ENOUGH ALREADY
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 March 2012

The apparent need to develop Point Peron into yet another canal development with luxury apartments and boating facilities, restaurants and housing that the average person definitely cannot afford is nothing more than another investment scheme for the people who are in power. Our Rockingham foreshore has already been bombarded with pollution from the Kwinana strip, and has been turned into a concrete jungle with high-rise apartments. Propaganda and psycho babble is used to make the average person believe we need these developments for the sustainable future of humanity, due to population increase and, of course, increase in boat numbers. The every-day person doesn't need these things. They need to be taught how to be ecologically sustainable, not about sustainable growth".

It is this growth from these developments that is causing the trouble in the first place and because of this growth our Earth is being raped of its natural resources to sustain. To destroy natural and ecology to sustain us is ridiculous. To say the developers will replant the sea grass at Point Peron is ridiculous. When I walk around all I see is garbage, alcohol bottles and cans. I believe creating yet another area where alcohol will be consumed, even stated by Phil Edman that it would be a place where "families" could have a few drinks, is just asking for trouble. Don't we have enough of this already in Rockingham? People need to wake up to what is really going on here. It's not for the sustainability of humanity; it is for the pockets of those that are in power of humanity.

*Samantha Chapman
Rockingham*

GOOD CASE FOR MANGLES MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 March 2012

I have watched the "no" camp make their case in the Mangles Bay marina debate and here is my small contribution to the "yes" case. I must declare I have a boat waiting for the marina so I can enjoy the Cockburn Sound in safety. My boat was bought at Hillarys Boat Harbour. remember that one? The "nos" were very noisy before the start. The world would end if the marina went ahead. Funny though, the marina was built and the world went on. The world around there, in fact, looks pretty good - the car parks are full; the houses around the area went up in price; Perth got a must-visit tourist destination. I can't say for sure if the "nos" visit Hillarys Boat Harbour, but I think they might. It's a very popular spot.

Our boat is at the Mandurah Ocean Marina at the moment and guess what? Weekends, the place is full of people eating, walking, fishing and enjoying the environs. Bait fish swim around, dolphins visit, crabs are plentiful.

Having an interest, we have visited marinas all over the place and it's pretty well the same story everywhere - good places to be and visit. I have been coming to Point Peron since 1962 and I now live just around the corner, so my interest is that of a local. And I say bring it on. I say congratulations to the people who have worked on this plan for decades. Good on Cedar Woods for coming forward to build it. Good on the Government for building infrastructure in Rockingham. The area, when finished, will be transformed just like Hillarys was. Like Freo and Mandurah, too, and everyone will benefit - the youngsters needing employment, the immediate neighbours with property values, the community with a great tourism destination, So I say "yes".

Alvin Letica
Safety Bay

WISER ALTERNATIVE TO MARINA SITE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 March 2012

Each year the ocean moves millions of cubic metres of sand about our coastline. So each year our council pays hundreds of thousands of dollars to dredge and move sand at the Point Peron boat ramp to let a small percentage of ratepayers use their pleasure craft and to facilitate the coastal rescue boat to launch. Each year sand is trucked from Point Peron to other places at cost to the ratepayers. Those sand piles are being relocated to the dunes just north of the grain silos to restore that area, supposedly protected from erosion by rock emplacements also placed at great ratepayer expense.

There is now a proposal to "develop" a canal system at Point Peron to the glee of the yacht/fishing clubs as that will give them secure tenure in an already stressed area which will continue to require dredging at cost to the ratepayer. The proponents claim the development will provide affordable tourist accommodation. But, if this is comparable to Rottneest, we all know what that means. The council has wasted much money to bring this to fruition, but if their engineering is anything like the Bent Street boat ramp, which is awash at high tide or on windy days, then there will be more future costs to add to the rates bill.

A simple solution to much of this is to develop a marina within rock walls north of the CBH grain terminal - self flushing, safe for larger boats to moor, less stressful to the environment, saving the need for dredging and replenishment of sand dunes, providing recreational fishing facilities, allowing better improvements of Point Peron (much like that achieved with Penguin Island), and costing the majority of ratepayers much less. This would not remove the damaging swing moorings in Mangles Bay, but may induce some to follow to the alternative marina site. Since the majority of boats in the area are trailer-borne, the adverse effect would be minimised for most. Boating/fishing clubs would not be left homeless. Land is available at the proposed site and even if Cedar Woods proceeds, they would still need to move, albeit temporarily. Land costs would be lower and freehold available and could be set at reasonable levels without giving the land away. Why has no other site been considered?

Dave Worth
Safety Bay

HANDFUL BENEFIT WHILE MOST LOSE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 March 2012

There are two fundamental reasons why the Point Peron Marina should not go ahead. To my knowledge, it is not legal for a housing development to be on a public reserve. Prior to the development Hillman, Lake Cooloongup was a pristine lake which never dried up and was used year round by waterfowl such as mountain ducks, wood ducks, black swans, cormorants, pelicans and many other species. Because of the high water table in the area, and the era being pre-sewerage in the southern districts, it was decided to dig trench drains from this area through what is now Rockingham Park to Lake Richmond and onward to the sea via Point Peron.

After some years, the level of Lake Cooloongup dropped and it has eventually got to a stage where hardly any water gathers, even in winter. It is dry long before Christmas, and has become a very sad swamp, overgrown with weeds and reeds. Birds are only ever seen for very short period of the year. I know these facts because I have lived in the Kwinana- Rockingham area for 66 years. Don't believe any rubbish that this situation is caused by climate change. My point is that if this marina goes ahead, the water table throughout the Lake Cooloongup and Lake Richmond areas and between will be lowered even further. This will probably affect not only wildlife and vegetation but garden bores as well. For the sake of a few, the whole State will be the loser. Those will probably, mainly, not be local ratepayers.

Mal Hughes
Waikiki

SO MUCH IS LOST
Weekend Courier
Friday 16 March 2012

I've lived long enough to see a lot of what I love about Rockingham, Mandurah and in between spoiled by development of choice public land into exclusive zones for select groups. This always seems to come from commercial interests and people with their own agendas in mind. Developers are good at gaining co-operation from people of influence and Government funding and land allocations come too easily. In the case of Point Peron, the MLC Phil Edman's actions are so one sided they should be questioned. To date, Point Peron has survived large-scale development. But I fear it will fall in this relentless campaign by the big end of town. Today it is largely neglected scrubland, often abused by vandals, but there is no escaping it is a sanctuary for wildlife forced into the area by the spread of nearby housing estates. The last remaining open areas in Rockingham are being lost right before our eyes. The Kwinana industrial strip has all but exhausted its allocated area; Baldivis is being consumed by housing, with more of the same extending from Shoalwater to Mandurah. Not to mention the Navy's continuing consumption of Garden Island, once an island paradise for all to enjoy.

I'm not against people wanting their yachts and cruisers on their doorsteps, but surely Point Peron deserves better. Regardless of the risk assessments and other scientific studies, there will be silt filling the canals and other environmental damage sustained. Nature will take its course and no amount of modelling can predict the end result. The Busselton Canal development was given assurances, but commercial interests there failed, leaving a stinking mess. The promises meant nothing, and will mean nothing here. I'm pleased to see a sensible parkland alternative by opponents, rather than them just bleating about the loss of natural features and wildlife.

It should be much more appealing to the wider community and all levels of government should be supporting that instead. In the longer term, the community deserves well-maintained parkland across Point Peron. If it is lost, Rockingham will be a poorer place.

Frank Ockwell
Baldivis

DOLLAR SPENT HERE
Weekend Courier
Friday 23 March 2012

In response to Mr Stephen Spiers spending sprees for want of acceptable local hangouts (Dollar elsewhere, Courier, March 8) here in Rockingham we are not all millionaires or aspire to be one. We do not talk much about our dollars and we do not hang them in the window nor do we splash them around in restaurants elsewhere in the region. Whenever we have visitors we tend to take them up to the look out on Point Peron, a swim with the dolphins, the Perth CBD with the museums, the Mint and the Supreme Court and the Inner Harbour of Fremantle, to name a few. After a week or so, some hire a car and go looking around WA for themselves. Whenever we take people out for a meal we find a place on the local foreshore and spend some dollars in Rockingham. To me, places such as Hillarys and the Mandurah marina are ghettos of floating real estate, hardly used yachts and mostly dollar-clad window dressing, noisy and smelling of fast food, with the aquarium at Hillarys an outstanding exception.

To invoke a lack of local opportunities to lavish our dollars is yet another challenging carrot tempting us to step into the next consumption trap expected to feed the developers of this world. If we really want an eye catching marina here, why not concentrate the effort on the Port Rockingham project, right at the foreshore at Wanliss Street, instead of creating a second competing hub. Then there won't be any need to dig a hole in an already vulnerable coast. Council and the Department of Environment and Conservation could finally concentrate on a long overdue clean-up of the point Peron Bushland Forever instead of listening to the whining about degraded bush.

Hugo de Boorder
Safety Bay

40 YEARS ON AND ...
Weekend Courier
Friday 23 March 2012

I have read a lot over the years for and against a Mangles Bay marina. I will say now I am for a marina but not the canals. As a 10-year-old I used to ride my bike to Point Peron passing all the camps and boat dumping grounds and used to think what a dump and eyesore. Then there was the chain-mesh fencing with the signs "Keep out", "No trespassing", "Members only". Forty years later I drive down the same stretch of road and nothing has changed; the buildings and caravans are more run down and there are more junk boats, some still in the same place as 40 years ago, and more chain-mesh fencing with the same signs. To gain access to this land I have to be invited by a member or become a member, but I cannot become a member of some of these organisations. If the marina went ahead I, as well as the rest of the public, would have a lot more access to this area, with roads, footpaths green space,

cafes, restaurants, accommodation, and more. If the argument against a marina is only for the few "well-off elite" then at the moment the area is only for the "few" and not the majority. So I say bring on the marina or bulldoze the existing facilities and put it back to bush as it should be.

*Peter Peebles
Port Kennedy*

MP: MAKE POSITION CLEAR
Weekend Courier
Friday 23 March 2012

As the MP for Rockingham, Mark Gowan's response to Ron Chapman's invitation to him to state his position on the proposed Mangles Bay Marina project is disappointing to say the least (Courier March 16). The inference from Mr McGowan's response was that he was prepared to support the project provided the Environmental Protection Authority's ruling on the project was favourable and that certain as unspecified "conditions" are met. This destructive proposal is not new and has been rejected previously on the grounds that it was unable to meet environmental safeguards.

Local groups Hands Off Point Peron and Preserve Point Peron recently launched their own community vision for a Cape Peron Coastal Park, which would see the project area transformed into a world-class conservation and recreation park for all the public to enjoy rather than being restricted to those who can afford canal-side properties. The launch of the Community Vision at a packed Naragebup Environment Centre was attended by more than 120 concern local residents. Mr McGowan should realise that local opposition to the marina project is growing fast. He should have the courage to state his position clearly on the issue and not take the easy way out of having someone else (the EPA) make his mind up for him

*Ian Collins
Baldivis*

HILLARYS NOT AKIN TO MANGLES BAY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 March 2012

Alvin Leticia ("Good case Mangles Marina" in the Sound Telegraph of March 14) is wrong to compare the Hillarys and Mangles Bay marinas. Mangles Bay Marina would be inland, which creates a mass of environmental complications. Hillarys is a marina in the best place for a marina, that is, in the sea. Mangles Bay Marina would be just 2km away from the Rockingham Waterfront Village. Town planners know that it's not good to have two similar hubs so close together. How would waterfront businesses manage if half of their customers went away?

Hillarys' success is partly due to being a long way from any similar commercial hub. It's 40km north of Fremantle and 12km south of Mindarie Keys. Regarding jobs, claims of jobs are just figures plucked out of the air - Cedar Woods says 600 to 700 and Phil Edman said - 1100. Cedar Woods is involved in this for its own profit, not to benefit the citizens of Rockingham. I call on Cedar Woods to provide details of jobs. Finally, the "no" case is not just the opinion of a minority. Governments have banned this sort of marina in Queensland, NSW and Victoria and virtually in Tasmania too. They are financial and environmental disasters in Busselton and Yunderup, and Exmouth Marina is a sandy desert. The WA Planning Commission and Local Government Association have recently moved to have them banned or severely restricted in WA. Meantime the Port Rocking ham Marina is in the sea and has all approvals but apparently lacks funding. If Cedar Woods really has the city's interests at heart, it should put its millions into the Port Rockingham Marina.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

FEARS FOR PENGUIN
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 March 2012

It's been apparent for some time that the jet ski hoons, who break all maritime laws, especially skiing too close to the beach (you can't ski within 200m of shore so they do), and our penguins can't co-exist. Continual penguin deaths from jet skis mean that we really can't have both a penguin population and the jet ski hoons. I fear that Penguin Island will have to be renamed unless we can stop the hoons now.

*Andrew Harris
Waikiki*

WONDERFUL DREAM
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 March 2012

I attended the launch of the Community Vision for the Cape Peron Coastal Park. There seems to be a lot of interest in an alternative to the proposed inland marina. The reasons why there's public objection the Point Peron inland marina have been well publicised and yet until now there's been less positive information as what people do want at Point Peron. I believe that in the 1950s an American botanist was asked by the government of Costa Rica for advice about development of the country's natural resources. He advised them not to create developments but rather to promote the untouched beauty their landscapes. The results speak for themselves. Costa Rica is now renowned with many untouched places for what's come to be called eco-tourism. Who dreamed of the idea of world class coastal park at Point Peron similar to Kings Park? That may seem a distant vision to some people, but wouldn't it be a wonderful drawcard to the area?

*Sunny Miller
Safety Bay*

DEMOCRACY MISSING
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 March 2012

I returned home from a Preserve Point Peron committee meeting where the local residents including members of Hands Off Point Peron, volunteered their valuable time, considerable energy and extraordinary expertise, the end of a busy day, to address issues regarding the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development. Our main challenge is to raise a sum of money to pay for professional responses to the Public Environmental Report. Meanwhile the proponents proceed with commercial wealth support, paid time; company sets such as furniture, compute printers and so forth, plus ratepayers' money used to conduct surveys to support their proposal. That's my money and your money: so in a democracy, shouldn't the opponents also have the benefit of financial support? City of Rockingham, if you can give \$300,000 for surveys for a dream that will fail, can you please give \$10,000 to we opponents in the interests of continuing to protect Rockingham's natural asset and make Cape/Point Peron a better place with improved access and facilities for all, as was intended from the time its care and management was handed from Federal to State Government in 1964. Now that would be democracy in action; money well spent and very much in the public interest.

*Pauline Dilley
Shoalwater*

STILL VULNERABLE
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 March 2012

The new Cape to Cape marine park is a great example of how all the waters in Australia should be protected. But special places that have been singled out for protection, such as the Shoalwater Marine Park, are still vulnerable to future development. The proposed Mangles Bay Marina for example, is likely to affect water quality in the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, as well as Mangles Bay and Cockburn Sound. If we had greater marine park protection along the coast, these kinds of impacts could be reduced. Even better, the establishment of marine sanctuaries past the 3km inshore waters zone would protect those areas with important species that often get overlooked.

*Emma Gates
Warnbro*

POINT PERON CANALS LUDICROUS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 4 April 2012

I think it is absolutely ludicrous to even contemplate build canals at Point Peron or anywhere. With global warming, the sea will most likely encroach on the land naturally. Stick to the marina at Wanliss Street - that would be acceptable.

GET MANGLES FACTS RIGHT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 4 April 2012

To all those tree-hugging greenies against the Mangles Bay Marina, I ask you, was the property your house sits on bushland before you built? If it was, you're nothing but hypocrites. What right have you to say progress cannot go ahead? I am sick of reading letters from people like James Mumme. I can reply to a few statements he made in the Sound Telegraph of March 28. Yes, Cedar Woods is in it for its own profit. It is a business and businesses are here to make money. Mangles Bay Marina is a government venture subcontracting the project to Cedar Woods.

At present the public can only access about 10 per cent of the proposed area due to the yacht club hardstand, the fishing club and the holiday areas for the selected few. On completion of this project, the public will have a hell of a lot more access to cafes, aquatic areas and other retail outlets, again creating employment within our community. The Mangles Bay Marina has a mandate to host local water activity clubs, such as the local yacht clubs, fishing clubs and sea rescue group, with these clubs having an excellent junior following for our future local leaders. These clubs can only lease this land and will have to create the associated infrastructure for buildings and boat pens at their own expense. The Port Rockingham Marina is a private venture not offering anything to the people of Rockingham. Why? To make money.

Strange isn't it, Mr Mumme. As for that rain pit people call Lake Richmond, what a joke. I live in the Anchorage Estate and see all the rubbish off Rockingham's streets fill up this mosquito and midge-breeding water hole. I just hope the construction of this much-needed aquatic playground (Whoops! Is there not a sign as you enter Rockingham sounding similar?) starts as soon as possible so we do not have to read ill-informed articles in this newspaper.

Finally I say to you all, get a life, and to most of the greenies, try getting a job and stop sucking off my hard earned tax and rates money.

Wayne Mccaullay
Shoalwater

PERON A DUMP
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 18 April 2012

Having driven around Point Peron at the weekend, it's obvious from the number of shacks why there is a degree of resistance to the proposed new development. Perhaps Preserve Point Peron could hand around the hat and ask the shack owners to fund it? Why anyone! Except those with vested interest, would wish to keep what can only be described a dump is beyond me.

Mike Ackroyd
Rockingham

PRESERVE POINT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 18 April 2012

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed development at Point Peron, Rockingham. Many natural flora, including undersea plants, and fish life will be affected adversely. The area should be kept for public enjoyment and not just for a rich few who could afford to live there in the new development.

Terence Connolly
Rockingham

GET REAL FACTS ON PERON
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 18 April 2012

The first thing to be said in Response to Wayne Mccaullay's letter about tree huggers and hypocrites (Sound Telegraph, April 4) is that when people start throwing personal abuse about, they probably don't have much of a case. So to address four real issues. Jobs said to be created by the canal-marina - in the 2000 pages of the proposal there are no figures for restaurants or shops or jobs, only some coloured areas on a concept map. I've read claims of 600 to 700 jobs and the Hon Phil Edman claimed 1100! There is no job that might be created by this canal-marina that could not be created at another site. Already existing businesses on the waterfront are finding it hard to retain good staff. Creation of another similar area just along the bay would affect their businesses.

Lake Richmond - recently the city council voted unanimously to support the listing of Lake Richmond on the State Heritage list. This is an area of not only State but also international scientific and conservation value. In the days before we understood the significance of the lake there were plans to destroy it but sanity prevailed and this unique lake survives, so far.

Tax payers' money - there are no financial guarantees that the ratepayers and taxpayers of Rockingham will not be left with the ongoing problems that plague the canal developments at Busselton, Mandurah and Yunderup.

Public open space and population pressures - the transfer of Cape Peron to the State in 1964 was conditional on it being park and recreation and B not or commercial or residential purposes. Several times we have been promised an A class reserve. The population of this city and surrounding areas is growing exponentially and the need for natural open space and recreational facilities will be critical to our wellbeing in years to come. Let's get on with creating the A class reserve and improving Cape Peron.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

MANGLES MARINA MOST WELCOME
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 18 April 2012

I would like to voice my approval of the Mangles Bay Marina going ahead. I don't even own a boat and have been following its progress from local papers. It would be great for Rockingham to have its own marina and canal development. We have enjoyed the ones in Mandurah and Hillarys and it would be great to have one here. The land at the moment is used to dump rubbish. The other uses, for example, RSL caravan park and boat hardstand, are normally only by a select few and even then rarely.

John Nielsen
Rockingham

CCTV 'EYE' NEEDED
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 May 2012

I am blown away by the fact that there are no CCTV cameras on poles at the parking bays along the coastal strip in Rockingham; in particular the car parks at Point Peron, and the car park on Point Peron Road opposite the sewerage works that are renowned for easy pickings. Just recently my friend had his car vandalised at the Point Peron Road car park. We were there discussing the issue for at least one and a half hours and in that time not one single Community Security Car went past. I have written a letter to the council suggesting that installing pole-mounted cameras in each of the public car parks along the coast in Rockingham is an economic and efficient deterrent and solution that could possibly supplement and even replace some of the Community Security Patrols.

John Garcia
Shoalwater

KEEP THE PEACE
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 May 2012

I strongly disagree with the proposed Mangles Bay marina because I live close to Hillarys Boat Harbour. There is no peace and quiet like there is at Mangles Bay. At Hillarys there are so many fights and I don't want fights down at Mangles Bay

Jessica Sangrick
Aged 10
Duncraig

ROAD REVIVAL
Weekend Courier
Friday 25 May 2012

Well, well, well, would you believe it? After years of support, including hundreds of thousands of dollars for studies, the "council" has suddenly woken up to the fact that the Mangles Bay Marina scheme would result in "likely performance issues" at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Safety Bay Road. Of course not, the protagonists in the council knew it all along but kept it off the agenda. Now it has been brought to its attention, the council had to do the right thing and include the comment in the submission to the Environmental Protection Authority. But never fear, the schemers already have the solution. At the opportune moment, I have no doubt that they would regurgitate the Garden Island Highway. This road was shown as a future route on street directories years ago as running from Rae Road to Memorial Drive, clipping the southern shore of Lake Richmond. The route was wiped from the latest street directories, but I am sure not from the schemes of the proponents of the marina in council chambers.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

BOAT BLESSING
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 June 2012

Isn't it a blessing marinas will be provided on our seafront to shelter boats such as those that have been damaged during this current storm and would be during other storms which are sure to occur in the Rockingham area in the future? As for the human filth who cut one boat's rope, what hope is there for them to become normal people?

Ray Hall
Safety Bay

SHIP WRECKS
Weekend Courier
Friday 22 June 2012

With our local Upper House member reminding us all the time how Rockingham needs a marina every time a storm dumps boats along the beach, I note with interest the dramatic news photo of a large number of boats "safe in a marina". How safe is a marina and how many of the boats in Mangles Bay would ever be housed in a marina?

Bob Goodale, Chairman
*Preserve Point Peron
for the People (Inc).*

HALT EXPANSION
Weekend Courier
Friday 29 June 2012

The continued expansion of metropolitan Perth's urban footprint is not sustainable in my view. We can enjoy a good lifestyle in the outer suburbs and more must be done to provide for the growing local populations, but suburban growth comes at a cost. Bulldozing more bushland for more suburbs cannot be sustainable. Perth and the South West have one of the most diverse floras in the world but housing development and associated infrastructure is eroding habitat and threatening our biodiversity.

Further, outer suburban residents have a heavy dependence on the car for transport. This costs 15 per cent or more of household incomes, adds to pollution and we are vulnerable to the long-term rise in oil prices. Accommodating more people in the existing urban fabric, particularly closer to the Perth CBD, rather than continuing low-density spread - as proposed by the Committee of Perth and the Directions 2031 plan - makes more sense. Working towards a stable population would be even better. We live in a world of finite resources so changing development patterns and lifestyles to protect biodiversity and reduce energy and water use and waste is critical if we want to be "sustainable".

Name and address supplied.

PRIVATE LOCAL FLYER
Norm Hodgkinson
Wednesday 4 July 2012
GARDEN ISLAND HIGHWAY

Did you see in the kerbside rubbish collection notice that the boundary for your area was the Garden Island Highway - all the way to Safety Bay Road??? If the Point Peron Marina goes ahead Memorial Drive would be relocated next to the Environmental Centre. The developers estimate is that 18 cars a minute will come down Memorial Drive. During construction there would be around 100 truck movements per day. Which way do they go to get to east Rockingham /Ennis Avenue? The obvious solution is to open up a new road from Safety Bay Road like Garden Island Highway along Richmond Avenue. To protect the wildlife it should be elevated.

If you don't like the idea then contact:

Mark Mc Gowan 9592 7422 mark.mcgowan@mp.wa.gov.au
Colin Barnett 9383 1505 cottesloe@mp.wa.gov.au
Gary Gray 9527 9377 gary.gray@mp.wa.gov.au
Phil Edman 9528 4774 phil.edman@mp.wa.gov.au

Norm Hodgkinson
9527 2383

POLICY DIFFERS
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 July 2012

I find it bemusing and somewhat confusing for Mayor Barry Sammels to say the council had told proponent Cedar Woods Properties that it was not prepared to manage the marina (Mangles Bay) if approval and development occurs (Marina management will bear costs, Courier, June 29). Are the mayor, councillors and senior staff aware of the Department for Planning's Development Control Policy 1.8 that came into force in May this year? It clearly states: "Long-term maintenance of public areas such as waterways, connecting channels, breakwaters, and artificial waterway walls and embankments where these abut land set aside for use by the public at large, will normally be the responsibility of local government.

"Local government will need to be satisfied regarding economic viability of the proposal and the local government's financial capacity to meet ongoing water and canal wall monitoring and maintenance costs. Proponents shall provide projected short and long-term costs related to capital works and maintenance for local government assessment. "The proponent will normally be responsible for maintenance of the entire project for the initial period (normally five years)." This seems to be in complete contradiction to what the mayor has

stated. Perhaps he can clarify the council's genuine obligations, responsibilities and who will really end up paying for the long-term management of this development proposal, if approved.

Name and address supplied.

DEBATE DEBATED
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 July 2012

I was present at the last Rockingham council meeting at which the proposed marina at Point Peron was debated (Courier, June 29). Cr Smith, you are right. It was embarrassing and premature for council to be dealing with this when the project is before the EPA. Crs Hamblin and Liley, you are wrong to suggest that the solution to the problem of boats being washed up in storms is an inland marina.

First, boats need to be properly secured (as the Volunteer Sea Rescue Commander said) and inspected every two years (as the head of the Department of Transport said). Second, a marina has already been approved for Port Rockingham that does not have all the complicated risks of the Mangles Bay one. Council should get behind that marina. Mr Mayor, yes the idea is decades old but not built yet for a simple reason - this marina is a dumb idea.

Cr Elliott, at the same meeting you argued against a development proposal in Singleton on the grounds that the dunes should not be flattened because they are attractive. Then you argued in favour of the Peron marina that would flatten 77 hectares of Bush Forever dunes. Please be consistent. And regarding claims about jobs and benefits to the community, let's see some properly researched evidence. Finally speakers from both sides claimed public support. Let's have a referendum after a full and fair information process in which both sides are properly funded to put their arguments, instead of one sided publicity blitzes from the developer.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

WHO WILL PAY?
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 11 July 2012

As a Rockingham ratepayer I was concerned to read (Sound Telegraph, July 4) the Rockingham City Council had made a premature decision to approve the concept of the proposed Mangles Bay Marina canal development. Perhaps Councillor Elliott could enlighten us all on how "Rockingham would be a winner in a range of ways"? Recent newsletters produced by the Port Mandurah Residents Association provide some indication of what may be in store. In addition to normal council rates, all Port Mandurah residents pay an extra rate specifically for canal estate management. Can council explain whether the ongoing costs for maintaining the proposed marina will be borne solely by those with the financial capacity to pay for using the facility or will all Rockingham ratepayers be expected to foot the bill? The most compelling question, however, is why is Rockingham council in such a hurry to state its position on the planned Mangles Bay Marina before the Environmental Protection Authority has reached a decision on whether or not to approve the project?

Ron Chapman
Waikiki

TASTY TREATS
Weekend Courier
Friday 20 July 2012

Releasing the 112 vermin black rats (Vermin prey on native species in wetland areas, Courier, July 13) at Pt Peron will certainly be an added attraction for the canal development as they swim around the boats. While relaxing at a waterfront cafe with your cappuccinos and toasted cheese sandwich it will be wonderful to throw the crusts into the water and watch the vermin black rats scramble for such a tasty treat.

Edward Stuart

WELL DONE
Weekend Courier
Friday 20 July 2012

Who wants to be a politician? They're damned if they do ... and damned if they don't. I often find myself at odds with politicians, from all parties ... but something Gary Gray and his colleagues recently achieved deserves an honourable mention: the creation of a series of marine sanctuaries for me, my son, my granddaughter ... and you. In untold years to come, Australians will praise those with a long-term vision that seriously reduces the possibility of devastation to the marine habitat ... and our WA lifestyle. Good onya Gary!

Mark Defriest,
Rockingham

MANGLED MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 5 September 2012

Landcorp, the Rockingham council and Cedar Woods are promoting a marina at Point Peron which will discharge into the Palm Beach end of Mangles Bay. I have just read the 2011 annual report of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. The council assesses and reports on the pollution in the Sound. The report raises concerns about the problems in Mangles Bay. Action is required to reduce the conditions for phytoplankton biomass in Mangles Bay which is potentially poisonous. Action is required to improve the seagrass growth as it is in poor condition. Sea grass condition is an indicator of the cleanliness of the sea water in the area. It is probably a result of cloudy water. The quality of water for swimming is noted as "critical" and requires investigation, precautionary action and monitoring. All these problems are known to exist and yet Landcorp and Cedar Woods, with the support of the Rockingham council, still propose to construct a marina which will add to the pollution. It reminds me of my first boss's saying: "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up". What makes it worse is that an environmental scientist is bound to come up with some words in the proponents' final report which will suggest that a marina will not add to the pollution.

Norman Hodgkinson
Rockingham

BEACH EROSION IS GETTING WORSE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 5 September 2012

A few months ago, with our last lot of bad storms, the beach between Bent Street and Waimea suffered bad erosion. Then, to top it off, the main water waste pipe had broken off causing bad erosion from the rush of the water going from the opening of the broken pipe along the sand into the beach water. It took a while for the water board to repair. One day I was walking along the path, and noticed the tractors putting into place barriers of rocks for the water flow, and timber girding to support the water pipe. But in doing this now, even with the rocks into place, it made it impossible to pass, which means you can't walk on the beach unless you want to mountain climb up and over the top of the pipe and back down onto the beach. The problem is also that with the rocks in place, the water is chasing a different way to the water causing more erosion in different areas. This beach has become impassable and looks a mess with all the channels taken out by the rush of water coming out of the pipe every day for hours at a time. The people who organised this task did not research it very well. Do they not care about the public being able to walk along the beach or the erosion it is causing? Wake up and start caring before it's too late and the damage is irreversible.

Alisha Moreton
Safety Bay

WHICH WAY
Weekend Courier
Friday 7 September 2012

In response to two articles in the Courier's August 24 edition headlined "Strategy to protect coastline from climate change" and "Eyesores languish on foreshore" it seems to me that the City of Rockingham does not know which way it wants to go. It professes to want to protect our stunning coastline from the impacts of climate change with a new strategy, yet continues to promote a project that will destroy much of it - that is, the proposed canal marina development at Point Peron. Similarly, the City wants to push ahead "development" of Point Peron while there are sites that are under-used and derelict in the Rockingham Beach area already, as your article showed. How can the City continue to push with our hard-earned ratepayer dollars for the destruction of Point Peron, to create even bigger eyesores, and a project that will not fit with its own coastal protection strategy?

Julie Judkins Byrne,
Rockingham

PT PERON IS FOR FAR MORE THAN JUST BABY BOOMERS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 September 2012

While it is good that Environment Minister Bill Marmion appreciates the fact that Point Peron is a very special place for many Rockingham people (Sound Telegraph, September 5, 2012), I take exception to him associating the area with so-called 'baby boomers'. As a committee member of the Hands Off Point Peron group, who are attempting to save Point Peron from the environmentally devastating inland marina, I know that support to halt the proposal is far broader than simply the baby boomer generation. Over the past 18 months our group have manned stalls at various local events, held public education seminars, and presented an alternative Vision for use of the land that would be in keeping with a 1964 agreement between the Commonwealth

and State governments which stated the area should be used for public recreation.

The campaign has generated considerable community support from a wide range of people and age groups - not merely those born during the years immediately after the Second World War. All the people who support us and sign our petition are seriously concerned that the inland marina will destroy the unique character and environmental integrity of Point Peron for ever. Our aim is to ensure that Point Peron's natural beauty and recreational amenities are protected so they can not only be enjoyed by present generations, but also by generations in the future.

Ron Chapman
Waikiki

SOGGY LOGIC
Weekend Courier
Friday 28 September 2012

Mayor Barry Sammels, when he retires in October 2013, will go down in history as the dolphins' best friend, having provided, over 11 years, beautiful luxury apartments along Rockingham Beach just 20 metres from the water's edge. Ground-floor apartments flood in just 24 hours, are uninsurable and the dolphins will ascertain in minutes that human intelligent is somewhat inferior to their ultra-sound and sonar split-second communication, for which we need wi-fi, 4G and 10 chargers and plug which won't work in wet sockets.

Edward Stuart
Warnbro

STOP LOBBYING
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 October 2012

I am writing to express my outrage at the recent article headlined "Council to list priorities ahead of next year's State election" (*Courier*). When is the City of Rockingham going to get the message that there are many ratepayers in this City who do not want the proposed canal/marina development at Point/Cape Peron to go ahead? And we certainly do not want any more of our hard-earned rates to be wasted on lobbying to try to push this project through. The council has already spent quite a lot of money on this proposed project. Besides, what is the point in lobbying the two local politicians, Mark McGowan and Phil Edman, who already support this ill-advised project? All the other projects will have social dividends for the residents of Rockingham, but not this project that aims to turn our public land into a private enclave, at the same time destroying acres of native bushland and threatening other ecological communities nearby.

Julie Byrne
Rockingham

SNEAKY PLOY
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 November 2012

The vote by Rockingham City Council on its Priority Action List, as reported in the October 26 edition was sneaky to say the least. Most of the items were not overtly controversial - a necessary access road and pedestrian path, primary school at Golden Bay and community safety project. However, to make the proposal for a marina at Mangles Bay in the Point Peron area as just another item on the list was so obviously a ploy to ensure it got through. Councillor Richard Smith sensibly moved a motion to remove the marina proposal from the list, so could be dealt with as a separate item.

It is a disgrace that the council could not pass this motion, and this allow an honest and open debate and vote on the marina proposal a separate matter. In any case, such a vote is premature as the environmental review has not yet been published. The final irony is that, adjacent to the article headed "Proposal of priority list" was the article headlined "Heritage plan", in which Mayor Barry Sammels supported the area surrounding Lake Richmond being placed on the Heritage Register to "add extra protection of the area and the long-term health of the thrombolites".

The best protection for this sensitive heritage area is for the council to support the proposal for the Point Peron precinct to become Rockingham's Kings Park, a conservation area for all to enjoy adjacent to the protected Lake Richmond.

Jean Jenkins
Safety Bay

FROM THE WEB
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 November 2012

Mangles Bay Marina Proposal:

What was not reported is the way seven councillors shot up their hands like puppets responding to the puppet master. These are not councillors listening to the people they are supposed to represent, but will continue to fuel the spin created by a few polities, oblivious to public outcries.

Douglas Pritchard

Give a chance to a pre-feasibility and environmental study and make an informed decision after that. And if you're so concerned maybe we should be pushing for a zero impact eco resort that embraces the area and becomes an attraction in itself.

Andrew

SPIN REPEATED
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 November 2012

I congratulate Rockingham council on deciding to lobby politicians for funds for worthy projects. However, I believe seven councillors have failed to use due diligence in relation to the Mangle Bay canal/marina. Of most concern is that council's thinking has been taken over by developer's spin. The very words in the council motion "a world class regional asset", "responsive to community values" and "a development that respects the area's marine and land environment" are all lifted from Cedar Woods' prospectus. Ask the people of Busselton about the consequences of believing developer's spin. They have inherited "a world class financial disaster," and "an environment endangered by the ongoing outcomes of an ill-conceived plan".

At that meeting Councillors Elliot and Liley both spoke passionately about Penguin Island being the "iconic jewel in the crown". How puzzling that they support a project that threatens our other assets - Lake Richmond, the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park and the little remaining seagrass. Cr Alan Hill complained that the proposal had been around for 40 years without being started. The reason it's not been started is that it is a flawed idea. The reason it's still around is because developers want to get their hands on 70 hectares of crown land and they sell the idea.

I applaud Councillors Stewart, Smith and Prince for thinking for themselves. Council, please research this issue properly, think independently of developers, and represent us, the community. As electors we have the right to expect due diligence from our council but at present I have no confidence this is occurring.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

COUNCIL LED BY DEVELOPERS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 November 2012

Congratulations to the three Rockingham Councillors who recently voted against seeking funds from politicians for the Mangles Bay Marina. But what concerns me is that the other councillors are not thinking for themselves. They seem to have swallowed the developer's spin. The words in the council motion came straight from Cedar Woods - "A world class regional asset," they said. I say just ask the people of Busselton about their world-class financial disaster. "A shared vision ... responsive to community values," they said. I reply that we've seen the longest, biggest outcry in local history to protect an asset that the community at present owns. Cedar Woods said, "A development that respects the area's marine and land environment". I say it's a development that endangers Lake Richmond, cuts Rockingham Lakes Regional Park in two and threatens the little remaining fish nursery we have left. Cedar Woods claims the project will create lots of jobs and business opportunities. Council has failed to research any of this and seems to believe whatever Cedar Woods tells them.

As electors we have the right to expect our councillors to weigh up projects properly, not suck up to one side.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

JUST TURN UP
Weekend Courier
Friday 16 November 2012

Last Thursday I went to a workshop at Naragebup Environmental Centre, which the City of Rockingham (the conservation coordinator) and SERCUL presented regarding the health of Lake Richmond. I was very disappointed at the response to this workshop - only four local people attended, and it was very interesting with helpful hints on the type of products that cause problems, and to the eventual destruction of our precious thrombolites, which are living rocks, and to the abundant birdlife. Surely there are interested people who live near Lake Richmond who are interested in the health and wellbeing of our lake, and would like to attend. I know that there is another workshop on November 19 from 7-9pm. Light refreshments are provided. Just turn up.

*Esther Grogan
Rockingham*

**CONCERN AT SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
PLANNING**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 November 2012

My husband and I attended the November 8 workshop for Rockingham: Our City, Our Future held at the Gary Holland Centre as we are keen to have a say in ensuring the area we live is developed sustainably. I am not sure that this is going to be a priority that emerges from this consultation exercise.

Participants are sat at tables then have to work together to cover 10 different topics in a relatively short space of time in order to raise issues that will be recorded. We were all advised to work through the list of topics in order, to assist the organisers. I noted that the environment and heritage were last items on the list, as they are my interest. Placing them last seems to indicate to us, the public, that the organisers or the City of Rockingham place these issues low on their priority list. After the event I was doing some research and was very surprised to find that the company running the workshops, ConsultWG, had been employed in the past by LandCorp/Cedar Woods to conduct the public consultations in relation to the proposed Mangles Bay marina development.

Whilst I was unable to attend those meetings, people I know who did manage to get in to them were concerned at how they were biased, not truly representative of all views, skewed towards the proponent's wishes and plans, with others not having any meaningful voice in proceedings. Consultation in that case meant to merely agree to what the developer wanted to do, or tweak it slightly. There was no option to say no to that unsustainable proposed project, with that track record I am very concerned at how truly representative and sustainable these current consultations being conducted into the future planning of our city are going to be?

*Julie Byrne
Rockingham*

ISSUES REMAIN
Weekend Courier
Friday 14 December 2012

It has been reported that "Rockingham City Council has given in principle support to the marina". How can this be, when the land at Point Peron is, I believe, "A Class Reserve, but private homes are to be part of the overall complex? Surely this situation should have resolved before the Environmental Protection Authority became involved and was required to use many thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money for its research. The other issue that should have been put to the ratepayers by the council prior to backing this plan, was the fact that ratepayers will be required to finance the maintenance of the area for years to come, at a much higher cost than the present costs involved in the upkeep of that parkland area.

*Mal Hughes
Waikiki*

MARINA WARNING UP AND DOWN COAST
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 December 2012

You were asking for thoughts on the marina at Mangles Bay. To start with, no developer should have any control of the coastline foreshore or boat ramps. I really think the Environmental Protection Authority has to take notice of what is happening down our whole coastline, from Exmouth in the north to Busselton. You can't mess with the ocean; it has a mind of its own.

I will start at the marinas that I have visited. Exmouth - no water flow through the marina, no water flow through the canals. Give it time and it will begin to smell and fill up with oil spills. Next is Geraldton - no water flow and it has oil floating through the marina already. It won't be long before that one stinks. Hillarys Boat Harbour - no water flow, full of oil from all the boats using

the marina and the Government allows the public to swim there (I wouldn't let my dog go in there). Fremantle Boat Harbour and Marina - no water flow, water full of floating oil and that place stinks.

I don't know much about Coogee, it's too new, but the above things will happen like the rest. As for Rockingham, don't let this happen here, there will be no water flow, the sea grass will be destroyed because it will have to be dredged each year like the boat ramps on the west side of the causeway. The causeway should never have been built, just another engineering mistake. The marina will become a smelly, oil-drenched water hole and it will destroy an environment that was supposed to be public open space and it may possibly destroy Lake Richmond. Going further south, Mandurah - no water flow and full of floating oil - no one should be able to swim in Halls Head Canals. Last of the marinas, Busselton, I believe that to fix the problem is going to cost the council around \$75 million.

**William Bruce
Rockingham**

**NOTHING DONE
Weekend Courier
Friday 19 December 2012**

The December 7 edition article on the ooze and filth flowing into Lake Richmond was very well covered and informative to readers who hear a lot about the lake, but don't realise what is happening in it. I attended one of the workshops at the Naragebup centre and I found that most people attending, apart from myself, did not know about the polluted water being fed into the lake. The management of the water canals that lead to the lake is supposed to be a joint venture between the council and the Water Corporation. But all they have been doing for years is shirking management responsibility with the council saying it's the corporation's job and the corporation saying that the rubbish, filth, ooze, shopping trolleys and so forth in the water are the council's job. As a result, and as I have been saying for quite some time, nobody does anything and nothing gets done. As the mayor of Rockingham keeps saying that Lake Richmond is so important, why doesn't he do something about the city's chronic litter problem? The litter ends up in the canals and then into the lake.

Eric Dixon

**SENSIBLE OPTIONS
Weekend Courier
Friday 1 February 2013**

As pointed out in last weekend's *Courier*, we now have a situation where the construction of an approved \$40million, 500-pen sea marina at Port Rockingham appears to have stalled. At the same time there is a plan for an inland marina at Cape Peron, which would not only be environmentally devastating for the Cape's fragile ecosystem but would also cause massive disruption for seven years during its construction. The Hands Off Point Peron coastal conservation group appreciates the lack of boat mooring facilities in the area and does not oppose the Port Rockingham Marina. Together with the Preserve Point Peron group we have presented our own community vision for a Cape Peron Coastal Park to create a world-class coastal recreation park for locals and visitors alike, which would be in harmony with nature and our heritage.

Surely the sensible option would be for the State Government, Cedar Woods and LandCorp to channel their energies and finances into an expanded Port Rockingham Marina and preserve the land at Cape Peron for public recreation and park lands as stipulated in the 1964 Commonwealth/ State agreement. Cape Peron is no place for an environmentally destructive inland marina.

**Ron Chapman
Chairman
Hands Off Point Peron Group
Waikiki**

**WASTEWATER SHOULD BE USED FOR BETTER
PURPOSES
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 6 February 2013**

The Water Corporation is sending treated water from Woodman Point, Kwinana and Point Peron offshore. Why is it that the Water Corp and Rockingham Council have not looked at diverting this waste-treated water into the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park and then turning this area into a permanent lake? If the water is pure enough to enter our ocean, then it's pure enough to be used in a man-made permanent lake. If the Water Corp tests the outflow into the ocean, then it can check the flow into the lake.

During the fire session we need extra water to fight fires in our region. This is one area where we can store water. The Lakes Regional Park is a dangerous fire hazard just waiting to happen. It would also improve the appearance of the area when the lake is dry. Filling the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park will allow the area to attract birds, native wildlife, and can be used for many activities, such as a grassed picnic area, for use by junior sailing clubs, rowing clubs, etc, and would be an asset to the community. It's a win-win

situation for native birds, wildlife and the community, and will reduce the fire risk to the area. We should stop sending filtered water out into the ocean and instead use it for storage or making permanent lakes to attract wildlife, as well as using the water to help fire fighting efforts as we are a very dry region and water is a valued asset. This should be happening all over the State of Western Australia, especially in fire-prone areas.

**S. Cruden
Kwinana**

**MYTHS DECEIVE
Weekend Courier
Friday 8 February 2013**

I see that Matthew Pollock, the Liberal candidate for Rockingham, believes the Mangles Bay Marina could be a boon for jobs, tourism and investment (*Courier*, February 1). I believe Mr Pollock has been deceived by some of the heavily advertised myths around this marina.

Myth one - the marina's in Mangles Bay. It's not in the bay at all, its inland in a Bush Forever site and in part of Rockingham Lakes Regional Park.

Myth two - it's a marina. It's basically a canal-estate. There is already a marina approved for off Wanliss Street and work could begin if only the developer with the money would support it.

Myth three - the marina's good because it will create jobs. How many permanent full-time jobs have really been created by marinas (besides construction)? Please tell us.

Myth four - this canal-estate marina is about tourism. The rationale for the marina put up by the proponent is that there is demand for boat pens from people in Perth. This canal-estate is really about making a fat profit from selling off crown land for luxury housing sites.

Myth five - this canal-estate marina will be a boon for investment. Who is going to invest in houses or pens in a marina that is in the most difficult site prone to a host of problems that will cost millions to fix?

Let's learn from Busselton. Only two candidates have come out for true progress - Dawn Jecks and Lynn Mac-Laren.

**James Mumme
36 Gloucester Avenue, Shoalwater**

**CASH POURED INTO BOAT RAMP A WASTE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 February 2013**

It's common knowledge that governments of all persuasions and levels are adept at wasting public money. Rockingham City Council is no exception. The classic example is Bent Street boat ramp. The ramp was positioned in the middle of a sand bar but at that time was probably sufficient for the smaller number and size of pleasure boats. The size and number of boats increased so a bigger car park was considered and facilitated in reduced fashion. Was that still reasonable? No. The boat ramp was already in the wrong place even though there was an increased requirement for trailer-borne boats. This was a waste of money which should have been applied to a better site. Then, because of the bigger boats the decision was made to upgrade the boat ramp which, when completed, was found to be awash at high tide and will worsen with rising sea levels. This constituted a lack of engineering ability and a waste of money. But there's more. Because of the movement of sand cutting off the deeper approach to the boat ramp there are now contractors cutting seabed rocks to form an access channel so that the boat ramp can still be used. Even that is a temporary measure because the sand will inevitably fill that channel so it will need constant dredging and will be a continual waste of public money.

How doesn't all that sound reminiscent of the Point Peron boat ramp? It certainly should but at least it is all done to appease the trailer borne boating fraternity (the majority of boaties in Rockingham). If those experiences were to be applied to the Point Peron canal proposal then we really are in for a financial burden. Not only has council already spent \$300,000 of our money on that debacle but they have also given approval to it "in principle". Even worse, the whole escapade would only give perceived benefit to about 500 people and extreme profits to fewer (less than 1 per cent of the area) Add to this the 500 existing swing moorings would not infringe on plans for the proposed Wanliss Street marina (which may well be delayed purposely to give more weight to the Point Peron canals request). Also, many of those swing moorings remain unused other than for high days and holidays, and it could easily be interpreted that this council is biased toward the yacht clubs in its support of all things yachting. Yes, it's time for a vote on all levels of government.

**Dave Worth
Safety Bay**

END THE WAIT
Weekend Courier
Friday 8 March 2013

Bring on the Mangles Bay Marina. For way too long we have had to travel out of the Rockingham area to the Dolphin Quay Marina, Mandurah Fishing Boat Harbour, Fremantle or further to enjoy the relaxing ambience of dining outdoors with friends, all the time wishing we were enjoying our own beautiful coastline, which in comparison could become paramount. We find that a lot of other people are doing the same and spending money that should stay right here in Rockingham. Let's catch up with these areas that are a thriving hub of enjoyment and that are also cashing in on tourism. Let's create businesses and in turn create employment. Let's move forward. Let's not wait any longer.

*Tina Harper
Baldivis*

NEEDS ARE MET
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 April 2013

Danny Stent stated that a marina would bring in \$1.3b. He spoke of the Mangles Bay Economic Study, which I hope is available to the public to digest. Mr Stent should know that the decision by the Environmental Protection Authority on the Mangles Bay proposal of marina and canals in Point Peron (or Cape Peron) is not made for economic reasons or more work for people in the area. It is purely on environmental issues. There is a proposed marina at Wanliss Street that was approved by council, which would suffice the needs of the local Rockingham / Safety Bay / Kwinana boaties, and it is not as environmentally destructive as the proposed canals and marina in Point Peron.

*Esther Grogan
Secretary and founding member
Preserve Point Peron for the People*

HOPES IN DOUBT
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 March 2013

Tina Harper (Courier, March 8) says "end the wait" for the Mangles Bay Marina and cites having to travel out of the area to enjoy some features that this marina might bring. Well I'm thinking Ms Harper might be disappointed with the outcomes of the proposal and she should be seeking assurances from the likes of the local MLC and the developers. Mr Phil Edman seems to spend much time promoting the developer's interests, but outside of the private housing canals and boating club interests there will be little more. On the other hand, I'm thinking the other marina proposal off Wanliss Street might offer Tina more of what she is after.

*Frank Ockwell
Baldivis*

IN MY COMMUNITY.COM
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 April 2013
Mersey Point Sandbar

Why is the sandbar allowed to stay open to public access? It looks harmless but it's not. There is only one answer. Put a north/south fence across it and save a quid. And maybe the life of a lifesaver.

G. Heil

Mangles Bay Marina

The RKCC, Mr Edman and Mr Stent have only taken into consideration the immediate financial gain, not the environmental damage. Back in 1964 (this land) was transferred to WA on condition future use was restricted to public recreation And/or parkland, not a private canal system and marina that ratepayers will wear the brunt of maintenance and dredging costs to keep it viable.

Anne

IN MYCOMMUNITY.COM
Weekend Courier
Friday 22 March 2013

The Greens polled badly in Rockingham because the Mangles Bay marina is widely and strongly supported and wanted by the community. The people of Rockingham have screamed to the Greens that they want progress, development, tourism and jobs in this city.

Meg Schultz

MARINA PROBLEMS
Weekend Courier
3 May 2013

The second headline in the April 19 edition report about the Mangles Bay marina proposal read: City would be big loser if proposal failed. My beef is, Yes the city would certainly be losers ... and the ratepayers. I see that the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce president Danny Stent and MLC Phil Edman, the Rockingham and Kwinana Planning and Development Taskforce chairman, have jumped on the wagon, telling the public that the City will be \$1.3bn better off up to 2034, with benefits beyond that.

It is unbelievable that the State Government is allowing a developer to have 70 hectares of land, including shoreline, and to take control of boat ramps similar to the Dawesville Cut Marina. Yet the State Government won't use enough crown land at Wambro train station for extra parking so the public can use the rail system. It's obvious that Mr Stent and Mr Edman have not inspected any of the marinas along our coast, starting at Exmouth through to Busselton. All of them are full of oil from boats and stink: in fact, it is going to cost \$7 million to fix the problem they have in Busselton. If the Environmental Protection Authority allows this construction to proceed, then it should also have a good look at the damage that other marinas are doing to our coastline.

*William Bruce
Waikiki*

IN MY COMMUNITY.COM
John Dobson
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 April 2013

At inmycommunity.com, readers commented on the proposed Mangles Bay marina and council mergers.

To destroy a Bush Forever site to cater for a few cashed-up boaties, threatening the survival of the ancient thrombolites, the coastal ecosystem and nursery for those fish that recreational fishers are so keen on is insanity.

Naia

People forget the EPA are the experts on this issue, not backyard scientists. If they recommend it is sustainable with the appropriate controls I don't see what the issue is?

Joel

What boaties don't realise is they will be squashed into a small section near the causeway where the boat ramps are now.

Dianne

ALL BIG DOLLARS
Weekend Courier
3 May 2013

The president of the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce in his comments (Courier, April 19) supporting the Point Peron Marina follows in the footsteps of our politicians in publicising big dollar numbers. \$1.3 billion is very impressive as an "economic benefit" from the proposed marina. Why did he not say \$2.6b by just doubling the period he was considering to 40 years? I presume he allowed that the planned time for construction is nine years. I also hope he did not include the cost of dredging the canals, which might be \$100,000 a year. After all, it would be money spent in Rockingham. Not to worry that it would be from the rates after the developers' contract runs out. Moreover, who is going to get the economic benefit in Rockingham - the ratepayers? What sort of impact will a construction site have at the entry to our prize tourist attraction? You can bet the first thing the developers will do is strip out all the bush to expose a huge area of yellow sand and it will be many years before it will look anything like a place you want to be.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

DREAM TIME
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 April 2013

I have a lot of respect for the president of the RockinghamKwinana Chamber of Commerce, Danny Stent, but for him to quote (Courier, April 19) a study that states that the Point Peron marina will bring benefits of around \$1.3 billion in the next 20 years to Rockingham-Kwinana is astounding and again questions the financial credibility of our community's leaders. This amounts to benefits of more than \$65 million a year, \$1.25 million a week or \$7440 24/7 for the next 20 years (not bad for a residential canal development). The economic study has to be challenged as you can bet the developers and their shareholders will receive the direct benefits, and the surrounding communities any indirect benefits depending on their proximity to Point Peron. Someone should tell the authors of the study they're dreaming.

*Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay*

**IN MY COMMUNITY.COM.AU and
facebook.com/Week
Weekend Courier
3 May 2013**

Mangles Bay Marina.
Great news.
Welcome to the 21st century Rockingham.
Daniel Taylor

Money versus environment.
Unfortunately money wins.
Hilary Mather

**DEVELOPMENT IS JUST RECKLESS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 May 2013**

The fact we need a marina in Rockingham is undisputed but to tie it in with a canal-style development is, in my opinion, reckless. Time and time again there are documented cases of the canal style of development creating ongoing environmental damage and large maintenance costs. Wrapping up the marina with the canal development is a way for the local and state governments to shift the cost to the private sector dodge their responsibilities to manage the local environment. Are the ratepayers of the Rockingham area being told the truth about the ongoing maintenance costs for this development? It is all very well for the council to say we will not bear any maintenance or rehabilitation costs, but once work is under way who will ensure the developer doesn't go under and leave ratepayers with a very large and expensive white elephant. The future of the West Australian and, indeed, the Australian economy is uncertain. We have budget black holes, large companies cutting back on expenditure and staff, and a predicted housing price correction looming. Where are the dollars that are needed to pay for this development expected to come from? Tourists? A high Australian dollar is having its impact on international tourism. No one to my knowledge has done any worthwhile research into local or interstate tourism numbers so we aren't sure exactly what that will bring in.

We have been subjected to rate rises already, we are about to be slugged with more Federal taxes, governments are warning us they will be taking more, and what is this State Government and the City of Rockingham's response? "Build it and they will come". One thing I do know for sure is they won't be picking up the cost if it stuffs up, that will be up to us. There needs to be concrete assurances that no environmental damage will be done to the local fish nursery in the sound. It won't be much use having a marina if there are no fish to catch. I have spoken to a lot of locals in my time living in the Rockingham area and all tell me how good the fishing used to be before the causeway was built. Now I am told the causeway will be realigned to improve the flow throughout the sound by digging huge swath into soil that has high levels of acidity and God knows what else locked up in it.

*Karl Badstuebner
Coo loongup*

**DITCH THE CANAL PLAN
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 May 2013**

Irrespective of the claims put forward by the Mangles Bay canal proponents, there are issues surrounding the proposal which cannot be denied. The Wanliss Street Marina proposal was approved and would now be in a construction phase if it was a viable proposition on the whole. There is ample loan money available to cover it and, subject to profit level and interest rates, it could not miss unless the proposers were deliberately delaying the matter. That however, would still rely on future use and rentals without general subsidy from government.

There are few viable marinas in the world, let alone in Australia. The Mangles Bay canals is totally dependent on acquiring cheap Government land and selling it at a high price to the public with further ratepayer subsidy to that already spent. With ongoing dredging and services there is no way the development can be beneficial to anyone but the developer. It is supported by the boating clubs only because they too will acquire cheap freehold land. Were they to be required to pay market value they would think twice about it. To counter their claims, the marina will not be a benefit to Rockingham. Today's society, however, seems to be intent on having immediate gratification that's bigger and more expensive than the neighbour. So it is with the claimed "need" for the Mangles Bay canals.

When Danny Stent claims the loss to Rockingham would be massive, he is representing the chamber of commerce and all that business profit. When Phil Edman makes similar claim he is supporting his own personally declared reason for entering politics. There is no doubt that some people will profit from this proposed catastrophe but it is impossible that, should it proceed, the environment will profit. Fishing cannot profit and if past experience is to be remembered, the majority of ratepayers will not profit but be expected to subsidise the profits of the few. Rockingham, WA and Australia are

now desperately in need of statesmen/women to stem the greed of these selfish people.

*Dave Worth
Safety Bay*

**GREEN TICK FOR MARINA A MANGLED IDEA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 May 2013**

It was with total disbelief and growing concern that I heard that the Environmental Protection Authority had given conditional approval for the proposed Mangles Bay Marina. That in itself is a misnomer, as the project is mainly about developing upmarket inland canal housing and commercial facility more than it being a marina. The other main misnomer is that of the EPA itself - a body meant to protect and conserve the WA environment - not grant approval for yet another developer to destroy our bushland in order to maximise their profits. Shame on you EPA.

*Judy Byrne
Rockingham*

**THIS LAND IS FOR ALL
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 May 2013**

Regarding the proposed Mangles Bay Marina, I am extremely concerned about this outrageous proposal. The aerial photos of the area marked for destruction show clearly how precious this A-Class land is for future generations as undeveloped public space. A-Class reserves are there for a very good reason and should never be removed without an Act of Parliament.

*Mary Clark
Rockingham*

**NOISY MINORITY
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 May 2013**

I arrived in Perth in 1985 and was confronted by all sorts of protests about the Hillarys Marina. The 'experts' from California told us the sand would disappear from all the adjacent beaches. Here we are, nearly 30 years on, and Sorrento Quay is now looked upon as a great development enjoyed by people from all over WA. And guess what? The local beach environment didn't change at all.

And now we have the replay at Point Peron. The usual small, noisy minority is carrying on like a bunch of startled galahs, as they always do. Hey, let's get on with it and in 10 years' time, the whole development will be enjoyed by the quiet majority. Let's face it, the whole area is totally under-utilised, is made up of a crop of impenetrable scrub and other nondescript identities, and enjoyed by a few ferals. It's a wonderful area which can be developed into a magnificent playground that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

*David Innes
Coo loongup*

**POWERFUL PREVAIL
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 May 2013**

I am amazed that the proposed Mangles Bay marina is regarded as a good thing for the community. The reality is that our communal property will be appropriated by powerful commercial interests. In Tanzania and Kenya, tribal groups such as the Maasai are also losing their land. It is going to private and state companies who can see money in tourism, commercial farming and big-game hunting. In fact, there are striking similarities between the people of Rockingham and the Maasai. In both cases, government authorities have given approval despite numerous protests from the rightful owners. Finally, how laughable are the EPA conditions to protect the area's environmental values?

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

SPOILING A 'SPECIAL PLACE'
The Weekend West
11 May 2013

The Environmental Protection Authority has again failed to live up to its name. I can't believe that it has given conditional approval to a marina and canal development (500-pen marina sets sail for Rockingham, 30/4) metres from the beautiful Shoalwater Islands Marine Park recently described in this paper as "one of the most special places in Perth". What part about protecting our environment does the Environmental Protection Agency not understand? I beg it to reconsider before this delightful and popular tourist spot is spoiled for ever.

*Lesley Baker-Hames
 Shoalwater*

BEST WAY TO COOK YOUR OWN GOOSE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 May 2013

Grab 77 hectares of prime Point Peron public land, including 40ha of 'bush forever'. Hand it over to private developers with a hefty taxpayers' subsidy. Spread all kinds of spin to divert attention from what you are really cooking up. Bulldoze everything - bush, wildlife, holiday homes, boating and fishing facilities - the lot! Dredge a big trench through the sea grass fish nursery and cut the beach in two. Dig canals in the bulldozed land and fill with nearly stagnant water. Add seaweed, salt and acid in spades. Bake in a dirty oven. Slice into small portions and sell to the highest bidders. Put up signs about the natural wealth that once was here. Make the public pay for the never-ending clean-up and dredging.

*Ambrose Cummins
 Rockingham*

TOO MANY UNKNOWNNS
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 May 2013

Regarding the Point Peron marina, what happens when one or several of the "11 strict conditions" set out by the EPA are broken? Almost the entire length of coastline to the escarpment of WA is limestone, with hundreds of caves scattered throughout the entire area. When limestone and any caves systems are disturbed (digging the inland marina), water can easily infiltrate areas both near and far from the original excavation site.

The developers have investigated this and said it's not likely to happen, but that all numerical modelling had inherent uncertainties and there were always risks that "predicted impacts would be greater than expected."

And that's just one uncertainty, and yet the EPA still approved the development. It begs the question - what can be done after a condition is broken, to save or stop the destruction? In my opinion, nothing will be done to stop any destruction that may result.

*Penny Adams
 Shoalwater*

FROM THE WEB
DEVELOPERS CLEARING NATURAL BUSHLAND
Weekend Courier
Friday 31 May 2013

Developers clearing natural bushland, the high cost of living and rate rises elicited online comment from our readers this week.

It is very sad to see the clearing of any mature trees, whether they were planted or not. Developers complain about green tape but the evidence of horrific clearing for horrible housing developments is clear.

Margaret Owen

All the councils are desecrating the natural bushland and driving the wildlife out for development. It is sacrilegious and we need to stop it now before all our fauna and flora has been totally wiped out.

PerthWMN

Lovely sounding names like Cedar Woods and Rivergums get used to cover up the reality of what happens - 40ha of Bush Forever would be slated for destruction at Point Peron if Cedar Woods gets its way. Unless the people vote to stop them.

James Mumme

LEARN FROM PAST
Weekend Courier
Friday 31 May 2013

In response to the letter from Mr Smith, I welcome the marina, *Courier*, May 24, proper scrutiny of the plans of the proposed Mangles Bay Marina show that it is nothing like the Hillarys finger jetty style marina. Port Geographe, not Hillarys, is the closest in design and concept to the Mangles Bay proposal - a disaster from the beginning and now a multimillion dollar taxpayer liability. It is simply shocking what the local residents of Port Geographe have been put through for the last 10 years trying to have the mess cleaned up. Their residential values have also been impacted hugely by the problems.

A canal development at Point Peron would be much worse than Port Geographe. Nothing will change the fact that Mangles Bay would be the worst possible site for a marina in Rockingham because of its shallow water and lack of water circulation. Rather than bulldozing Point Peron for canal housing, let's transform the area into a coastal marine park that builds on its natural assets. And let's have a Hillarys style marina at Wanliss Street. These moves would be the most cost-effective way to attract tourists and would provide a 'real' economic boost for Rockingham.

*Dawn Jecks
 Safety Bay*

SAVE THE SEAGRASS
The Sunday Times STM
Sunday 2 June 2013

The Mangles Bay inland canal project involves dredging a channel through shallow seagrass banks to provide boating access to the canals. This will remove a large area of seagrass, an important breeding ground for many marine species, and the silt stirred up in the process will affect the rest of it. The proposed channel will require ongoing dredging because of the movement of sand in the bay, and the cost will be borne by Rockingham ratepayers, not the developers. A good example of sand movement can be seen in the amount regularly dredged from the Point Peron boat ramp area.

*Don Crockford
 Dianella*

CANALS WILL CONTAMINATE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 12 June 2013

So our wise councillors think the canals at Point Peron will bring prosperity to the region. I wonder if people will still come fishing and crabbing when their catch is contaminated with mercury? Who will want to swim with the dolphins and cruise our beautiful Shoalwater Islands .when wildlife is sick and dying? You are backing up a dead horse, councillors.

*Dominique Griffiths
 Rockingham*

NOTED DIFFERENCES
Weekend Courier
Friday 7 June 2013

I'm so glad that Phil Edman is keen about Hillarys' marina. But how realistic is a comparison of Hillarys with the Mangles Bay marina? Hillarys is in the sea where a marina should be, not inland. Hillarys is flushed by the Indian Ocean, not in the bottom of an already polluted sheltered sound. Hillarys is not a canal estate development. Mangles Bay would take 10 years to construct with constant impacts on local roads and residents. Hillarys had no strong public opposition. The best comparison is Port Geographe marina at Busselton. That marina is also in the bottom of a large bay and has prevailing winds dumping pollution onto it. That planning shemozzle has cost the public more than \$40 million so far and it was far less risky than what Mr Edman wants for Rockingham. Instead let's have Port Rockingham (Wanliss Street) marina. With it, Rockingham could have it all - marina, thriving restaurants, bush, seagrass, fish and peace of mind.

*James Mumme
 Shoalwater*

LAND PROTECTED
Weekend Courier
Friday 14 June 2013

The argument regarding the marina in Mangles Bay/Point Peron has been going on since the Gallop Government studies to see if it was feasible. This was unlike the mayor's so called survey, which was a slip of paper in the local newspaper that reached very few residents. It was then stated that the majority was for the marina/canal redevelopment. How can this be true when so many did not receive the survey? The land was transferred to all of WA in 1964 on condition that when leases for holiday camps expired the future use of the land was for public recreation and/or parklands. Eventually, the entire area was to become an A-class reserve. This land cannot be taken by anyone. At a recent meeting, I was told by a LandCorp representative that the decline of the sea grass meadows in Cockburn Sound was due to scallop dredging. This shows how little they know or care. Premier David Brand in 1964 gave permission for 350 tonnes of effluent to be discharged in any one day, which mainly included gypsum, but also heavy metals and mercury, into the Sound. Scallops were only dredged in the Sound between 1970-1973 on areas that were devoid of seagrass or vegetation.

*Allan Gade
Conservation of
Rockingham Environment
Hillman*

LIBERALS POSE A THREAT TO POINT PERON
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 3 July 2013

As a person who cares about our environment I am deeply concerned because there is a lot more at stake this Federal election than most people seem to realise. Many of us were shocked by the EPA's decision to grant conditional approval of the risky and destructive canal housing/marina and high-rise development proposed in the middle of our public regional parkland at Point Peron. We already know that our environmental protection laws are stacked in favour of the developers and they need fixing, but Mr Abbott has promised, if elected, he will get rid of existing so called 'red tape and green tape'. With Labor polling so poorly it seems to me that the only way we can stop Mr Abbott from further weakening our environmental protection laws is if the Greens have the balance of power in the Senate. If Mr Abbott was to end up controlling both houses of Federal Parliament it would spell disaster for Point Peron. Let's hope this does not happen.

*Ellen Steel
Orelia*

ISSUE STINKS
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 July 2013

Twenty-four years ago, the Environmental Protection Authority failed the people of Western Australia dismally when it approved the Port Geographe marina. Approval was given despite oceanographers advising that disruption of longshore drift would result in accretion of marine-borne detritus at the site.

Decades of social cost and millions of taxpayer dollars later the people of Western Australia are again expected to tolerate construction of a socially and environmentally destructive marina; this time on public land between Mangles Bay and Lake Richmond. An EPA condition for approval is that the developer gives the Department of Environment and Conservation \$450,000 to "preserve values"; this will definitely not be enough to cover environmental damage that is certain to arise from this project so it'll be more public millions needed for cleaning up another improper marina development.

The whole thing stinks of it (excuse pun). Rockingham deserves its marina and as a marine scientist and local citizen I feel that the Wanliss Street site is environmentally acceptable and socially excellent. Let's keep building on the vibrancy at the foreshore by putting the marina there and take the opportunity to create a multi-use "Kings Park by the coast" at Cape Peron, a place for nature, locals and visitors. It'll be awesome.

*Gavin Kewan
Warnbro*

SCALLOP DREDGING DID NOT CAUSE DECLINE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 June 2013

This argument regarding the marina in Mangles Bay/Point Peron has been going on since the Gallop government, which started studies to see if it was feasible. Not like the so called survey by the mayor; a slip of paper in the local paper which reached very few residents, then stating the majority were for the marina/canal development. How could this be true when many never received the survey or paper?

The land was transferred to all of WA in 1964 on the condition when leases for holiday camps expired future use of land was for public recreation and/or parklands, eventually the entire area was to become an A-class reserve. In regards to Cedar Woods, LandCorp and council claiming land that doesn't belong to them, in my own, and others', opinion this is nothing short of theft. At a recent CIF meeting I was told by a LandCorp representative the decline of the sea grass meadows in the Sound was due to scallop dredging. This proves how little they know or care. The fact is then Premier David Brand in 1964 gave permission to CSBP to discharge 350 tons of effluent in any one day, which mainly included gypsum but also heavy metals and mercury into the Sound. Scallops were only dredged in Cockburn Sound between 1970-1973 on areas that were devoid of seagrass or vegetation.

*Allan Gade
Conservation of Rockingham
Environment*

MAKE THE MOST OF POINT PERON
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 17 July 2013

Point Peron is a truly unique piece of coastline and we are lucky enough to have it on our doorstep. It may be a bit run down and in need of some care and attention, but I believe it could offer the people of Rockingham, the surrounding areas and indeed the State, a fantastic recreational area that could rival Kings Park. I also believe it has what the people and specifically our children in this area need - space to walk or run, to explore and to grow, knowing the feeling of freedom such space offers. As designated public open space, our council should do the right thing by all the people of Rockingham and embrace the challenge of producing a park that enhances what is already there. Bush regeneration, park planning, picnic areas, playgrounds, pathways; lookouts, information boards, park managing and maintenance, wildlife hospital, eco zone - even a coffee shop/restaurant or two would add to the attraction of an already remarkable area and would create jobs, many of which would be ongoing. Please do the right thing for our children and for the environment - leave Point Peron as it is or if budgets allow, enhance and improve the coastal and bushland setting and give us a magnificent park.

*Rachel Phillips
Safety Bay*

MARINA PLAN LACKS VISION
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 June 2013

I class myself as a social democrat liberal with Green DNA and although I am not a greenie, my view on the Mangles Bay Marina development aligns with that of Dawn Jecks' opinion (A taxpayer liability, 5/6). While I have been unsuccessful in locating supposed alternative development plans promoted by Hands Off Point Peron, it has got to be a better solution than the diabolic canal idea. There is no doubt whatsoever the current cape reserve area needs attention. I am not talking about the point area, with emphasis on recreational public access, making it an exciting experience and safe and convenient. There is certainly room for an element of residential/commercial/entertainment development, intelligently woven into the natural assets of the cape environment.

The current proposal promoted by LandCorp and Cedar Woods is entirely bogan in concept and bereft of vision, lacking acknowledgement of where we are headed in the 21st century. A dug out canal development is no more than a crass assault on the environment. If it goes ahead, an exciting opportunity has been missed for designing and developing the cape reserve, applying cutting edge design and renewable technologies. Why should we as a community settle for a risky third rate solution, rather than aiming at having our cake and eat it too? Let us develop the cape reserve and have the marina at Wanliss Street.

*Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater*

REAL ISSUE REMAINS
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 September 2013

Well, the time has come to make a decision on who is to govern the country. I can't do with all the TV debates and hoo ha, so I have decided to look closer to home as to who I believe, regardless of their political party, will do the best for Brand and West Australians. For me, the local issue with which I have huge concerns is allowing our State Government to give land to a developer. Federal Government's involvement is in that it ceded the land to this State for a particular public purpose and it should be able to veto the change of use. Which party wins the election or which State has which government is not really the issue. It is the setting a precedence where land given to a State or Territory for

a particular purpose (in this case parks and recreation) can be allowed to take the land and change its purpose completely. If the Federal Government cannot step in and stop this and make a State Government honour the original agreement, what confidence can anybody have in the protection of land for such things as "bush forever" or designated parks.

In Brand this is Point Peron, but it could be a piece of land in any State. My argument is not about whether we have a marina or not, but about setting a precedence. There would be outrage if Kings Park was sold to a developer, but will the precedence be set where the State could?

*Jane Lutz
Rockingham*

CITY SHOULD INVEST IN SHOALWATER BAY RESERVE

**Letter of the Week
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 16 October 2013**

In response to last week's front page story, (Jetty's future still unclear), it beggars belief that the jetty doesn't come under general upkeep and maintenance with Rockingham City Council. Shoalwater Bay Reserve and Penguin Island are the environmental jewel in Rockingham's crown. It is all very well having the foreshore pristine and maintained for events that bring the visitors. It is a beaut spot to spend the day just for the sea and sand.

Meanwhile around the corner, at Shoalwater Bay, it's native and natural. That doesn't mean it should be neglected. It's time the council invested in the asset that is Shoalwater Bay Reserve. Rockingham Wild Encounter's Terry Howson runs an educational and essential service at Mersey Point, plus, on occasions, he has acted as a lifesaver when foolhardy tourists walk the sandbank. He shouldn't have to contribute to something that essentially is the council's responsibility. I'm a ratepayer, and would rather see my rates spent at Mersey Point, instead of funding investigations into developing the Point Peron area.

Vanessa H. Dewey-Adams

SEA MARINA OBVIOUS PICK FOR FORESHORE

**Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 29 January 2014**

I was interested to read your Street View column (*Telegraph*, 22/01) in which you called for views on ways to attract more businesses to Rockingham foreshore. Implementation of the stalled plan for a 500-pen sea marina at Port Rockingham would seem to provide an obvious way to reinvigorate the area. The foreshore has become increasingly popular with locals and visitors, as evidenced on weekends and school holidays when it is almost impossible to find a parking spot. With some vision and financial backing, Rockingham could have a facility to rival Hillarys Boat Harbour and Fremantle's Fishing Boat Harbour. It would sensible for authorities to channel their energies into supporting the construction of a sea marina at Port Rockingham, in an area that is already popular with the public and which needs to stimulate its businesses, rather than construct an environmentally destructive inland marina at Mangles Bay.

*Ron Chapman
Waikiki*

RATEPAYERS WARNED

**Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 February 2014**

Well, we can't say we weren't warned of what to expect from dredging on the sea front if the proposed Mangles Bay/Point Peron marina goes ahead. Rockingham ratepayers already pay more than \$100,000 a year to dredge the access to the boat ramps at the other side of the causeway at Point Peron. As ratepayers and State taxpayers we are paying more than \$100,000 to clear the channel to Bent Street Jetty in Safety Bay. This dredge has been sitting off the coast all summer spewing silt and grey sand all along our beautiful beach, fouling the water and probably causing the mass fish kills.

The pipe from the dredge to the beach has been obstructing the sea where the wind surfers and kite surfers race across the bay. There have been no markers to show where the pipe is and dozens of kite surfers have hit the pipe causing damage to boards, costing hundreds of dollars. And all this to dredge what was a natural channel. What can we expect from dredging for a new channel deep enough for yacht keels, located in a shallow bay where only jet boats can go, through sea grass beds which are only just surviving the present conditions? There will probably be a charge on marina users to keep the channel open but in the long term there is no doubt some of the costs will be on us ratepayers.

We know what to expect.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

MARINA CRUCIAL

**Weekend Courier
Friday 7 March 2014**

I have lived in Rockingham since 1968 and witnessed Mandurah's rapid marina development with the corresponding tourist hotel and entertainment expansions. These projects have created many local and boosted tourist numbers. In Rockingham, known as Perth's aquatic centre, we don't even have an international five-star hotel in the beautiful Palm Beach area. Yes, we need Mangles Bay Marina. The area proposed for the development is the local rubbish dump and is completely uncared for by the community. The marina is desperately needed as a tourist and educational marine precinct to create employment, especially for our youth. I don't see many objections from our young people to the construction of the marina.

It's nothing to do with environment: that's the EPA and scientists' job. Rockingham needs this marina to keep our youth employed and for the City to prepare to counter any downturn in activity in the area's ageing chemical processing industries. Many are old and still operating with high-energy costs, outdated technologies and low productivity. I think these industries are under the microscope of the multinational companies that own them. To keep these industries here (hopefully to spend capital to meet these challenges) we need to provide community support and maintain a skilled, youthful workforce. We have no hope of keeping our youth unless we create a vibrant, challenging and entertaining environment. The marina project will go a long way to achieving this.

*Tom Stanners,
Rockingham*

LET IT HAPPEN

**Weekend Courier
Friday 7 March 2014**

I have been living in Rockingham for 12 years and I am enjoying the fact that each year it seems to be getting more and more vibrant, a real holiday atmosphere. I believe Mangles Bay would only add to this and then at last Rockingham will be on the map. It is about time this minority group opposing Mangles Bay admitted defeat and let it happen. Because of LandCorp's involvement in the project, I feel we have a far greater chance of it being a huge success.

*Barry Hylands,
Rockingham*

SMARTER MOVE

**Weekend Courier
Friday 21 March 2014**

Proponents of Mangles Bay marina claimed in last week's edition that we should build the marina for economic benefits. However, I suggest that we examine what's really on offer rather than the proponents' exciting hub sales pitch. Contractually, the developers are only required to dig the holes, carve up the land and sell the residential blocks. Investors then have to be found to build boat pens and everything else. With the developers of the Coogee marina struggling to sell blocks, we risk ending up with a deserted construction site or at best, private canal housing and nothing more. Other marinas along the metropolitan coastline are also struggling, including Hillarys, Dolphin Quay in Mandurah, Cockburn and even Fisherman's Wharf in Fremantle, where restaurants have had to close and remain empty. With no passing traffic and no existing infrastructure, why would any investor sink their money into another commercial hub at Pt Peron in the present financial climate?

Clearly, the smartest move to create jobs and boost the local economy would be to get behind the EPA and council-approved Port Rockingham marina on the Rockingham beach cafe strip close to existing infrastructure. Unlike the Mangles Bay proposal, Pt Rockingham marina is a genuine Hillarys style marina "in the sea" with existing deep water and relatively free of problems. Why ruin the shallow seagrass meadows and snorkelling trails in Mangles Bay that draw tourists from all over the world? Studies show that tourists are not interested in modern man-made canal developments. Tourists tell researchers they want to see nature and natural environments. I agree that Pt Peron has been neglected and is in need of a facelift, but it would be far more valuable to the local economy and WA as a tourist and day tripper destination. It is much smarter to clean up and turn Pt Peron into a real drawcard for tourists by building on its natural attractions and then build the Port Rockingham marina in order to create real long-term jobs.

*Dawn Jacks,
Safety Bay.*

DEVELOPMENT QUERY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 9 April 2014

Under what current law is the City of Rockingham able to give permission for a private company to develop housing blocks to be sold to private owners on a public reserve? This is regarding the proposed Point Peron Marina development and/or any future developments on public lands.

Mai Hughes
Waikiki

SUPPORTERS, SPEAK OUT
Weekend Courier
Friday 18 April 2014

I have followed with keen interest the debate regarding the Mangles Bay marina since the proposal was first re-tabled in council (historically there was an earlier submission, I believe, in 1986, so this is not a recent idea). I made an effort to research the facts, read the council meeting minutes and the EPA reports. I have also read the numerous and often amusing letters to your paper. The letter from Dawn Jecks in the March 21 edition headlined "Smarter move" is the only one that has prompted me to reply. It seems that the noisy minority are now clutching at straws to have the marina rejected and find any reason to rob our boating community of a safe harbour. Our local economy needs the huge boost the development will provide by creating both long and short term jobs in a variety of sectors, to bring life and vibrancy to what now amounts to an underused area and truly begin to make Rockingham the aquatic playground it has always claimed to be.

The one thing Ms Jecks and I agree on is Point Peron in its entirety needs a makeover, but Point Peron is not Mangles Bay. I'm convinced that there is a hidden huge support for the Mangles Bay marina and it is about time that, through these columns, that support should be heralded. Come on supporters: don't allow the naysayers to stop the most dynamic development Rockingham has ever seen. Not only the boaties, but also the entire community will benefit from the marina.

Peta Croft
Rockingham

QUESTION REMAINS
Weekend Courier
Friday 2 May 2014

Peta Croft (Supporters Speak Out, *Courier*, April 18) is right about one thing; there is a noisy minority of Mangles Bay marina development naysayers. At the same time, one has the feeling that the Rockingham community overall is not overly concerned about the development, yet one senses there is a sizeable non-vocal support for the Mangles Bay development to succeed.

The Point Peron peninsula reserve definitely needs hands-on attention and the Mangles Bay development is intrinsically linked with this. No development, no upgrade to the peninsula reserve: the only beneficiaries from doing nothing are the leaseholders, whereas the Rockingham community misses out. The question remains however, is the marina development concept really the smartest idea, when possibly something far more visionary and sophisticated could have been conceived through a nationwide or international design competition? As for the marina, we can have it at the end of Wanliss Street and I question why this apparently doesn't gel with Peta Croft and the boaties?

I am in favour of a Point Peron peninsula reserve that serves the Rockingham community with fantastic recreational facilities and public amenities. Access is by bitumen sealed walk and bike paths with great lookouts spaced along the entire length from Arcadia Drive to Hymus Street, integrating the cape reserve on the way. The trick is to make it a tasteful, exciting attraction. Cars are, of course, not excluded, but presently the only safe way to access the Cape Peron peninsula is by car and that is a disgrace in the 21st century.

Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater

MARINA BENEFITS DON'T OUTWEIGH RISK
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 May 2014

Re noisy minorities (Peta Croft, Supporters speak out, *Courier*, April 18, and Jarl Andersen, Questions remain, *Courier*, May 2), people said that kind of thing about Emily Pankhurst 100 years ago, agitating for votes for women, or about Gandhi wanting independence for India or about Nelson Mandela. But the point about Cape Peron is not numbers, but what's best for our community. And in my view, the supposed benefits do not outweigh the risks of an inland

marina to seagrass, penguins, whiting, crabs, lobsters, snapper, Lake Richmond, road safety, and to us the ratepayers who will have to pay to fix up any mess once the developer has cleaned up and gone.

This is what has happened at Port Geographe, Yunderup, Lancelin and Mandurah. Jarl Anderson is right. Instead, we need a 'visionary and sophisticated' plan for the Cape, not a canal side housing development with a four lane highway cutting through the reserve. Building on CALM'S 2003 management plan, Preserve Point Peron group put its tiny resources into the Community Vision for Cape Peron Coastal Park. Let's have our marina at Wanliss Street and improve the rest of the foreshore.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

DISTANT BENEFITS
Weekend Courier
Friday 13 June 2014

Further to Scott Ludlam's comments in last week's *Courier* about the Mangles Bay marina development, in 50 years nothing of community significance has happened with the Point Peron cape reserve. This piece of prime public real estate has been allowed to remain in a state of neglect, except providing successive WA governments with rental income from a collection of tenants. Unimaginative one might say. A deal is a deal is not a deal depending on who is being asked. There is an idealistic view blind to the reality that without financial incentives, the WA Government whether of the one or the other persuasion, is unlikely to spend taxpayers' money on Point Peron. This is the crux of the matter.

A development of some sort designed to deliver at least cost neutrality to the WA taxpayers is the aim. There is nothing in it for the Liberals; Rockingham is not their turf. Labor is in no mood for altruism and is conspicuously non-committal; their vote is safe. Gary Gray and Mark McGowan are no doubt preoccupied with more important issues than worrying about cosmetic surgery to a piece of shrub land of potential great recreational value to the people of Rockingham. Quite apart from the environmental harm, the sheer logistical impact of the marina development would subject the surrounding community to a nightmarish construction site scenario for years. Given free-market vagaries, the development is likely to take equal years to consolidate financially. The cape reserve itself will be the last to receive attention, so any benefits to the Rockingham community will be a very long way off.

Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater

A DIVISIVE DEVELOPMENT
Weekend Courier
Friday 27 June 2014

The proposed Mangles Bay Marina is a step closer to becoming a reality with State Environment Minister Albert Jacobs signing off on conditional environmental approval for the controversial project.

"Hillarys Boat Harbour is the number two tourist attraction in WA. We don't want to replicate Hillarys but make it unique to Rockingham and be the number one attraction."
Cedar Woods state manager Stuart Duplock

"This proposal in reality is a brazen attempt to steal highly valuable public land for a private canal housing estate."
Hands off Point Peron founder Dawn Jeck

"I'm keen to see how it develops, because it's a magnificent venue."
City of Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels

"Economic sustainability for the region is vital; it's not just about providing a safe haven for boats."
South Metropolitan Region MLC Phil Edman

"It's a huge knock against those who participated in protests against the project, but I think it will intensify opposition."
Greens Senator for WA Scott Ludlam

FROM THE WEB
Weekend Courier
Friday 27 June 2014

There was reaction on Facebook to the news that the Mangles Bay Marina has taken a significant step towards being realised following WA Environment Minister Albert Jacob giving conditional environmental approval for the project late last week.

"I enjoy living in Rockingham as it's got an old-school feel to it. Start building marinas and high rises and the city will just turn into Mandurah." **Joe Ford**

"Bring on the marina. Rockingham needs a boost - **Dianne Webb**

"I am happy with this development, but there would have been less damage to the environment if Wanliss St had been chosen." - **Valma Powning**

"Would have preferred Wanliss St but happy for Mangles Bay. Rockingham is ripe for development and I can't wait - **Simon Brown**

"It's great to know that our Government is willing to trash the environment. Not only will the area be destroyed, but Lake Richmond and the thrombolites will be poisoned. - **Kenneth Russell**

Yet it recommended the total destruction of 40 hectares of Bush Forever at Pt Peron, fragmenting the whole of the Cape against advice from Department of Environment and Conservation scientists and at the same time further risking two unique threatened ecological communities at Lake Richmond. I wonder if the reason is that the authority feels able to knock back Armadale council but not powerful interests in the State Government. This is the same authority that the Abbott Government wants to rely on to assess almost all environmental impacts in future. Help ... we do need a truly independent, fearless authority to protect our environment.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

PLENTY TO BE PROUD OF WITHOUT DEVELOPERS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 2 July 2014
PRIDE OR SHAME
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 July 2014

Apparently "it's about time Rockingham had something to be proud of", therefore we need a marina at Cape Peron / Mangles Bay, both of them misnomers for the reality, which would be an inland housing estate with boating access, probably beyond the purses of local people. Well that's strange. We have an enviable climate; gorgeous summers, perfect springs and autumns and short, restorative winters. We have a superb coastline with a choice of sandy beaches, bays, dunes, a magnificent rocky headland at Cape Peron, the unique Lake Richmond, and always a sheltered side, whichever way the wind blows. We have wildlife such as penguins, dolphins, sea lions, sea eagles, pelicans and terns, to name a few. If we add to this the wild open spaces of Cockburn Sound, Cape Peron, Safety Bay and our wonderful islands, we should already be bursting with pride.

We shouldn't need 10 years of destruction, touted as construction, to make us feel good about ourselves. And I find it hard to believe the propaganda about local jobs and property prices. A look at history will reveal some horrors. Some people will tell us anything to get what they want. Yes, bring on a marina, but in the more suitable place, Port Rockingham, Wanliss Street, Wake up Australia. "Bush Forever" actually means "until the developers and politicians want it". This is an issue we should be really angry about. What we may well end up feeling about ourselves is shame, that so many of us allowed ourselves to be duped.

Pauline Dilley
Shoalwater

MANY WILL OPPOSE NEW MARINA AND POINT PERON
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 2 July 2014

I would like to make it clear that there are many, many people who oppose the Mangles Bay Marina wholeheartedly. Mr Duplock does not represent the many local and visiting people who insist the land is for public open space with no marina and will not give up on this. There is no way that we will ever support the proposed Point Peron development. The consequences of it would be devastation of a pristine coastal treasure.

Rachel Jane Buckeridge
Shoalwater

WRONG LOCATION
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 July 2014

Your article headlined "Marina is one step closer" (*Courier*, June 27) includes a photograph of a section of beach at Mangles Bay purporting to show the location of the site for the proposed Mangles Bay Marina-based tourism precinct. This is incorrect. The proposed marina will not be constructed on the beach or even in Mangles Bay. It will be an environmentally destructive inland marina that encroaches on a portion of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park that was established in 1997 and designated in 2000 as a "Bush Forever" site by the Western Australian Government. Most importantly, the proposed inland marina development will contravene the spirit of a 1964 agreement when the land was transferred from the Commonwealth to the State Government on condition that its future use would be restricted to a reserve for public recreation or park land.

Ron Chapman, chairman
Hands Off Point Peron Group

MARINA QUESTIONS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 9 July 2014

It is good to see Cedar Woods and Landcorp's latest advertisement is more up-front. They now say they will provide only "opportunities" or "space" for affordable family holiday accommodation, boating clubs, boat pens and a marine science centre. Who will build these and what will the spaces cost? Can the boating clubs afford pens and buildings? If nothing at all gets built, will we get a dusty hole in Point Peron? They claim "the precinct will create marine, tourist and public recreational facilities". Cedar Woods won't do this. The precinct will. How?

This is nothing more than spin. More significant is what they don't mention: 10 years of pile-driving, dredging and trucking. What will this do to property values in Palm Beach, Anchorage and Shoalwater? Who would buy a block next door to pile-drivers? Who will pay if canal water goes putrid, canals silt up, walls get concrete cancer, sinkholes swallow houses, seagrass beds die and Lake Richmond goes salty? I bet the developer will have flown with their profits and the council or Landcorp (rate and taxpayers) will pay.

This is what happened with Busselton, Yunderup, Jurien and Mandurah marinas. They don't mention the Rockingham council wisely voted against managing the project. Who, then, will manage it? They also don't mention that the Federal Environment Minister commissioned an independent study of groundwater because he was not happy with what our Environmental Protection Authority provided. He has not yet reported. What is the problem? I call on Cedar Woods and Phil Edman to answer these questions before it's too late.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

SITE OCCUPIED
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 July 2014

Given the Mangles Bay development issue, the "disputed" territory known as Mangles Bay can now be known as "occupied" by the developer Cedar Woods.

Douglas Pritchard
Wellard

DECISION PUZZLES
Weekend Courier
Friday 4 July 2014

Some good news at last: our Environmental Protection Authority has recommended the protection of a Bush Forever site. Congratulations to Paul Vogel, his board and the staff but I am puzzled by something. The authority protects an Armadale site from a road taking less than five hectares because "the road would fragment a highly biologically diverse bushland ... impact on the ecological integrity of the reserve through the fragmentation of ecological communities and ... change hydrological processes to impact the range and diversity of the micro inhabitants."

STREET VIEW
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 9 July 2014

I support the marina but north of the foreshore, not at Mangles Bay, because there would be less damage to the environment. - **Maureen Maiolo, Rockingham**

I think the marina is a good idea and would bring more people to Rockingham. - **Sam Read, Port Kennedy**

I think it's a good idea and can't see anything wrong with it so long as the contractors look after the environment. - **Sandra King, Melbourne**

No. I think they should leave it alone. The marina is unnatural and creates erosion, and would bring too many people to the area. - **Darryl Dean, Rockingham**

I don't know why we should have to pay for the continued dredging. It's a shame to lose the beach, it should not be turned into concrete. - **Robert Clwghessy, Rockingham**

For tourist purposes, I think it's a good idea. - **Terence Decourcy, Kinross**

CLEAR PROOF
Weekend Courier
Friday 25 July 2014

It was strange to read that there was to be an investigation into beach erosion at Waikiki Beach (Eye on beach erosion, Courier, July 18). Rockingham council must suffer from memory problems. It was only a matter of some years ago that there was a very costly construction of a buried granite seawall to solve that very problem. Other coastal towns have proof that wind, water and people pressure inevitably defeat man-made structures. Well, we have proof now from our coastal engineering officer, "because we actively monitor the site, now we know it's eroding."

Council's solution to the problem is more money spent on monitoring and then, guess what, more infrastructure. That is its answer when it comes to the protection of our precious coast. For instance, the Pt Peron marina and housing development, aka "Mangles Bay Marina-Based Tourist Proposal", is apparently going ahead. Council could have rejected that project from the beginning but didn't despite knowing the destruction and degradation it would cause to marine life and dune vegetation. No matter what platitudes are given by authorities, the fact behind such a massive re-engineering of our coastal haven is annihilation of all life that flourished there. Moreover, a place given to the people in 1964 for recreational enjoyment will be gone forever.

J. Pommerin
Safety Bay

INSURANCE RISK
Weekend Courier
Friday 25 July 2014

Look at Pt Peron in the UBD Perth map book. It is coloured green and is part of the massive Rockingham Lakes Regional Park for any Australian or tourist to visit and be awestruck by this spectacular, unique coastal park. Under what process does Cedar Woods and the Liberal Party propose to desecrate it by chopping it up into canals and residential blocks for some future obsession with money, power and greed? The proposed blocks of land are uninsurable for tsunamis, rising sea levels and winter storm inundation. Tony Abbott and Colin Barnett are not the future for Pt Peron and Australia.

Geoffrey Stuart
Safety Bay

FLAWS REVEALED
Weekend Courier
Friday 25 July 2014

Reports about a four-metre great white shark washed up dead on a Geraldton beach confirm some of the most obvious flaws in the WA Government's drum lining strategy. First, we heard that members of the public repeatedly try to save a great white that had stranded itself off the beach, at personal risk to themselves - one must assume that they are not part of the Premier's imagined "silent majority" who support his desire to exterminate large sharks off our beaches. Secondly, descriptions of this shark match the species and size of shark that the Government aimed to kill this summer (albeit while failing to do so), yet we also learn this great white had been fitted with an acoustic tag by researchers in South Australia.

This highlights one of the main policy "fails" of the Government's drum lining strategy. On one hand, it spends taxpayer funds on WA having a world-class acoustic array and large shark tagging and tracking system so that we can learn more about the shark hazard, including by working with research organisations in South Australia, but on the other hand it plans to spend millions of dollars killing the same animals. The Government is yet to produce an answer as to what it would do if its drum lines captured a large white great white fitted with an acoustic tag, at considerable expense and effort by either our own Fisheries Department, South Australian authorities or the CSIRO. If this were to occur, the Government would have some serious apologising to do, not just to the research organisations whose research it has jeopardised but also to WA taxpayers for wasting their money.

Lynn MacLaren MLC
Greens Member for
South Metropolitan Region

HEED SCIENCE
Weekend Courier
Friday 8 August 2014

In December, 2012, it was reported that the sea level along Perth's coastline was rising at three times the global average, averaging nine to 10 millimetres a year. Moreover, this May it was reported that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet had begun to collapse. Scientists hope that the collapse will occur slowly over centuries. However, this is something over which they have no control and due to wilful inaction by many world leaders on reducing global emissions, the collapse of the ice sheet is predicted to accelerate. The Government may have repealed the carbon tax, but only very foolish politicians would ignore the science of climate change and the associated issue of sea level rise when planning coastal developments such as those in Port Kennedy and Point Peron.

Leonie Stubbs
Singleton

BROKEN MOORINGS CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 27 August 2014

Are we now going to hear Phil Edman calling for boat pens in Fremantle Harbour? Apparently even rather large ships can break their moorings. Boats breaking mooring appears to be the original excuse he used when putting forward the destructive idea of the marina at Point Peron. After what happened at Fremantle, it appears it can happen to any boat or ship any time they are not secured properly or there are excessive winds.

Diane MacDonald
Safety Bay

RARE COCKY MORE THAN 'JUST A BIRD'
Editorial
By John Dobson - Editor
Weekend Courier
Friday 29 August 2014

Spotting the majestic Carnaby's black cockatoo in local skies is becoming a much rarer sight, as our report on the front page makes clear. An occasional glimpse of the bird revives hope that the threatened species is still finding roosts and food sources in a dwindling number of pockets of local bushland. Over the past two decades the amount of bushland in regions such as Baldivis, Wellard, Wandi and Bertram has dramatically decreased as swathes of woodlands are bulldozed for housing developments. Of course people need homes, but our unending thirst for urban sprawl is taking its toll on native wildlife. I'm sure many will say, "it's just a bird, so what?". However, surely we can evolve our practices and lifestyles to help just one species of cockatoo that is found only in the south-west corner of WA to survive.

weekendcourier@communitynews.com.au

The traveller sees what he sees; the tourist sees what he has come to see.

Author G.K. Chesterton

OTHER PLANET
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 September 2014

I have two responses to your report in the September 5 edition headlined "Fight to the top". One is that it is not "Mangles Bay Marina". It is a canal estate development. They are proposing to dig up the land, not stick something in the ocean. It will not be "a Hillarys-type marina". There has been approval at Wanliss Street for a "Hillarys-type marina", which would use the café strip already in place.

Secondly, "South Metropolitan MLC Phil Edman said perceptions the Mangles Bay Marina would result in environmental or recreational losses for the Rockingham community and surrounds were wrong" - what planet is he on? The planet I'm on requires sea grass to feed the wildlife chain that they will dig up for the canal estate development. There is mercury that they will stir up. In addition, this is something that no one will pay to upkeep so it will fall on us the ratepayers and taxpayers. I, for one, do not want my hard earned money going to the destruction of something that I live here to see.

*Deanne Moulden
Waikiki*

SAVE THESE WETLANDS
Sunday Times
Sunday 14 September 2014

To the people of Cockburn, and all who wish to see our remaining wetlands treated with the respect they deserve: May I draw your attention to a precious little wetland on the vacant space allocated for the Cockburn aquatic recreation centre and Fremantle Football Club training fields? Education studies show the water of this wetland to be of high quality and sustaining a varied and healthy population of waterborne animal and plant life. The development plans call for it to be modified and manicured to the point of destroying its natural functions and appearance. With about 70 per cent of our wetlands destroyed since European settlement began, we must now ensure those that remain are protected and preserved for wildlife and people to enjoy. If you share these concerns, let Landcorp know of them.

R Sallur, Bibra Lake

**WATER SALINITY ALSO HAS EFFECT ON
WILDLIFE**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 24 September 2014

The article (Senator raises concerns over risks to bores from marina, 3/9) noted the Greens' Scott Ludlam's concerns about the health of Lake Richmond and neighbouring bore water systems if the Mangles Bay marina goes ahead. I am a Shoalwater resident and am deeply concerned at the attitude of Cedar Woods managing director Paul Sadleir who said if our bore water became saline, scheme water would be provided. Mr Sadleir needs to realise that if my bore water becomes salty, so will Lake Richmond and every man-made lake in the area which gets run-off from Lake Richmond. How long will Cedar Woods provide scheme water? Who will pay for it? More importantly, where will the local pelicans go? They need fresh water to survive. Build the marina at Wanliss Street, leave the development of Point Peron to environmentalists.

*Vanessa Dewey-Adams
Shoalwater*

MAKE A STAND
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 September 2014

It was with sadness that I read the recent Courier reports headlined "Countdown to Carnaby's" and "Penguins on the march". Interestingly, there is a Federal Government environmental assessment for a canal development that will affect these two species either directly or indirectly through loss of habitat, which has been approved by State and local authorities. Therefore, while the loss of habitat fundamental to the survival of these iconic species appears to be sanctioned, when we actually lose these species it is front-page news.

Have you ever heard of the expression too little, too late? The arguments that the environmental impacts of development are not significant and therefore acceptable, works fine in isolation. However, when across Perth you have hundreds of such "low or no" impact events, the combined effect becomes significant. It is the old adage of death by a thousand cuts. Therefore, should we strive for truly sustainable development or accept that we are responsible for the loss of some truly amazing creatures. People have the power to make a stand for these species that cannot.

*L. Metz
Waikiki*

MOTHS FRAGILE
Weekend Courier
Friday 26 September 2014

In an advertisement "the latest facts" by the developer of the Mangles Bay Marina, it is stated that this is primarily a marina development and not a canal development. One can see that this is a sensitive issue for Cedar Woods as canal estates have been banned in NSW and Victoria. The real fact is that there is a canal area, which will require ongoing dredging, as will the marina. There is another statement in an environmental review by the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Steering Committee (to progress the development): "The

area affected by the proposed development will result in a loss of habitat that is locally significant to fauna but is unlikely to be rich in fauna. "The loss of habitat is not expected to adversely affect the conservation status or regional abundance of any faunal species."

The reality is that the mat-rush habitat of the Graceful Sun Moth will be cleared. The moth's larvae are only known to feed on two closely related species of *Lomandra maritima* (mat-rushes) where they pupate for the next 11 months. Although no moths were observed in a 2011 survey, this is still their habitat and it should be retained and protected. Any presumption that it and the mat rush will continue to exist when relocated is subject to so many ifs and buts that the moth would pass away at the thought. In Victoria, the Eltham Copper Butterfly was rediscovered after it was believed to be extinct. Similar to our moth, the main populations occurred in small bushland patches in the middle of suburbia. Every care and attention is now given to make sure it continues to live.

Our small and fragile Sun Moth is dependent on us, and we are dependent on its "butterfly effect" in nature. This effect is the notion that the smallest factor can affect complex systems, not necessarily in the same area. Therefore, the tiniest movement of a moth's wing here could set off a significant weather change on the other side of the world. The Graceful Sun Moth would be a worthy icon for the Hands Off Point Peron group in its opposition to the canal estate proposed by Cedar Woods and LandCorp.

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

GOVERNMENT SHOULD HEART MARINA VIEWS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 1 October 2014

It was heartening to read the Federal decision on Cedar Woods marina development at Point Peron has been delayed until October for further consideration. It is the people who live here and frequently use this area who love it and want it to remain natural. Rockingham residents know how fragile this beautiful area is and shudder at the potential consequences of the proposed development. The Point Peron, Rockingham and Shoalwater area is frequently visited by people from Perth, interstate and overseas and many people have moved here because of the beautiful environment. Please hear what we locals want. We want our Point Peron to remain open and free for all to enjoy and our local environment, wildlife and marine life preserved. This is surely evidenced by the thousands of signatures collected on petitions.

*Tricia Marie
Shoalwater*

WILDLIFE VERY PRECIOUS
Weekend Courier
Friday 3 October 2014

It is with sadness and dismay that we see our bushland and trees destroyed in the name of progress. Yes, we all need homes; yes, you can't stop progress, but surely developers can be more sympathetic towards our precious wildlife. The bush is cleared with the loss of our bobtails, lizards and snakes and other wildlife. Our trees are knocked down with loss of nesting sites for our parrots. Will our future generations ever know what it is like to see a real billy bobtail or a kangaroo hop across the fields? You can't put back what you take out. Please developers, place some nest boxes in the few trees that are left. Leave us all some precious areas in which some of our native animals can survive. Take a look around you and think about our environment before it is too late to save the wonderful animals we have around us.

*Sheila Borton
Baldvis*

FORESHORE TO BE FRAGMENTED
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 October 2014

Wake up Rockingham. Rockingham foreshore would take years to become like Manly - Manly has many heritage and historic buildings, a large National Park, high density living and location close to one of the world's largest cities, Sydney. Rockingham foreshore is not going to be like Hillarys because that has a marina and developments on the water. This could be achieved by building the Wanliss Street marina, which would sit in the water and create synergism with current foreshore developments - not the proposed Mangles Bay development which would fragment the foreshore.

The costs would include years of digging out and transporting the sacrificed coastal bushland, the habitat of the Graceful Sun Moth, loss of bore water to local residents, threats to freshwater Lake Richmond, and recent studies show increasing risks of flooding for all nearby suburbs because drainage will be altered. I cannot believe that Federal Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, has given approval for this - tell him he's dreaming.

*Julie Dawn Judkins Byrne
Palm Beach*

THERE IS NO DEMAND FOR MORE RESTAURANTS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 October 2014

More restaurants? What a joke! I have a laugh to myself every time I hear people say: "Isn't it going to be wonderful having cafes and restaurants down there at Point Peron?" It's taken more than three years to find a tenant for the cafe at Palm Beach. I walked along the beachfront and opposite the park down at Rockingham on Friday at lunch time. It was a beautiful sunny day, school holidays, not one restaurant was more than half full, some with one or two tables occupied, some completely empty.

Yet we apparently need more restaurants, which would be a part of what is, in reality, a private housing canal development. The Rockingham locals need to wake up. When this thing goes belly-up and there is work to be done, who do they think is going to pay for it? The ratepayers, that's who!

*Joan Weston
 Rockingham*

DEVELOPER'S CLAIMS DON'T TELL FULL STORY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 8 October 2014

The claims presented by Cedar Woods in their Mangles Bay Marina email update of September 17, this year do not tell the full story and may confuse the community, who are seeking open and transparent information on this major project approved to be carried out on public land.

The first "fact" presented states the land was purchased by the State Government from the Commonwealth in 1964 for the purpose of recreation and/or park lands, but that "there are no registered encumbrances on the title that restrict the State's right to use the land". The intent of the 1964 agreement to preserve the land made between the Premier and Prime Minister is being ignored because the conditions were not written on the land title at that time.

The second "fact" states that "the Proposal (is not a canal estate but) is primarily a marina development with 83 per cent of the total waterways being part of the main marina". However it is 100 per cent an inland artificial waterway, not an ocean marina. This is what the public is concerned about and what has been banned in Victoria, NSW and the Gold Coast because of the devastating effects on coastal environments and water quality issues with algal blooms and fish kills in the canals.

The third "fact" states "the Wanliss Street marina does not include the community facilities proposed at Mangles Bay". The Wanliss Street development does not require the clearing of 40ha of publically owned bush and the excavation of canals and inland marina.

The fourth and final "fact" states "The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the results of the groundwater modelling that show there is no saline groundwater intrusion into Lake Richmond". Groundwater modelling has only looked at the intrusion of the sea water wedge from the proposed canals into a theoretical freshwater system. Modelling did not include the natural saline groundwater that currently exists between the coast and the lake. As there are two endangered ecological communities dependent upon the freshwater lake we are concerned that the salinity of the lake will change. What happens then? Will the canals be filled in or will the public be paying for bore pumps to control the movement of water for eternity?

*Catherine Cooper
 Mount Lawley*

OVERWHELMING 'NO' VOTE IN POLL
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

The Courier had an overwhelming response to our Facebook poll on whether locals supported the proposed Mangles Bay marina, with nearly 300 locals having their say. There were 285 comments on the post in less than a week, with the 'no' vote recording a whopping 81 per cent of votes (145) with just 19 per cent (34) voting 'yes' to support the controversial marina. Many readers vented frustrations with the federal and state environmental approvals process and influence that developers seem to wield.
You can still have your say by visiting [Facebook.com/WeekendCourier](https://www.facebook.com/WeekendCourier) or comment at [inmycommunity.com.au](https://www.inmycommunity.com.au).

No. It's an international wildlife haven!
Briddie Wilde

Yay. Let's have some infrastructure in W(ait) A(while). Not like we don't have thousands of kilometres of coastline that is all pristine, why can't we use some of it for those of us who like nature, but also like facilities.
Michael Ryding

This is totally illegal, why have contracts drawn up by prime minister to protect an area then break it. If law is so flimsy we may as well all start breaking it.
Simon Miskin

This will really help Rockingham and all the boating population, just make sure it is done with environmentally sound decisions.
Lorraine Dunkling

**Result of Courier's Facebook poll -
 do you support the Mangles Bay marina?**

NOT ON THE MAP
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

How can Rockingham ever be a tourist destination when it is not even on the map? On a flight into Perth recently, there was a tourist information magazine with a map of WA. Rockingham wasn't on it. It went Perth, Fremantle, Mandurah. We don't even get a mention on the weather forecast on any TV channel. I have just received my monthly RAC magazine. In it there is an article called 'Great Southern Land' and a map showing all the towns from Perth to Albany. Again, Rockingham is not on it. I have lived in Rockingham for 45 years and I love it. However, many things need to change for it to become WA's version of Manly.

*Joan Wicnall
 Rockingham*

SENSES ASSAULT
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

Travelling along the new access road into Rockingham is a journey for all the senses. It's visually interesting watching the flocks of seagulls wheel over the Millar Road tip, aurally as the machines busy themselves burying the metro area's waste, and not least the remarkable odours of rotting rubbish and degrading plastic. With the very nice entry statement in reflection to our small penguins, which if some sectors are to be believed face extinction with the granting of the Mangles Bay marina approval, all in all, yes Mayor Sammels, just like Manly. Perhaps the new entry road is a premonition of the future to come with "something rotten in the air".

*Karl Badstuebner
 Cooloongup*

"LADY" IS LOVELY
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

It seems to me the canal development proponents and their developer mates lack the ability to appreciate the simple charms and natural beauty of Peron just as "she" is. If Point Peron was a woman with her beautiful bare toes in the water and the wind in her hair, it seems her charms would be lost on them. Can you only see value in her if she has her hair and face "done", her stilettos and tight dress on and she is earning you bucket loads of money? Why tart up a natural beauty? Leave the "lady be, gentleman: She is both beautiful and valuable just the way she is.

*Dawn Skinner
 Rockingham*

GO FOR PROGRESS
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

I congratulate Rockingham council for its vision for the city. Rockingham needs to expand. It is no longer a sleepy fishing village. We need jobs for our youth and drawcards to attract tourist dollars. Unfortunately, we still have people, such as failed Greens candidate Dawn Jecks, who are hell-bent on keeping Rockingham a laughable backwater to

save some mangy old coastal scrub and sea grass. My message to Dawn Jecks and her mates is get out of Rockingham. Let there be progress and growth for our children's future.

*Paul Livermore
 Secret Harbour*

HISTORY IGNORED
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

Rockingham is an historic town, yet possibly the last 100,000 arrivals in the city don't know this. The first settlers to the west coast of WA landed here in 1836. Places such as Albany, Fremantle and Jarrahdale advertise the history of the town. Rockingham council prefers to let our relics rot away so they can be obliterated from the scene. It is time that the old sites were identified to bring them to the attention of the public for the recognition they deserve. I could not see any mention of heritage in the grand plan. I fear it will continue the pattern of neglect. Rockingham is not just "north-facing beach".

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

OPPORTUNITY LOST
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

The council's comments in last week's paper headlined "Rocky the new Manly" are a bit amusing, as I believe that a great opportunity to develop the beachfront area into something special has largely gone. Rockingham Road high-rise should have been limited to eight storeys. Kent Street high-rise should have been 20 storeys (similar to what council proposes for the land adjacent to the Barnet Sports complex).

Council went the reverse, makes little sense. The land on which Flinders Hall was situated should have been developed into public open space and integrated into the oval opposite. The oval should have been made suitable for sports, cricket, hockey and the like. The land occupied by the old Court buildings should have been converted to public open space. Outdoor theatres and similar facilities should have been provided on that land. Rockingham Beach Road between Railway Terrace and Flinders Lane should be a mall. The car park where the Sunday markets operate should be tiered, thus allowing (a) more parking (b) all-weather shelter for the markets.

A pier to be constructed from the Railway Terrace Rotunda to accommodate ferries, small bars, restaurants, tourist type retail outlets and the like. The foreshore to have a fitness circuit with suitable machines and to have an area for small ball sports, giant chess game and the like. If you are really interested in the foreshore development, check out the "Pleasure Island" concept of the early 1980s most of which is still quite relevant. It's quite sad really that we have let some great opportunities go begging.

Kim McDonald
Licensee/Principal
Safety Bay Settlements
Rockingham

RETAIN PARK TREES
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 October 2014

I have read about the upgrade of the foreshore. What I don't wish to see is the removal of any more trees from Churchill or Bell parks. These trees make the foreshore so great when visiting the beach. We have lived here for 31 years and are sorry to see some of the trees already removed. I don't think a pool by the sea is necessary. We don't get sharks here. I swim most days from October to May and find it very safe. I would like to see more policing of the beach in busy times for many folk don't think of others. I have seen some take their dogs on Rockingham beach below Churchill Park and also many taking alcohol there.

Marie Fouche
Rockingham

MARINA DEVELOPMENT IS FAR FROM A DONE DEAL
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 October 2014

It's not surprising Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt has approved 'Mangled Bay'. After all, the PM wants to hive off environmental assessment to the States and Minister Hunt approved dumping spoil on to the Great Barrier Reef. Nevertheless, for the nine reasons below it's not a done deal. In the end I do believe the first and last points may be what preserves Point Peron.

First, there are four pages of conditions, some are new and significant. Will this project be too expensive? It's already the most complicated proposed in Australia.

Second, there is still no manager for the project because the City of Rockingham won't be saddled with an expensive lemon like Busselton, Yunderup, Mandurah and Jurien. For good reasons, NSW and Victoria banned canal estate developments and two other States tried.

Third, will the \$2 company, Cranford, with no record of managing projects, be able to cover delays and problems in construction and meet EPA requirements and maintenance for 10 years or more?

Fourth, where is the business plan? We need to see it to weigh up its costs and benefits.

Fifth, when we see the structure plan, I believe it will prove this project is really a housing development masquerading as a marina. The facilities like pens will not be funded by the developer.

Sixth, Council has yet to work out how much the complex traffic and storm water problems will cost the City's budget.

Seventh, we await answers to the following questions: did any EPA directors hold shares in Cedar Woods when they were considering the marina? Did Cedar Woods or its directors contribute to any political party recently?

Eighth, does the local community want 10 years of pile-driving, dredging and trucks carrying dirt past our houses?

Ninth, I believe this marina is only wanted by a few. If people really want a people and environment-friendly development, we need to show we mean it.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

BRING VISION TO THE POINT PERON PROJECT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 October 2014

It is a shame the proposed Point Peron Marina has been driven or approved by so-called leaders in our nation. State and local community that have failed to grasp the importance of Cape Peron to our region. Although the need for a boat harbour - not a canal development - is warranted, to turn the project over to developers, including LandCorp, who want to maximise their investment (and who can blame them), is a mistake. The land occupied by the Mangles Bay Fishing Club and The Cruising Yacht Club provides enough land to provide support facilities for land-backed boat pens without impacting on the Cape. The fishing club, yacht club and Rockingham Volunteer Sea Rescue Group could have been offered a joint management contract of the facility, as they would have the expertise and competence to ensure it was managed by boating people for boating people. The decision to allow the canal development to proceed was made without a real appreciation of what a real gem Cape Peron is. It's time Rockingham creates its own identity and stop doing what other communities have done, but we need people with vision to do this and sadly, in my opinion, we just don't have these people in positions that matter.

Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay

PROFIT DRIVES CANAL DEVELOPMENT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 October 2014

To the Business Canal Development proponents who have bludgeoned and trampled their way onward, let me remind you the people of Rockingham are not foolish. You are working with developers. A developer is a businessman whose job it is to make the most money out of any project. A property developer needs a large residential canal development to make lots of money - that is his job. His interest is not the long-term wellbeing of our community, the health of the local environment or a raft of broken Federal and State promises about this land. His interest is in profit. It has to be, that is his job and he has proven very good at it. The canal proponents are pushing really, really hard to get this deal done quickly, using whatever means necessary, before WA catches up with the Eastern States and most of the rest of the world and bans canal developments.

Dawn Skinner
Rockingham

ASSURANCE DESERVED
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 October 2014

Rockingham MLA Mark Mc-Gowan's assertion that "there must be no back-sliding on commitments for community infrastructure" regarding the proposed inland canal estate and marina at Port Peron is interesting, considering the developer's track record (Courier, October 10).

In August last year, 50 Mariners Cove ratepayers attended Mandurah council's planning and development meeting, complaining that Cedar Woods had misled them over promises made in marketing material to install community facilities such as a neighbourhood centre/community hall. The developer applied for a modification to the Mariners Cove outline development plan to rezone a portion of Darwin Terrace from Commercial/Community Facilities to Mixed Use Commercial/Residential R40, which effectively removed the ability for the community to use the site. To their credit, and despite appeals from Cedar Woods, council rejected the application because the proposed revision made no provision for community facilities and that insufficient justification had been provided to warrant removal of the "community facilities" designation from the Mariners Cove outline plan.

Present advertisements by proponents of the incorrectly titled Mangles Bay Marina (it is actually an inland canal estate and marina at Point Peron) direct people to a website www.manglesbaymarina.com.au. The website claims the proposed inland canal estate will benefit the people of Rockingham in a number of ways, including providing "community benefits" such as short-term affordable accommodation, remediation and enhancement of Cape Peron, a marine science centre, cycle/walkways, picnic tables, barbecues and other amenities. In the light of the Mariners Cove experience, if (heaven forbid) this ill-conceived and environmentally devastating project goes ahead, then Rockingham people deserve an assurance that the developer is contractually obliged to deliver on its extravagant promises.

*Ron Chapman
 Waikiki*

ALL FOR MONEY
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 October 2014

When I came to Rockingham 25 years ago, the population was around the 40,000 mark, not too big, not too small. I loved what I saw. A beautiful, peaceful seaside town was just right. I'm going to live here. The beachfront was unique; all original old Australiana architecture, a bit rundown but nothing that couldn't be restored to its original glory with a little vision.

That wasn't to be. The only vision our councillors have is the dollar sign. We must do it in the name of progress we are told; we must be more like all the other seaside towns. The bulldozers moved in, flattening Rockingham's heritage. That's better ... now let's put up some of those high-rise concrete structures that we see everywhere else in the world. OK, we've done that ... now what? I know, how about a marina (or two). The population is now 120,000 but that's not enough; we must increase the population by another 50,000 and that should do it. Real progress and now we're getting somewhere.

I have to ask why. Why do you move to somewhere and then want to change it? Why go there in the first place if it is not what you want? There can only be one answer to that ... money. Forget all the bulldust about progress, it's about money. I've been to Manly and didn't like the place. I hope it doesn't happen to Rockingham.

*Nigel Youens
 Hillman*

PARK SPECIAL
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 October 2014

The greatest form of flattery is to model one's self or to emulate to being the same. After growing up in Manly and the northern beaches before moving to Rockingham in 1990, I have never thought of the foreshore ever being like Manly Corso and I admire the ambition to want the same. Rockingham has something Manly doesn't - Bell Park and it should remain that way. Rockingham is what it is, so too the same for Manly. Keep the heritage of Rockingham the theme of Rockingham in its development

*David Robertson
 Rockingham*

TIME TO CHUCKLE
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 October 2014

I have to chuckle over the comparison between Rockingham and Manly. I lived in Manly, and during that time the council was disbanded, and an administrator appointed because of "dodgy deals" that concerned waterfront developments. I hope Mangles Bay is not going to bring the same misfortunes to our band of councillors.

*Douglas Pritchard
 Wellard*

NOT FOR SALE
Weekend Courier
Friday 17 October 2014

If the council chief executive Andrew Hammond likes the look of Manly over Rockingham, why did he stop here and not keep going to Manly? Thousands of people have moved to Rockingham over the years because it is Rockingham. Palm Beach is the only beach facing north and what a state that is in. The rest face west. We are not having two marinas but maybe starting with a canal development, something that is banned elsewhere. Where is the "doorstep to the \$15 billion western trade coast?" Would it mean our Cockburn Sound cops it again with more pollution? Thanks but no thanks;... not for sale.

*Keith John
 Rockingham*

CHANGE UNWELCOME
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 October 2014

I am sure those who wield the power in Rockingham have high hopes that the material gains for promoting development of this city similar to Manly, of which I know nothing, or Hillarys is in the best interest of this shire. I think the redevelopment of the foreshore with the inclusion of more marinas and high rises detracts from what this city has meant to me, which has been a welcoming community in which those of us with modest means have had the luxury of experiencing the outdoors in all its natural splendour without the need of other attractions. The foreshore hosts multicultural gatherings of families and friends who co-experience a peaceful, pleasant gathering by the sea and I would hate to see that change. I don't like Hillarys. It reeks of commercialised temptation, overcrowding and unpleasant, irritable people. I read that the community would be welcome and invited to express their opinions. For what? Just as those opinions have been expressed regarding Point Peron from multiple viewpoints, the plan appears to be for development. I don't expect that public opinion will have any effect on the redevelopment of Rockingham.

*Marilyn Davis
 Shoalwater*

DECISION RECKLESS
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 October 2014

The approval of the development of the so called marina at Point Peron is nothing short of reckless. For a start, it is not a Hillarys' type sea marina but a proposed land marina/canal development in a regional park of natural coastal bush sustaining a unique ecology. The many serious and detailed environmental concerns expressed by a number of experts in their field have been brushed off with an undertaking to monitor or be addressed during the development phase. For the already endangered little penguins, this is a farcical response. One expert scientist has described the Federal Government's environmental impact review as "inherently flawed". Lake Richmond, with its ancient thrombolites and fresh water ecology is in danger of seawater contamination from an inland marina just 405m distant at one part. The questions of the cost of long term maintenance and who will do that maintenance are yet to be decided. The budget strained WA Government is already paying big dollars to make good the calamitous Busselton canal development. Such developments are banned elsewhere in Australia. Will it take the disastrous destruction of the Point Peron peninsula and Lake Richmond for the State Government finally to ban them here?

*Jean Jenkins
 Safety Bay*

POINT TREASURED
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 October 2014

I read with disgust Paul Livermore's offensive message to "Dawn Jecks and her mates" to get out of Rockingham simply because they are fighting for something they believe strongly (Go for progress, *Courier*, October 10). I applaud Dawn Jecks and wish her well. Mr Livermore may live in Secret Harbour, but what does he actually know about Rockingham and in particular Point Peron? Having lived in Rockingham for some 36 years, I would like to inform him that Point Peron is certainly not "some mangy old coastal scrub and sea grass" and I am sorry he cannot see what many others can see. Our children grew up knowing what a great time they would have when we all went to "Peron", having a picnic, swimming, beach combing, exploring, walking all the way around the point, stopping for swims in the bays if it was too warm and simply enjoying nature as it was intended. Our grandchildren now enjoy those same experiences, and love every moment of the adventure. How sad when "progress" and growth comes at the expense of something truly wonderful as nature itself that could be experienced by all but will be replaced with a man made mess. To quote Dawn Skinner in her letter in the same edition headlined "Lady is lovely", leave the lady be. She is both beautiful and valuable just the way she is for future generations to enjoy.

*Jennifer Rainnie
Hillman*

**MAYOR SHOULD GET BEHIND COASTAL PARK
PROPOSAL**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 29 October 2014

Interesting to hear Mayor Barry Sammels stressing the importance to the community of public open space (*Sound Telegraph*, Children bring vision for City, 22/10). If this is the case, how can he justify supporting the proposed inland marina and canal estate at Point Peron, which effectively removes land that was transferred to the State Government on the proviso that it be used for public recreation? As Mayor Sammels rightly points out, children are one of the main users of public open space in Rockingham. If our mayor is to remain true to his word, he should be supporting the proposal for a Point Peron coastal environment park.

*Ron Chapman
Waikiki*

MINDSET PERPLEXES
Weekend Courier
Friday 31 October 2014

In response to the letter by Jennifer Rainnie (Point Treasured, *Courier*, October 24) regarding the preservation of Point Peron, I am insulted to be labelled "disgusting" for voicing my concerns about politically motivated green lobbyists in Rockingham who are dominating the foreshore debate in a concerted campaign to halt worthwhile development and jobs growth for our city. I am perplexed by the mindset of an individual who asserts that a Secret Harbour resident can't have an opinion on future development because he or she doesn't reside near Mangles Bay. I can assure Mrs Rainnie that I am very familiar with the parallel loveliness and unsightliness of the Point Peron area, I am acutely aware of the protected beaches, limestone cliffs and panoramic views. However, I am equally conscious of the tin shacks, old boats, dumped rubbish and hoon tyre marks that litter the landscape. Visiting family and friends have been quick to comment on the scenic splendour of Perth, Fremantle and Mandurah; however, Rockingham scarcely rates mention. Some long term Rockingham residents are clinging to a carefree bygone era of the 1960-70s and are failing to grasp that Rockingham has significantly grown over the past three decades. A failure to tolerate any foreshore development will vanquish Rockingham to the likes of similar satellite cities that are overwhelmed with rising youth unemployment and juvenile crime. The marina project will deliver renewed appeal and vitality to a decaying precinct, and perhaps a fleeting glance across Cockburn Sound to the adjacent Garden Island will reveal a textbook example of how substantial development and a fragile ecosystem can co-exist in harmony.

*Paul Livermore
Secret Harbour*

THE REAL STORY
Weekend Courier
Friday 31 October 2014

So, Mr Phil Edman wants us, the concerned people of Rockingham and the true guardians of our future generations' wonderful heritage, to think he has changed his spots. To quote from his recent words regarding the conservation of the old gun battery on Point Peron: "This is an important area, one that is not currently being taken care of as it should be". Those are the truest words he has ever spoken. However, does this mean too that he has

relinquished his strong support for the proposed disastrous housing development on this wonderful area that would irrevocably destroy it? Wake up, true thinkers, to the real story. This is nothing more than a whitewash to divert attention from this horrendous moneymaking project that will leave us, the ratepayers, to try to clean up, from well documented similar projects, from the cost of its maintenance and taking this small piece of remaining natural coast from our future.

*Tony George
Rockingham*

RIGHT OF VETO
Weekend Courier
Friday 31 October 2014

Paul Livermore's letter (Go for Progress, *Courier*, October 10) in which he congratulates Rockingham council for its "vision for the city" is all well and good, and he is entitled to his opinion. However, doesn't it highlight the flimsiness of these views, when his message to Dawn Jecks and her friends is "get out of Rockingham"? Is this really the way to win an argument? Many are opposed to the marina development and it is of no great surprise that the Federal Environment Minister has given approval because Government puts business first and only ostensibly takes interest in environmental issues. The Preserve Point Peron and Hands Off Point Peron groups have identified many cons, including loss of public access to Mangles Bay risk to thrombolites and seagrass, changes in groundwater within a radius of a kilometre and the ongoing costs of dredging. This expensive project involves publicly owned land sold to private developers to be bulldozed and placed with concrete, bitumen and canal housing. That's not a very citing prospect for locals. Given this will be a huge burden to taxpayers and ratepayers and it is public property, shouldn't the hoi polloi have the final veto on this?

*David Rudman
Rockingham*

**MANGLES BAY MARINA WILL BREATHE NEW LIFE
INTO ROCKINGHAM AND CREATE JOBS**
Weekend Courier
Friday 14 November 2014

The Mangles Bay marina is a necessary piece of infrastructure which will undeniably make the most of the area and be a substantial drawcard for tourism, as well as a much-needed employment boost. Rockingham has some of the most beautiful beaches in WA and with the rapid growth of population within and around the area, progress is inevitable. More than 18,000 people attended the Mandurah Boat Show this year, but this and other such events need to be held right here in Rockingham. Residents need to show their support and let the handful of opponents know the majority see this marina at Mangles Bay as a positive step forward for Rockingham.

The Hands Off Point Perron group has had years to make the most of the area but instead it's littered with rubbish and is a well-known bum-out spot. It's discomfoting for the majority of residents here in Rockingham to have such a degraded area in desperate need of enhancement. We need to voice our support and enjoy Rockingham as it evolves into the vibrant coastal region that residents deserve to live in and the Perth community as a whole has a right to visit and enjoy.

*Ian and Tina Harper
Baldivis*

PROPOSAL DISGUSTING
Weekend Courier
Friday 14 November 2014

City ratepayers must be disgusted with the council proposal to fund a jetty at Mersey Point at an estimated cost of \$2.65 million, principally for the benefit of commercial use. To use ratepayers' money for this would be scandalous. Undoubtedly, council will come out with some form of vague argument such as it may be for private use. We know that this will only be the case when commercial vessels are not using the jetty. We may also hear of the benefits to the area of tourism, but we know this will only benefit the commercial operator. There may also be an argument that the commercial operators will fund the capital cost and maintenance cost by a levy on passengers of \$2 per ticket sold. However, if there is a commercial arrangement of this sort and interest of say 5 per cent is applied, it will require at least 1.5 million tickets to be sold over the next few years.

If council and State Government authorities had not, and were not, allowed to dump thousands of cubic metres of sand on Penguin Island and on the beach of Safety Bay and Waikiki, then commercial and private boat operators could use already available facilities without massive amounts of additional spending for maintenance.

*John Watts
Safety Bay*

LOCALS WILL NOT BENEFIT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 November 2014

City of Rockingham ratepayers must be disgusted with the latest council proposal to fund a new jetty at Mersey Point, principally for the benefit of commercial users, at an estimated cost of \$2.26 million. To use ratepayer funds for this would be scandalous. Undoubtedly the council will come out with some form of vague agreement so the jetty may also be used by residents but we know this will only be when commercial vessels are not using it. We may hear of the huge monetary benefits of tourism to the area but we know this would only benefit commercial operators. Also, we may see an argument that the commercial operators would fund the capital and maintenance costs by way of a levy on passengers of \$2 a ticket. If sand had not been dumped on beaches at Safety Bay, Penguin Island and Waikiki, commercial and private boat operators would be able to use facilities presently available.

John Watts
Safety Bay

the people who want the marina are too busy to respond because they are all busy working.

Graham Colledge
Warnbro

TOURISM BOOST OVERSTATED
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 November 2014

In reply to Ian and Tina Harper; I do not think the proposed canal development at Point Peron is going to be the drawcard for tourism the proponents are touting. For a start, it will be a large hole in the ground, filled with seawater with a channel cut into Mangles Bay, which will cut off quite a large section of the beach to the west. After the hole is dug, the rest of the development will be built by other developers. I understand the costs for the initial development is in the region of \$300 million, at present. This money will have to be recouped by selling the area to other developers. The proposed timeline for the initial works is, at the moment, about 10 years. That is 10 years of noise pollution with pile driving and about 100 to 120 heavy trucks a day shifting spoil to an inland dump site. Any benefit to tourism is a long way down the track.

You have castigated the Hands Off Point Peron Group for having had years to do something with the area, and failing. The HOPP was incorporated in December 2012. Before this, Preserve Point Peron For The People Inc. was - and still is - working on the scientific conservation requirements. In 2012, together with HOPP, Preserve Point Peron for the People Inc put out the Community's Vision for Cape Peron Coastal Park. This is: "To create a world-class coastal conservation and recreation park for locals and visitors alike, in harmony with nature and our heritage". This was to be developed in accordance with a 1964 agreement, when the land was sold to the WA Government from the Commonwealth. This stated the land was to be an A Class reserve without commercial development. However, the State Government has now decided to tear up this agreement and sell the land for development. I invite people to keep up to date with HOPP the development and public meetings.

Keith Allen
Shoalwater

MARINA WILL BE GOOD FOR US
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 November 2014

I'm not what you'd call an activist but I had to write my piece. I'm a born-and-bred local, having lived in Kwinana and Rockingham for most of my 49 years. I had a stint in Applecross on the river hoping to enjoy the aquatic lifestyle but it didn't work. Now I live opposite the Shoalwater Marine Sanctuary, at the Point Peron end, where I enjoy fishing, walking, scuba diving, snorkelling and boating. I visit the beach every day My Mum and sisters also live close to the beach, with Mum 90 seconds away from the Lake Richmond lookout in Anchorage. We love this area and wouldn't want to jeopardise it. My late Dad spent many hours relaxing at the beach adjacent to The Cruising Yacht Club hard stand in Mangles Bay, for us it's called "Dad's Beach" and we pay our respects there annually on the anniversary of his passing. So when it comes to discussing the Mangles Bay Marina proposal I suppose you can say I've got some "skin in the game". I fully support this proposal. The benefits are many and obvious. Rockingham's positive momentum this last 10 years will now reach a crescendo. This marina will put us on the map. Of course environmental impact is critical but I trust the professionals who have researched long and hard before giving the green light, and find it difficult to empathise with protestors. Hats off to the City of Rockingham councillors, because it's Rockingham's time to shine.

Mark Giles
Shoalwater

ABOUT FACE ON MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 November 2014

I was initially in favour of the Mangles Bay Marina development, but on further investigation I believe it is a huge mistake. I'm a local resident and home owner. I like Mangles Bay and Point Peron just as they are. The area is accessible to anyone walking, cycling or driving. What concerns me about the proposed development, apart from the obvious environmental concerns, is:

- Who is going to move to Rockingham for a canal development?
- Who is going to open hotels and restaurants down there?
- Who is going to bear the cost of ongoing maintenance?
- Who is going to water my garden if the bore water turns saline?
- Why is the local council supporting this?

As I have read, this canal development will be similar to Busselton's fiasco - a stinking, putrid cesspool. Nobody has asked me about this but I'm sure I will end up paying for it, as will all the City's ratepayers. The marina planned for Wanliss Street is a better site, close to the existing cafe strip and does not require dredging a canal. I'm not against development but this is not the right place for it.

S. Lawrence
Shoalwater

HESITANT TO DIVE INTO CANAL PLAN
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 November 2014

In response to the letter (Mangles Bay marina will breathe new life into Rockingham and create jobs, 12/11), I ask Ian and Tina Harper of Baldivis if they have really looked into this proposal? Firstly, it will be a canal development and the Mandurah canals have made the ground water saline for about 1 km inland. People are unable to use their bore water and are now using drinking water. The "beautiful beaches" you mentioned will be destroyed by continual dredging that you and everyone in Rockingham will have to pay for. As for Point Peron being "littered with rubbish", myself and a teenage girl went around the entire Point a few years ago with big waste bags and the majority of the rubbish was clearly washed up from boats. This, along with a lack of food, which will be greatly affected by canals and a marina here, are killing the little penguin population. Hands Off Point Peron are trying to keep the land as it was given to us - for all to enjoy - by the Commonwealth. They actually want to make it a better place to visit which would be cheaper, better for the economy and still enjoyable for us - a coastal park, not private property.

Deanne Moulden
Waikiki

SUPPORT A COASTAL PARK
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 November 2014

"Come to Rockingham to see another dead canal. Don't come to see the fairy penguins, open beaches, available camping sites, bush walks or incredible bird life because that's all gone now we have canals." My sentiments exactly I read the above statement and I could not agree more. Rockingham residents are not aware of the impact of this development. It will change our coast, not for good. I would like to see more people become aware and be proactive about their own backyard. Know the facts. Support a coastal park.

R. Kilian
Rockingham

PROVE FIGURES
Weekend Courier
Friday 21 November 2014

I feel urged, as a matter of priority, to reply to all the free advertising given to Dawn Jecks and her Greenies about the bad side of having a marina in Mangles Bay. These people wish to continue to live in the backwoods; are against promoting the area and are happy for it to remain a dumping ground for rubbish in the bush and on the roadside. I would also like (and I doubt whether they can) produce proof of the alleged 11,000 people who don't want the marina. Anyone can concoct figures without genuine documentation for scrutiny. In addition, Dawn, think about all those people who when the marina is built (and it will be) will actually be able to insure their vessels. This letter will no doubt create a lot of angst among Ms Jecks and her supporters. However,

RESEARCH WAS NOT LONG ENOUGH**Sound Telegraph****Wednesday 26 November 2014**

As I read the letter titled "Marina will be good for us" (*Telegraph*, 19/11) where Mark Giles says: "Of course environmental impact is critical but I trust that the professionals have researched long and hard before giving it the green light", I thought to myself: "If only they had researched long and hard". With the Government as a joint proponent, it has not been independent nor has it been rigorous. Just one example of the lack of rigour is the fact that although the little penguin is listed as protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, it was not included in the proponent's so-called "exhaustive environment assessments".

To put the risky and complicated Mangles Bay Marina project into context, of all the projects approved by the EPA in the past 10 years, only two other projects have received more appeals to their approvals than the Mangles Bay Marina. Both of those project approvals were overturned and did not go ahead. Appeals to the Mangles Bay Marina approval came from experts and researchers across the spectrum covering coastal engineering, environmental and marine scientists. I reckon that if Mark Giles knew what the protesters knew he would join them too.

Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay

EQUAL SPACE GIVEN**Weekend Courier****Friday 28 November 2014**

Graham Colledge, free advertising for Dawn Jecks and her Greenies? Letters in the paper is not free advertising. The editorial staff give equal space to both sides without favour, so more letters against means that they have received more of those letters. Dawn Jecks and her Greenies? Yes, Dawn and some of those in Hands Off Point Peron are Greens supporters but there are many who are Liberals, Labor, Independent and every other political persuasion. They do not want to live in the backwoods but do want the area developed as agreed by the then Federal and State governments when the land was sold to WA. That is an A class reserve for the enjoyment all of Rockingham and surrounding residents and visitors. Through experience, as a boatie I doubt that I will be able to afford the pen fees that the developers will charge to recoup their costs. I would much rather support the Wanliss Street proposal. As to suggest that all the supporters of this proposal are too busy working to respond, I can tell you that Dawn Jecks and most of the rest of the HOPP group are in full time employment. Some of them are highly qualified scientists in the environmental sector, so perhaps all the angst and misinformation is on your side.

Keith Allen
Shoalwater

OPINION IGNORED**Weekend Courier****Friday 28 November 2014**

Marilyn Davis' letter headlined "Change Unwelcome" (*Courier*, October 24) hits the nail on the head regarding Rockingham development and she is quite right when she concludes by saying that public opinion will have little effect. To look state wide, Development Assessment Panels established by Colin Barnett's Government in 2011 were presumably introduced to improve local planning, but they seem to have an overabundance of power and can approve projects to which residents and councils overtly object. For example (and this is one of several), in Mandurah, a McDonald's, a 24/7 service station and a liquor store were given building consent by a DAP, despite being within the vicinity of two schools. Because of their impact on the health and safety of schoolchildren, there was much opposition by both a concerned public and the local council. This disapproval, which was apparently unanimous, fell on deaf ears. Why has the State Government created such a body that ignores ordinary members of society and unashamedly favours developers?

David Rudman
Rockingham

GOOD CHALLENGE**Weekend Courier****Friday 28 November 2014**

My congratulations to Graham Colledge for his letter (Prove figures, *Courier*, November 21) challenging Dawn Jecks and other Green activists to come clean about their statistics. They claim 11,000 people opposed the marina, a project that will bring jobs, tourists and new recreation facilities to Rockingham. How many people were surveyed, where do they live and what were the questions asked? The Greens oppose live animal exports and GM crops, which feed millions and create tens of thousands of jobs. Greens support renewables such as wind and solar, which are expensive and do not work. Their policies have made power more expensive and increased taxes.

They oppose carbon free base load hydro and nuclear power also fracking, which is making the United States self sufficient in lower carbon gas. What is also disturbing is that Green politics is very strongly promoted in universities, schools, libraries and the media such as the ABC, all funded by the taxpayer. We deserve to hear and read two points of view.

Robin Linke
Rockingham

HOPP CHAIRMAN RESPONDS**Weekend Courier****Friday 28 November 2014**

Graham Colledge's letter in last week's edition, headlined "Prove figures," contains several inaccuracies about the campaign to save Point Peron from construction of an inland marina canal estate. The planned development is not located in Mangles Bay but within Point Peron. The proposal is for the excavation of an environmentally destructive inland canal estate that will change the ecological integrity of the area for all time. Far from being content "to live in the backwoods" and failing to promote the area, Mr Colledge might be interested to learn that for the past three years we have been promoting the concept of a Cape Peron Coastal Park, to create a coastal conservation and recreation reserve that would benefit both local people and tourists. This would be in keeping with the spirit of a 1964 agreement between the Commonwealth and State governments that stipulated Point Peron should be a reserve for public recreation.

If Mr Colledge wishes to confirm the accuracy of the figure of 11,000 people who signed our petition to voice their opposition to the inland canal estate, then he only has to refer to the West Australian and Commonwealth Parliament copies of Hansard. These will show him that on November 29, 2005, Giz Watson MLC tabled a petition in the WA Legislative Council containing 2145 signatures opposing the construction of an inland marina at Point Peron. In June 2013 and October 2014, Lynn MacLaren MLC tabled petitions containing 8191 and 460 signatures respectively. Additionally, in September 2014, Senator Scott Ludlam tabled petitions containing 526 signatures in the Australian Senate. These last signatures were collected from residents in one day. The Conservation Council of Western Australia is running an online petition to Save Point Peron, which to date has accumulated 2111 signatures.

I find particularly offensive Mr Colledge's insinuation that people who support the campaign against the canal estate are not working. It seems he has fallen into the trap of stereotyping environmental protesters as being unemployed and having nothing better to do. We pride ourselves that our supporters are drawn from a broad range of people who are not necessarily aligned to any political party but are genuinely concerned about the planned destruction of an area that they value and which holds particular significance for them. Our dedicated and passionate volunteers include working families, single working mothers, and many retirees who are prepared to devote their time to ensure the beauty of Point Peron is preserved for future generations. Finally, if Mr Colledge is concerned about the amount of "free advertising" he alleges is given to the "Greenies, he should consider that perhaps the media is reflecting the views of the majority who realise the proposed inland canal estate is an ill-conceived and short sighted idea that would impose unacceptable environmental and economic costs on the Rockingham community.

Ron Chapman
Chairman
Hands Off Point Peron Group

REAL PERSON**Weekend Courier****Friday 28 November 2014**

In reply to Graham Colledge, I was one of the 11,000 and I am real. And to correct information, it is a canal and housing development, on a Bush Forever site.

Mary Ann Rath
Waikiki

MARINA SHOULD BE WELCOMED**Sound Telegraph****Wednesday 3 December 2014**

As a 30-year resident, I can say with confidence that the Mangles Bay Marina project is, without question, the most exciting development in Rockingham's history and something that should be embraced by all those who wish to see the city progress. It will provide an overdue upmarket precinct for locals and tourists, as well as creating jobs, boosting property prices and taking steps toward ridding this town of its unwarranted "bogan" tag. But this potential prosperity is under threat from the Hands Off Point Peron group and their attempts to derail the project. The very name they have chosen misleads because it implies the marina is to be built at Point Peron, thus destroying this natural wonder, when in fact the development is to be constructed to the eastern side of the Garden Island causeway on a parcel of land disused by all but the odd trail bike hoon.

Among other ludicrous claims, they have described the area as the "Kings Park of Rockingham" and a "recreational and parkland area that should be preserved for future generations". I would encourage anyone to take a drive around the proposed site to see for themselves. You will find no families enjoying picnics, no children flying kites, no hikers or bird watchers or tourists snapping away on their cameras. What you will find is a tired patch of scrub, devoid of human life but for the aforementioned hoon, if you're lucky.

I'd like to ask the HOPP group and their supporters to honestly answer this question: how often, if ever, have you spent time with your family at the area earmarked for the Mangles Bay Marina? Then ask yourself how many times you've taken them to the Mandurah, Fremantle or Hillarys marinas. If the answer is in the vicinity of zero versus hundreds, then what are you losing with the marina going ahead? And, why shouldn't the people of Rockingham be able to enjoy the same luxuries as our neighbours? We've been neglected for long enough.

*Tony Versace
Shoalwater*

BELGIAN EXAMPLE
Weekend Courier
Friday 5 December 2014

In reply to the letter in last week's edition from Ron Chapman, the Hands Off Point Peron Group chairman, a petition is not a survey. A petition seeks signatures of people who support it. In this case, it may have a biased question e.g. "Do you support the environmentally destructive Point Peron canal development?" In contrast, a survey will give both sides an opportunity to record their point of view. Often a survey will give a brief for and against statement. That means people who support the project are recorded democratically, the exact opposite to this petition. Has the City of Rockingham conducted such a survey for this project that will promote jobs, tourism, recreation and growth? The coastline of Belgium is 67km, but the Belgians have developed it into a magnet for tourists, providing recreation, marinas, resorts and housing. In contrast, our WA coastline is 20,780km. Yet the Greens want to stop development everywhere.

*Robin Linke
Safety Bay*

MARINA AT THE MERCY OF SAND
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 10 December 2014

There is a wild bull named Sandy who has been rampaging in the City of Rockingham for eons. History tells us that in about 1838 Thomas Peel proposed a new harbour to be built in Safety Bay so he could export timber from inland. In 1846, when the surveyor general came and surveyed the area, he made an adverse finding that I believe found the area had silted up.

Since 1977, when I arrived at HMAS Stirling, I was informed the bay on the left side of the causeway, as you enter Garden Island, would fill with sand and the channel under the high bridge would silt up. This has happened and is growing at a rate into Cockburn Sound. From a very small islet in 1977, Dunka Island, in Safety Bay, has developed into a major sand barrier requiring ongoing dredging at considerable cost to the ratepayers. There is a problem at Long Point with silting. The council has spent much time and effort dredging the Point Peron boat ramp to provide access for sea rescue and other boats to get out from the ramp. It is well known that sand moves along the coast of WA.

I am sure Rockingham's ratepayers will not enjoy the costs involved in the dredging required to keep the proposed Mangles Bay marina open. In addition, there is a large traffic flow to and from Garden Island each morning and evening and explosives moving to/from the island from time to time. As the base expands, this traffic activity will increase. Removing bushland and replacing it with roads, concrete, bricks and tiled areas will increase the heat signature that everyone wants to reduce. Ratepayers should be able to read the Point Peron transfer documentation between Commonwealth and State.

*W.G. Ritchie,
Shoalwater*

DEVELOPMENT SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 10 December 2014

In response to Tony Versace (Marina should be welcomed, 3/12), I beg to differ. Yes, a marina would be one of the most exciting things to happen in Rockingham, but an inland housing estate with boating facilities is not anything like Hillarys, Fremantle or Mandurah. That land is smack in the middle of Rockingham's most important natural assets: Point Peron, Lake Richmond and the Shoalwater Island Marine Park. The fact the land has been terribly neglected and gone to waste is not a good enough reason to say "yes" to a housing development. If you take away the proposed area for development,

there is not much left of Point Peron or "Mangles Bay", if you prefer to call it that. If the land is developed as our very own coastal equivalent of Kings Park, it will be more accessible to the local community and a real drawcard for nature-based tourism. Rockingham could be known for its beautiful, unique coastline instead of a dodgy canal development. With developments like this being banned around Australia, do we really want to be known as the stupid bogans who allowed the last canal estate in the country to go ahead?

*Lisa Richardson
Shoalwater*

UNNEEDED ICON
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 December 2014

Australia accepts about 200,000 immigrants a year - to service the existing population "they" say. That is in spite of the fact that in the capital cities where most of them end up there is a shortage of water, the transport systems are seizing up and suburban sprawl is rampant. Where is the rationale for this lemming-like behaviour? Like the Ponzi schemes, there is no pay-off in the long term, only disaster. We expect governments to plan for our improved standard of living but they are hell-bent on making life more difficult and restricted. Rockingham council is a typical example of the problem. Growth is the icon to which all its planners aspire. We don't need it. It will not improve our lifestyle or our town.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

OWNERS' INTENTION
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 December 2014

As a sailboat owner, who uses the TCYC hardstand area on Point Peron Road and a mooring in Mangles Bay, I find the debate surrounding the proposed development of the land bounded by Lease Road, Boundary Road, Safety Bay Road, and the coastal section that accommodates the TCYC hardstand, Mangles Bay Fishing Club and the RSL caravan park most interesting. Proponents for the development seem to be of the notion that the older vessels now in the Bay and at the hardstand will mysteriously disappear and be replaced by shiny new ones and that the moorings in Mangles Bay will be removed.

As a boat owner, I have been led to believe by the Department of Transport that the Mangles Bay moorings will remain. Some close to the shore will have to be removed due to landfill activities as the coastline is moved farther out into the Sound. Of note: the users of the moorings only lease the site from the State Government, all of the mooring equipment is supplied, installed, and maintained by the lessee. Most of the boat owners who use the hardstand and moorings are not some form of well-heeled elite and most could ill afford a berth in a "marina development". For example, a pen in Mandurah for a small sailboat the size of mine (seven metres) starts at more than \$3800. Therefore, the intention by me and most other mooring lessees will be to remain on the mooring until the mooring fees become unreasonable or the silting of the bay makes maintaining a mooring unviable.

*Dave Reid
Waikiki*

SIX MAIN CONCERNS
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 December 2014

I am not involved with any organisation connected with or against the development of a marina in Rockingham. I served 39 years in the Navy and before coming to set up HMAS Stirling in 1977 I spent something like four years in Navy Office, Canberra, closely involved with the project between 1970 and 1977. I was Seaman Officer for 21 years and trained to be aware of likely hazards to ships and boats. I am concerned that the marina development is rushing towards a disaster for the ratepayers of Rockingham. My main concerns are:

First, the known movement of sand on the WA coast that appears to have been completely ignored so far. I believe there are examples of the problem farther south in the Bunbury area and from the disasters in the Adelaide area from this very problem. Second, the likely increased costs to the ratepayers for dredging and so forth. Third, the increasing use of HMAS Stirling as a naval base. Fourth, the great and lengthy disruption to roads in the area, especially Safety Bay Road for the people of Shoalwater, with the continuous movement of trucks taking sand away and returning. Fifth, the environmental concerns of removing bush and replacing it with cement, asphalt roads and bricks/roofing. This will increase the heat load in the area. Finally, the lack of knowledge in the community of the agreement between Commonwealth and State when Point Peron Reserve was handed over. Maybe you can try to get a copy through Freedom of Information channels so that the public is informed on what was agreed.

*Bill Ritchie
Shoalwater*

GOING DOWNHILL
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 17 December 2014

WA farmer Maxwell Szulc was jailed for clearing bush from land he owned. Transfer that thought to the Mangles Bay canal proposal, where we have proponents who want to strip bush from land they do not own and sell land they do not own. The land is owned by the general public. If the signatories of the proposal were threatened with the same sentence as the farmer, this abomination of a scheme would not proceed. I have been in Rockingham for 30 years and came here because of what it was. It has gone steadily downhill from then.

*Dave Worth
 Safety Bay*

MARINA PROPOSAL VISION SHOWS MERIT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 17 December 2014

The letter (Marina should be welcomed, 03/12) by Tony Versace in reference to the Mangles Bay marina proposal was excellent. Before reading his eloquent and constructive views, my wife and I were undecided in our opinion about this controversial matter. The determined and outspoken group advocating things should be left as they are, untouched by developers was, we thought, a credible point. There are, however, two sides to every situation and consideration should be given to each side. For the well thought out and constructive argument put forward by Mr Versace, we are now in agreement with his views. The careful development of the area would be better served than to leave it in its present condition. Well done Mr Versace, we applaud your vision and thinking and let's hope others become involved.

*P & R Skinner
 Port Kennedy*

IT'S ABOUT TIME OUR CITY HAD A MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 17 December 2014

It's time for Rockingham to have its marina. Our biggest asset, Cockburn Sound, and our nearby islands should be the envy of the rest of Australia and the world. We need a safe harbour with refuelling and maintenance facilities, and docks to tie up to with cafe and restaurant facilities. Our proposed Mangles Bay marina offers all this and more. I actually tow my boat to Fremantle and Mandurah to show my interstate and international visitors our outdoor lifestyle. We cruise the pretty canals and tie up to the Mandurah boardwalk and enjoy lunch at cafes and restaurants. Or we cruise from Leeuwin Point in Freo up to the city or Claise Brook inlet off the Swan simply because they have jetties and boardwalks for private boats with facilities. If somebody had told me 20 years ago we would still have no marina and one less jetty, I would have scoffed in disbelief. And yes to the canal homes. Sure, we all don't have the money to own one, but look at the calibre of people they bring to Rockingham who will hire local people. Besides, selling the canal blocks help pay for the major works to build it. Come on Rockingham, help us get our marina up and running in this lifetime.

*Steve and Sue Spiers
 Rockingham*

OPINION CLEAR
Weekend Courier
Friday 19 December 2014

More than 300 people in Rockingham on December 10 said they were against canals but for a coastal park. Point Peron is a Bush Forever site; it is not there for a land grab for housing and canal development.

*Mary Ann Rath
 Waikiki*

TRANSFER THOUGHT
Weekend Courier
Friday 19 December 2014

A few weeks ago, a farmer was released from prison. He was incarcerated for clearing bush from land he owned. Transfer that thought to the Mangles Bay canal proposal and here we have a group of proponents who want to strip bush from land they do not own (it being in the ownership of the public). They want to sell land they do not own, make profit from land sales they have no entitlement to and do so over a time that will alleviate them of any responsibility for any subsequent ill effects.

Finally, they will cause all maintenance and repair to be paid by the public without excess being paid by the land recipients or present tenants and

be in a position to deny the consequences of environmental destruction. If the signatories of the present proposition were threatened with the same sentence as the farmer for non-compliance, this scheme would not proceed.

*Dave Worth
 Safety Bay*

SAND WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 24 December 2014

Sand will be a problem for marina P and R Skinner and Steve and Sue Spiers (Letters, 17/12) support a marina in Rockingham, as I do. When I set up the Rockingham Tourism Centre way back in the 1980s, I dreamt of a marina in Rockingham. As an experienced seaman, I have eyes that see, observe and read. As set out in my previous letter, there is a major problem that I do not believe has been properly addressed. Based on observations from 1977, sand has already created a problem at Bent Street, Point Peron launch ramps and, as predicted in 1976, in the approaches to Garden Island via the causeway. From historical evidence elsewhere, sand has created the same problem that will arise with the proposed marina. In addition, forecasts of sea levels rising should also be part of the equation because in the life of the housing development, the homes will be flooded. Who will pay compensation? My question to those who want to develop and maintain a marina at Point Peron is: are you personally willing to bear the costs of dredging to keep the marina access open? Mal Hughes' letter (Let residents decide, 17/12) provides one way to resolve the problem. I am not associated with any group for or against a marina.

*Bill Ritchie
 Shoalwater*

DEVELOPMENT NEEDED IN THE RIGHT PLACE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 24 December 2014

Two letters, one from P and R Skinner and another from S and S Spiers (STG, 17/12) were both in favour of a commercial inland canal and marina development at Cape Peron. Yes, we do need a marina and we do need development, but in the right place. That place is not Cape Peron or Mangles Bay. Mayor Barry Sammels stated at last Tuesday's council meeting Rockingham's "best tourist potential" was within the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Masterplan area (the foreshore area between Hymus Street and the Naval Memorial Park). That area has existing infrastructure which can, and will, be upgraded and expanded. That is the area where the City is encouraging investment. Restaurants and road access are already available and in the future, light rail could easily link this area to the station and beyond.

Wake up, people, much of Rockingham is at sea level. Environmental issues, rising sea levels etc, in the face of global warming, will leave Rockingham ratepayers with a huge on-going bill if the marina is allowed to rip into Cape Peron. This is why NSW and Victoria have now banned all further canal developments in those States. The vision to turn Point Peron into a stunning coastal park is to be commended. But do not let the developer ruin this beautiful place and leave the ratepayers of Rockingham with on-going environmental and financial problems. Let's all get behind the mayor and back development within the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Masterplan area, where the best tourist potential lies.

*Richard Usher
 Shoalwater*

TOURISTS WANT BEAUTY, NOT MARINAS
The West Australian
Tuesday 30 December 2014

I would like to respond to the Paul Wilson's letter entitled Marina good for WA (December 27-28) by saying that the Rockingham economy needs Point Peron unspoiled and that the smart location for a marina in Rockingham is at the already approved deep water site at Wanliss Street on the Rockingham beach foreshore near existing infrastructure. Tourism is an important part of the Rockingham economy. Our State and Federal governments are gearing up to push tourism, especially eco-tourism. According to the data, 64 per cent of tourists to WA only visit Perth (and surrounds), with this region getting 78 per cent of the money tourists spend in WA. Most WA tourists only stay three to four days and Perth short-stay tourists only want to drive 30-60 minutes to attractions.

Deloitte identifies tourism as one of Australia's top growth opportunities going forward. The Chinese are the fastest growing group, and spend more than any other. The majority of tourists want "world-class beauty and nature", especially the Chinese. Tourists want unique experiences. Marinas and harbours are not unique (Elizabeth Quay, Hillarys Boat Harbour, Mindarie, Fisherman's Wharf in Fremantle, Port Coogee, Dolphin Quay in Mandurah, Mariners Cove, etc). How many marinas do tourists want to see in a three to four-day visit (or in a month)? "Tourists don't want man-made attractions, they want blue skies and natural experiences," according to our recently reinstated WA Minister for Tourism, Kim Hames. So rather than risking

another Port Geographe Bay canals disaster by dredging into the shallow sea grass meadows at Mangles Bay for what is essentially a canal housing estate, why not develop a world-class conservation and recreation park at Point Peron in harmony with nature and our heritage, and have a deep water marina at Wanliss Street instead? Sounds like a win-win to me.

*Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay*

PUT ENVIRONMENT FIRST
The West Australian
Tuesday 30 December 2014

Put environment first I find it ironic that Paul Wilson uses the word selfish to describe those who are concerned about the building of another marina on our coastline. After reading his letter, it is clear that he believes his rights for entertainment and enjoyment far outweigh the rights of people to protect the environment. The so-called "greenies" do not protest to annoy the likes of Paul Wilson. They are putting the interests of the Western Australian environment first rather than their own, trying to protect our coastline from the irreversible impact that comes with building marinas. These people gain nothing personally or financially from protesting against this development. WA, however, gets to save another pristine environment. As for the greater majority wanting these developments, well I'm not so sure. There is not an advertisement anywhere for WA, be it tourism or land development that showcases marinas or indeed any developments on the beach. It's all pristine water and untouched sand dunes. Obviously the advertisers know what people want to see and it's not marinas.

*Susan Boylan
Mullaloo*

PUT ENVIRONMENT FIRST
The West Australian
Tuesday 30 December 2014

We'll lose so much Paul Wilson complains that it is the minority with the loaded voices who think they speak for the silent majority. But then he goes on to pretend he speaks for "the great majority of West Australians". For the record, the many people in Rockingham and WA who are opposed to this marina would like to have a world-class marina in Rockingham. But a marina in the sea like the Port Rockingham Marina – what part of marine do people not get? And one that does not steal 40ha of crown land for a disguised housing estate or pose risks to fish stocks, iconic penguins, world-class cyanobacteria, groundwater and expensive clean-ups. And one that won't mess up our park for 10 years under construction. After seven years of research and millions of dollars, there are still major issues unresolved.

*James Mumme
Rockingham*

CONSULTATION A SMOKESCREEN
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 31 December 2014

I was an interested onlooker at the Hands Off Point Peron group's Cape Peron Coastal Park community consultation on December 18. Their alternative vision meeting turned out to be nothing more than a smokescreen, set up to enable them to criticise the marina development. It seems the basis of their campaign is to deceive the public into believing that Point Peron and even Shoalwater Bay will be destroyed by a marina that will, in actual fact, have no effect on either of them whatsoever. Their trump card was professor of psychology George W Burns, whose whimsical anecdotes of mass destruction reminded me of another George W. The group's George W's approach was to present images of Point Peron and the Shoalwater Marine Park's beautiful beaches and landscapes. He then professed he couldn't understand why we would want to lose all this by adding another 500 boats to the area.

Well, professor, you'd be wrong to assume the marina will bring 500 extra boats to Rockingham. I'm sure plenty of locals will pen their boats in the marina and, in any case, Rockingham's population is expected to grow by 60,000 in the next 15 years, meaning that and boat numbers will increase regardless. I'd like for someone from the group to explain the correlation between the construction of an inland marina on disused land and the destruction of Point Peron and Shoalwater Bay.

*Tony Versace
Shoalwater*

LOUD VOICES
Weekend Courier
Friday 9 January 2015

Why is it always the minority with the loudest voices who think they speak for the silent majority? DawnJecks and her blind followers do not speak for the great majority of us who are looking forward to having a world-class facility available for all to enjoy. The anti-marina few hundred who use emotive language and make threats of chaining themselves to machinery only confirm to me they are a selfish lot who do not have the interests of their fellow Western Australians at heart.

*Paul Wilson
Rockingham*

RESITE FUTURE MARINA
The West Australian
Wednesday 14 January 2015

Developers, leave Point Peron alone. The camp school on the north side of it fulfils a very useful function, and the nature wildlife strip on the south side should be left untouched for posterity. If there must be a marina in the area, build it at Rockingham or nearby Palm Beach. A now retired employee of Main Roads has told me that he knew that the proposed extension to Roe Highway through to the coast could be swung north around the Beelilar wetlands still achieving the purpose but not cutting through an important wildlife preservation area. Do it that way. You have destroyed the Esplanade and its historical values. That's enough!

*R.A. Cross
Wembley Downs*

FINES COULD HELP CURB DUNES' DESTRUCTION
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 January 2015

While much deserved attention is being focused on what should happen at Point Peron, Rockingham's primary tourist attraction is being destroyed in front of our eyes because we fail to take adequate steps to protect and preserve the sand dunes along our beachfronts. Every winter City of Rockingham officers plant seedlings among the dunes to try to revegetate and stabilise the dunes so sand won't be washed away with high tides and winter storms. These plants don't get a chance to take firm root and get established before the warmer weather brings visitors to our beaches who take great pleasure in running, jumping and sliding on these dunes. We can see the destructive consequences of this behaviour in beaches that are now too shallow for swimming and the promenade path being frequently covered with sand in the morning. The council has placed some signs at infrequent intervals along the approaches to the dunes (but none on the dunes themselves) but these do not seem to be adequate to get the message across. It may be necessary to have clearer signs in the specific locations so there is no doubt about what they mean and ranger attention to educate the public about the seriousness of the consequences of not respecting the dunes. Finally if all else fails, fences and fines may be necessary.

*Sheena Edwards
Rockingham*

RISE UP AGAINST THE MARINA BLOCKERS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 January 2015

I have been watching the ongoing litany of negativity about the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development. It amazes me that despite the appointment of learned officers at our watchdog agencies we still have to suffer a noisy minority of knockers and blockers, even after a development has been approved. Developments such as this are the only way Rockingham will shed its "Boganville" reputation and increase its desirability as a place to live and a holiday destination. It strikes me that it's high time the majority spoke out. Perhaps the answer is to organise and form a "Hands On Mangles Bay" group. Much of my working life was spent fighting the knockers and blockers and I'd be happy to help in any way. It continually bothers me that developers have to spend hundreds of thousands in commissioning qualified studies and yet the opponents remain unaccountable. Forge on Mr Sadlier at Cedar Woods and good luck. As for the area becoming another Kings Park, and that there should be a referendum on the issue, please spare me.

*Brian Clark
Safety Bay*

CANAL PLAN IS FLAWED
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 January 2015

In reply to recent letters posted in the *Telegraph* Opinion pages about the Mangles Bay Marina canal estate development. The Mangles Bay canal estate marina debate is not about development versus no development, as some believe, but what kind of development. The canal estate idea has come about because no one could think of anything else, or cared, in a presumably incurious electorate. No one to date has articulated plausible reasons for why it is necessary to endanger the environment with major excavation works and all the associated ills.

Demonising those who have bothered to interrogate the fine print, finding the whole idea hopelessly flawed, is sheer laziness, but rest assured if the canal project does go ahead, it won't be smooth sailing. This is because carving out an inland canal estate is madness for all the reasons repeatedly published. Yet well-meaning canal proponents gladly gloss over the detrimental environmental impacts. To rub salt into the wound, the cost of ongoing maintenance and problem rectification will be borne by the ratepayers and begs the question, why is this OK? Why not insist on something innovative that would truly be a great drawcard beyond Rockingham, an adventure playground for local communities, rather than some trite old hat that has proved disastrous elsewhere? Is someone capable of rationally explaining what is wrong with the Wanliss Street marina proposal?

Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater

WHAT A SHAME
Weekend Courier
Friday 16 January 2015

The Rockingham Beach Foreshore Master Plan, sponsored by Rockingham council, has been activated over the past year and designed to create a precinct to attract visitors to Rockingham and enhance the wonderful asset we have. Was the upgrading of the Cruising Yacht Club jetty part of this plan? How sad that this project was not completed on time for the Australian national Minnows sailing championships, which are being conducted this week. We have young yachting competitors and their families visiting Rockingham from all over Australia. What a disgrace they have not been offered the opportunity to sail on Cockburn Sound, without having to first navigate an industrial site, an incomplete jetty update, with the surrounding earthworks and landscaping, creating a safety hazard and an eyesore. I have observed this project crawl along at no less than a snail's pace over the past months and during some weeks, no work done at all.

Paul Harris
Palm Beach

THIS WILL BE NO WORLD CLASS MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 January 2015

Paul Wilson (Protests from the loud few, 7/1) has got the wrong end of the stick. The protest by thousands is not against a world-class Hillarys-style marina per se, but rather against a proposed inland canal/marina/housing development that some say will do irreparable damage to marine, land and freshwater Lake Richmond ecosystems. The land in question was transferred from the Commonwealth to the WA State Government in 1964 on the proviso it was used for public passive recreation and it would not be built on for commercial or housing development. The Barnett Government and Rockingham MLA Mark McGowan both ignore this proviso and support the proposed development on the grounds that it has been approved by the Environmental Protection Authority.

The EPA report, however, is dismissive in its answers to the points raised by the many experts in their fields, lacking depth and understanding of the issues involved. Unlike the EPA report on the Barnett Government's drum lines solution to the shark dilemma, no outside experts have been engaged to examine this proposed inland canal development. There is no mention as to who will bear the huge costs of continuous dredging and other necessary management over the years. The Rockingham marina planned to be built in the sea at the end of Wanliss Street has no opposition expressed against it. This is the marina which should be built. A recent community meeting resulted in a unanimous decision that Point Peron must be developed, in line with the 1964 agreement, as the Kings Park of the southern coastal suburbs. Such a development will be ecologically, financially and morally sustainable.

Jean Jenkins
Safety Bay

FOCUS MUST BE DIRECTED TO TOURISM FOR ECONOMY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 January 2015

In response to the letter "Protests from the loud few" (7/1), Rockingham's economy needs Point Peron unspoiled. The smart location for a marina is at the already approved deep water site at Wanliss Street on the Rockingham Beach foreshore, near existing infrastructure. Our State and Federal governments are gearing up to push tourism, especially eco-tourism. According to the data, 64 per cent of tourists to WA only visit Perth (and surrounds), with this region getting 78 per cent of the money tourists spend in WA. Most tourists only stay three to four days and only want to drive 30-60 minutes to attractions. The majority of tourists want world-class beauty and nature and unique experiences. So rather than exposing Rockingham ratepayers to a risky Port Geographe Bay-style canals disaster by dredging into the shallow seagrass meadows at Mangles Bay for what is essentially a canal housing estate, why not develop a world-class conservation and recreation park and tourist precinct at Point Peron in harmony with nature and our heritage, and have a deep water marina at Wanliss Street instead? Sounds like a win-win to me.

DawnJacks
SafetyBay

TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MAJORITY WANTS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 January 2015

Paul Wilson says Dawn Jacks claims to speak for the majority (Protests from the loud few, 7/1). He then goes on to do what he criticises her for doing - apparently he knows what "the great majority of West Australians" want, which, of course, is what he wants. In more than eight years talking to people about this proposed marina, I have met only a handful actually in favour once they saw what we would lose. Others were in the middle, confused or unconcerned. But, by far, the majority want something better than a big hole in the public's park. More than 10,000 people signed petitions and 240 took the trouble to send formal objections to the Environmental Protection Authority. In the absence of a proper survey, all we have so far are petitions and masses of letters to newspapers. Before it's too late, let's have a proper survey using unbiased information to find out what Rockingham residents actually do want, especially those in suburbs most likely to be affected. If Cedar Woods really wanted to be a good corporate citizen, we could have had that years ago.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

POINT PERON MUST BE KEPT FOR ALL TO ENJOY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 January 2015

In reply to Paul Wilson's letter "Protest from the loud few" (7/1), I have been associated with Point Peron and Rockingham since early childhood. We lived in the country and had our holidays here. I am now in my 90s and have lived here for many years. Point Peron is a recreational area set aside by the pioneers for all to enjoy and Mr Wilson, Cedar Woods and others would deprive the people of WA and Rockingham of this lovely area of coastal bushland for those who would build more high rise and very expensive units, ruining it for good. At the moment, it is open to all to have weddings, walk their dogs, go rock-climbing, and children can play on little beaches.

The ones fighting to preserve it are against a group who decried Rockingham as the last place to live but suddenly realised what a lovely area it is, like many of our residents. WA should limit further development as we need space to breathe.

Helen Could
Waikiki

DEVELOP THE DERELICT BUSH
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 January 2015

I agree with Paul Wilson's letter "Protests from the loud few" (7/1). We are not going anywhere near Penguin Island or Point Peron. LandCorp, Cedar Woods and the City of Rockingham are to be commended for wanting to improve the waste of land that is fit for nothing. When did Dawn Jacks and her merry band of negativity last walk through that derelict bush? Keep going for a fantastic marina that will be great for the local economy and interstate visitors and will enhance the local area for all West Australians and future generations.

Lesley Moran
Rockingham

TAXPAYERS HIT FOR SEAGRASS CLEAN UP**The West Australian
Friday 23 January 2015**

The State Government has volunteered to spend \$28.15 million in an effort to solve the seagrass problem at the Port Geographe development. While the WA taxpayers are funding this mess, the private developers continue to retain the remaining 500 inland canal lots with apparently no obligation to assist in the clean-up funding. When the same thing happens at the inland canal development at Point Peron, will we taxpayers once again have to come to the fore and will the developers once again walk away scot-free? The land planned for the inland canal development at Point Peron was gifted by the Federal government to the State government to be reserved for recreational purposes for the people - not for private development. If the planned development is allowed to go ahead, then not only have the people been robbed of what is rightfully theirs, but they may also have to pay for its upkeep? Stand up for what is yours, West Australians.

**Joan Weston
Banjup****FROM THE WEB****Weekend Courier
Friday 23 January 2015**

As always, our report on the controversial proposed Mangles Bay Marina plans scheduled to go before the City of Rockingham mid year drew plenty of divisive comments.

It would be nice to see some improvement. There is a lot of rubbish around and public access is limited.

Steph J. Moses

Opposed. Too much wild life in danger.

Kirsty Jaulds

The proposed marina is on the Point Peron Regional ParWBush Forever site, not Mangles Bay.

Alisha Watkins

This area should be upgraded but left as a recreational reserve.

Marc Glasby**OPINION ON MARINA****Weekend Courier
Friday 23 January 2015**

IN the January 16 edition, the Courier asked readers whether they supported a marina at Mangles Bay or not. Many were quick to respond.

I support the marina. I am sick of the negative attitude of the greens who oppose progress at any price. Point Peron is not pristine country. The area is covered with numerous asbestos shacks and camps that should be removed. If the Greens are serious about restoring Point Peron to pristine condition, they should be pressuring the State Government immediately to terminate the leases on these camps and have them demolished and removed. That would be a positive act rather than the Greens' negativity. As to the Wanliss Street marina, it is a dead issue. The proponent cannot find finances to build it and is it any wonder? To build a breakwater to protect the marina is impractical given the depth of water off that site and there is no parking near the site. As a previous boat owner, I believe that the Mangles Bay marina should go ahead without any further procrastination.

**George Sulc
Rockingham**

I am against the proposed marina and canal estate development going ahead. While I agree the area needs some work, the proposed development will destroy the beautiful wilderness of the area. Cedar Woods has not guaranteed maintenance of the canal, leaving us the ratepayers with the cost, not only financially but also to our lifestyle here. My concern is that the beautiful waters here will be adversely affected. The marina at Wanliss Street is a much better option.

**Kate Dawes
Rockingham**

I support a marina both at Mangles Bay and Wanliss Street. I moved to Rockingham eight years ago with the understanding that both these projects were to be built. Should we sue the real estate industry of Rockingham? Rockingham has the best-sheltered waters in the metro area, yet the boating facilities are in the 1950s. The Greens' campaign is misleading. The marina is not at Point Peron but east of the Causeway. The land is not pristine, like most of the land west of the causeway, and is in an area populated by people. We have thousands of kilometres of coastline of which a lot is pristine. However, Cockburn Sound has industry and navy and should have more facilities for the thousands of people who enjoy boating. Let the Greens save Point Peron but leave the waters inside Cockburn to the boating public.

**Chris Smith
Rockingham**

This project is morally wrong; the land should not have been released in the first place. It is socially wrong to take away a fantastic passive recreation area from the people of WA. It is environmentally wrong to put a development like this on the edge of a marine park with endangered fairy penguins on one side and the freshwater Lake Richmond metres away on the other side. It's also economically wrong. I have seen the disaster of Port Geographe left for the City of Busselton to deal with and question that the "dead water" area entrance to the marina by the Garden Island Causeway will not suffer from similar silting, rotting seaweed and smell. It should be stopped. Point Peron is worth more to the City of Rockingham as a nature tourism asset than as a private business hub.

**Peter St Clair Baker
Shoalwater**

There are many aspects to the proposed Mangles Bay development. I will mention the three most important ones. The environmental impact is too large for comfort; the possible future burden on the council to maintain parts of the development is too high a risk to the community and finally, the land has been given to the local government by the Federal Government earmarked "public use". Local, State and federal governments should put people first and realise the economy is to serve the people and not vice versa. The greed of the few puts a burden on the mass and that is not fair. The choices we make today have an impact on our children and grandchildren; we owe it to them to leave some of the world in a liveable state. Destroying our environment for the benefit of a quick profit is short sighted and will put us in a very difficult position in the future. Let us not destroy something we cannot easily fix later; this goes not only for the seagrass in Mangles Bay but also for our water supply and land with fracking.

**Iwan Boskamp
Bedforddale**

I am categorically against this proposal. Land left to the community for their enjoyment should not be redeveloped so that only a privileged few can access it. The environmental impact of this development has not been fully considered. The area should be upgraded to encourage more visitors to the area, increasing traffic to local businesses.

**Anita Treasure
Lathlain**

I want to show full support for the Mangles Bay Marina. People like me are a majority but unfortunately a silent one. Rockingham has stagnated for way too long letting great opportunities like this slip through its fingers. Off the top of my head, let's see what we have missed out on in recent years: a light transit rail through our city centre; a Rottnest Ferry terminal, a water theme park that ended up in Bullsbrook, the Wanliss Street marina that has never happened and a Sizzler restaurant some years ago. People probably know of even more missed opportunities. This proposed marina will be a great asset for us all with public parks, low-cost accommodation, cycle ways, footbridges and so forth. I love Rockingham and want to see it progress, not stagnate.

**Luke Barron-Sullivan
Waikiki****HANDS OFF OUR REMNANT BUSHLAND,
DEVELOPERS****Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 January 2015**

In reply to the opinion stated in Lesley Moran's letter "Develop the derelict bush", (*Sound Telegraph*, 21/1), as a Rockingham resident and ratepayer for the past 40 years, I find it insulting to refer to the bush on Cape Peron as derelict. It is remnant bushland which has lots of snakes and birds living there. Even the endangered Camaby's cockatoos use the trees there. We are losing too much of our remnant bushland. Where are these birds and animals supposed to move to when this so-called fantastic marina and canal development is built? Hands off our bushland.

**J Buckland
Rockingham****GIVE USERS DREDGING BILL****Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 January 2015**

There is a user-pays arrangement in the City of Rockingham where a levy is paid by all pool owners. This is to ensure that all pools are deemed safe. There has been much speculation as to a significant cost to all ratepayers of Rockingham for dredging that will be required if this Mangles Bay development should go ahead. Surely all costs for dredging should also be user-pays, where people who enjoy the benefits of this development should also contribute to the dredging required? If this is the case, will all people who wish to enjoy the benefits of this development be notified in advance, before purchasing the properties, that there will be a yearly levy for the cost of dredging and also what the projected cost will be? This way, they will have an informed decision before purchasing a block, while those who do not wish to enjoy the benefits of this new development are not disadvantaged financially. As this is government land, have the proponents purchased private land and offered this as a viable financial swap for the land in question?

**Fred Kemps
Karnup**

PUBLIC OPINION MARINA
Weekend Courier
Friday 30 January 2015

The proposed marina at Mangles Bay continues to generate strong opinions against the idea.

I am vehemently opposed to this stupid, unsound project for many reasons. They include: Risks to local penguins and dolphins viability, and impacts on Shoalwater Marine Park - both of which the local tourism and ecology depend on. Risks and impacts on seagrass beds in Mangles Bay / Cockburn Sound, that are already under stress. Many unknowns regarding risks to freshwater Lake Richmond, the sedge-lands and the Thrombolites that live there. Loss of affordable low-impact holiday accommodation, historically available in this area. Unknown future impacts of climate change and rising sea levels. Risks associated to stirring up acid sulphate soils in the area. Economic risks of who is going to pay the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the canals. Economic and social risks associated with such a huge and destructive project, many years of noise, dust, inconvenience, construction work and associated traffic, in an area that already is a "bottleneck at peak times. Impacts on access to Garden Island Naval Base, especially in case of an emergency or threat. Minimal tourism growth - most international visitors come to Australia to see pristine natural environments. Inadequate independent research and surveys into this project which is being driven by political, commercial and vested interests, with selective "community consultation" ... to name a few.

Julie Judkins Byrne
Rockingham

My answer to whether or not I support a marina in Mangles Bay is emphatically no. I do support a different kind of development that embraces modern leading edge design concepts, embodying sustainable and carbon-neutral principles that intelligently draw on the strength of the existing environment rather than violating it. Something that incorporates the whole area, not just Mangles Bay, creating a vibrant precinct that can serve public, commercial, residential and cultural objectives. Sustainability and modern design principles are key. It should creatively blend in with the existing nature. To capture this idea, the whole project should have been the subject of a design competition from the beginning. Instead, a government agency and a private developer have tabled this canal estate / marina idea, which is nothing but a dated rehash from a bygone era. Unfortunately, the proposal has always drawn oxygen from a largely disinterested community, while the for and against tussle is being played out on the fringes. The canal estate / marina proposal has always carried a whiff of foregone conclusion about it. The offer of community consultation is meaningless, as no one is offered the opportunity to consult on anything other than a canal development. Tinkering around the edges of something that is destined to be a hideous excavation project will not change anything.

Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater

I do not support the proposed marina / housing / commercial development at Mangles Bay. This precious piece of remaining coast should be kept for the enjoyment of future generations, not irrevocably spoilt for quick commercial gain. There are too many already known environmental risks to wildlife and the surrounding coastline as well as the unknown problems and costs of maintenance of the changes occurring with semi-stagnant water areas. As it is now, there is room to create a wonderful public park surrounded largely by ocean. Where else do we have such a similar priceless legacy? If tourism is important to the area, a park development would be hugely more attractive than a lot of boat pens. Oh for another with the brilliant foresight of Sir John Forrest.

Tony George
Rockingham

DEVELOPERS MAY AVOID CLEAN UP COSTS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 4 February 2015

I have read many letters this past week in both the local newspapers and *The West Australian* concerning the pros and cons of a marina at Mangles Bay. I felt the bottom line on the whole issue was concisely defined by Joan Weston, who wrote in *The West* and pointed out that the State Government (the taxpayer) had put up \$28.15 million in an effort to solve the seagrass problem at Port Geographe development. Private developers continue to retain the remaining 500 inland canal lots with no apparent obligation to assist in funding the clean-up. Do those in favour of this marina wish to front up with the cash to clean up the Point Peron mess when it occurs?

June Parker
Medina

DRIVE ON VISION
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 February 2015

Last year the City of Rockingham chief executive shared council's vision to making the Rockingham Beach foreshore the "Manly of WA. As someone who lived in Sydney for 17 years and a past president of Tourism Rockingham, I have to say that the idea is not without merit but we have to realise the differences with respect to Manly and Rockingham.

Manly is an iconic destination based on its surf beach, something Rockingham Beach does not have. Manly is also a residential precinct with direct access to the Sydney CBD by ferry across one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. Rockingham has not the surf beach or direct water access across a fantastic harbour to Perth and in the same time that a Sydney ferry connects Circular Quay to Manly. Unfortunately, Rockingham cannot be a Manly but, thankfully, we have a coastal route equal to none and a beautiful marine park unequalled in the Perth metropolitan area. Additionally, we have a unique coastal reserve that we should protect in Cape Peron and a surf beach that we should promote in association with associated with a proactive surf club with a national reputation, Secret Harbour SLSC.

The salt lakes of Walyungup and Coo loongup give us a link to our forgotten indigenous past but which needs to be remembered. We need to look at the transport links from the railway stations around our coastal roads and to Secret Harbour making easy and routine access and egress to these Rockingham icons for State, intrastate and international visitors. We need to build and not degrade Rockingham's natural assets, as it will secure our city's future for years to come and make us a destination as famous as Manly. The chief executive needs to drive his vision as it needs someone in a position of influence such as his to make it a reality for the benefit of the community he serves.

Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay

POLITICIANS NOTE
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 February 2015

The outpouring of public opposition to a monstrous canal estate at Point Peron should be carefully noted by Colin Barnett and Mark McGowan. It appears that both leaders have accepted the conversion of public bush forever parkland to sale for private profit. Both have uncritically accepted a flawed environmental report that ignores the plight of the endangered little penguin. Now, the issue is shaping up as an election issue for the whole of the State, and it shows why many voters feel obliged to invest their hopes in minor parties.

Brian Jenkins
Safety Bay

AREA NEGLECTED
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 February 2015

Irrespective of the rights or wrongs of this development, which I personally do not support at that site, it has always grated on me whenever I hear statements from proponents of this project that the area is a run-down, rubbish-filled area frequented by hoons. It is therefore somehow all right, they think, to develop it in a way it was never meant to be. It is publicly owned land known as the bush forever site at Point Peron that was vested in perpetuity to the people many years ago. It is true that the area is run down, untidy and a playground for fools. However, we should all be asking the mayor and the police why the area is such a run-down dumping ground where hoons can do their thing, apparently undisturbed. Maybe if, over the years, the City of Rockingham had spent some money turning the area into what it should be with a one-way scenic road, car parks and foot/cycle pathways, along with other facilities such as barbecues and gazebos, maybe even a café/coffee shop or two, the place would not be the wasted space it has become. Especially if the police, rangers and the so-called "security patrol" had found the time to patrol the place regularly. I may be wrong but I have to admit I have had a sneaking suspicion for some time that the area has been deliberately left to deteriorate for the simple reason that it gives those decision makers who approve of this project their strongest argument.

Peter Edwards
Safety Bay

FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSITION
Weekend Courier
Friday 6 February 2015

There are a number of concerns regarding the environment impacts of the Mangles Bay Marina and the inadequate process of assessment, including that effects on little penguins were not considered, and Cedar Woods submitted that the effect on Lake Richmond could be adequately assessed by assuming the ocean lies on only one side of it. My opposition is, however, more fundamental. The land earmarked for this development was sold to the then Brand Government by the Commonwealth on condition it be used exclusively for recreation and parkland. They recognised even in the 1960s that this was a unique parcel of land and irreplaceable and that it should be preserved, in its entirety, forever. The vision was that it becomes the "Kings Park of the south."

When negotiations are carried out in good faith and a contract signed, it behoves subsequent administrations to honour those contracts. Whatever side we are on, we all work towards creating a better world, for now, and for those who come after, and yet if everything we work for or negotiate can be ignored, how are we to expect anyone would negotiate with good faith? Instead of engaging in public debate, we might as well chain ourselves to bulldozers and look forward to a society where those with the loudest voices or the most money get their way. If a compelling case for altering an agreement could be made, it is perhaps true that with a parliamentary debate such a change might proceed.

In the case of the marina, the test might be that boating is essentially recreation and hence a marina is within the scope of the agreement. If we agreed with this, we might then assess if a marina was required. Point Peron fails this test because a 540-pen marina is already approved a few kilometres away, at Wanliss Street, a significantly superior site for a marina from a boat owner's point of view. But more than that, the proposed Mangles Bay Marina includes private canal-side home sites and commercial development, including business premises. I don't think any reasonable person would expect that when the land was sold, cheaply, on condition it be used solely for recreation and park land that this proviso included a caveat "but you can sell some of it off to pay for the upkeep of the rest". I expect it was sold at a bargain price because the expectation was that it be preserved in its entirety. It seems most Rockingham residents agree and wish to see Point Peron preserved as the Kings Park of the south. By the way, for 12 years I worked in tourism at Penguin Island/Shoalwater and know the nonsense of labelling this marina as a tourism drawcard.

Martin Chambers
City Beach

MARINA DREDGING CASE BUILT ON SAND
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 11 February 2015

When something is repeated enough times it can take on life where no life should be given. Such is the case with the much touted, constant dredging the proposed marina would need. I sat through the marine engineer's reporting on the Wanliss Street Marina proposal when it was still alive, and I am pretty sure the area around here is not subject to much littoral drift (the name given to the movement of sand). It travels on the back of winter storms, mostly south-westerlies. In front of the proposed marina sits a large weed field / bank. It is there right now. I have swam over it and dived on it. For future dredging due to drifting sand to be a concern, that area now should be covered in sand right now. Simply digging a dead-ended channel through it changes nothing. As I understand it, sand drifts south to north. We have it truckloads here on the south side from way down south its arriving in ever-increasing quantities. Nor is there the potential to get "wracked" (the term for the seagrass build-up at Geographe Bay) because, there again, the sand moves from south to north. The beaches over Mangles way are usually fairly clean. Again, not like here in sometimes Smelly Bay where we face the south. But what do I know? I'm not an engineer and these are just opinions.

Alvin Leticia
Safety Bay

GO FOR PARKS
Weekend Courier
Friday 13 February 2015

More expensive high-rise buildings, more holes in the ground, more destruction to the environs; is that the extent of the imagination of our State Government? Canals are banned in many states of Australia, for many reasons, e.g. silting, requiring expensive dredging, stagnant water, fostering the overgrowth of algae, some of which is toxic to fish and other marine creatures, the smell that emanates from such toxic environments and the breeding grounds created for unwelcome insects. Already some of our marine life community is under pressure, e.g. a decline in the numbers of little penguins who feed in the marine park of Shoalwater and Pt Peron.

A walk around Lake Richmond is not as pleasant as it used to be where drainage canals are choked with litter, weeds and algae. Before the

drainage canals were put there, Lake Richmond was pristine. Port Geographe is yet another prime example of a development that can go horribly wrong. Do we really need to create more of the same by allowing canals in Mangles Bay, Pt Peron?

Many Rockingham residents have made suggestions for what Pt Peron may be useful. One such suggestion is a recreational park. Kings Park in Perth and Stanley Park in Vancouver are acclaimed internationally as beautiful recreational parks, which attract millions of interstate and overseas tourists each year. Surely, this is a better path to tread than taking a huge risk of yet another environmental horror. Why can't this area be used as it was intended back in 1964 when it was handed to the State Government to be an A-Class recreation reserve? Give Pt Peron back to the local people to beautify and enjoy and a place to welcome visitors.

Tricia Marie
Shoalwater

BETTER POSITION
Weekend Courier
Friday 13 February 2015

My family and I live in Safety Bay and love the lifestyle this laid-back coastal suburb provides. We also love boating in surrounding waters. We are not entirely "against" the development proposed by Cedar Woods; we only have concerns as to the proposed location, being so close to a protected marine park. Why not move the development closer to Wanliss Street. That position would take better advantage of the existing commercial and recreational facilities that are already in place, with fewer disturbances to the seagrass beds in Mangles Bay, and the penguins and other wildlife of the marine park. There is no margin for error in the proposed development with such a unique coastline and the penguins that live and breed there already under sufferance from the increasing human activities.

I also feel a bit let down by the State and federal governments, in regards to this particular parcel of land. Was it not gifted to the State to be a site of permanent recreation for the people? Couldn't our polities get even this right? A play on words sidestepping the true intention of the contract leaves ordinary mums and dads like us having to stand up for what is essentially ours, against those who are willing to gamble on the environmental impacts to make a buck. I hope Cedar Woods gets the opportunity to develop a "world-class destination" somewhere along the coast, but we feel we already have one.

Amanda Trevor
Safety Bay

CONSIDER A GREENER FUTURE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 25 February 2015

I am left wondering if our society places any value on our children and how our current urban planning policies are affecting their lives now and in the future. It seems to me our children are destined to grow up in a never ending sprawl of tarmac, concrete and limestone. Hot and airless with no shade and their ears more accustomed to the hum of air conditioners than to bird songs. I am, of course, commenting on the continual and rapid occurrence of clearing of bushland in Rockingham and Kwinana for urban subdivisions. Yes, we all need to have a place to live but it would take little imagination to make the new subdivisions truly remarkable places in which to live.

However, it would take a change in government planning policy and a change in the mindset of the developers - their maxim of "minimum effort and maximum profit" would have to go. But I have to ask: what are our children worth? What are we worth? On a blistering summer's day, does clear felling make sense? With our children becoming more overweight, does providing them with sizeable, green, shady play areas make sense? With mental health issues becoming more prevalent in our children, does providing them with areas they can run, explore and use their imagination make sense? When walking along a path, does having some shade make sense? We all like the shade provided by trees on a hot summer's day so why are we bulldozing them all? The trees are already fully grown in the areas being cleared. Our children will never see trees this size again in their lifetime if we continue on this path of destruction. It would cost the developer nothing to leave more trees or bushland areas for public recreation. It may just take a little longer to do things right. It would also be the right thing to do for the environment in general. Everyone's life is enriched by having an environment in balance. It is too late to cry once it has all gone.

Rachel Phillips
Orelia

**MARINA PLANS MUST BE SCRUTINISED BY
AUTHORITIES**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 25 February 2015

Let's get this debate in perspective. The marina approval for the Wanliss Street development met no opposition - why? Because it did not have the environmental impacts of the Mangles Bay site posed. Why did it not go ahead? Because there was no opportunity for a land grab - simple. When the managing director of Cedar Woods says: "A maintenance plan would be established during the detailed design stage after planning" plus "an environmental and water quality monitoring program would also be established after the development", does this not seem back-to-front? Would you not need to have these concerns thoroughly investigated and all contingencies covered prior to commencement of the project? With professional opinions of renowned oceanographers and environmentalists presented, backed up with scientific evidence, why would the authorities not take notice? It is too late once the damage is done? Perhaps Cedar Woods could look into the Wanliss Street site as an alternative - it would surely be cheaper for them.

*Maureen and Robert Skeet
Rockingham*

MARINA SUPPORT PROVOKES REACTION
Weekend Courier
Friday 27 February 2015

Premier Colin Barnett's comments listing the controversial Mangles Bay Marina as a key project for Rockingham drew dozens of comments online. The Courier's story last week reported Mr Barnett had listed the marina among the State Government's policy and legislation priorities for 2015 in Parliament. "The marina will add more than just boat pens to Rockingham; it will be a tourism drawcard and a great boost to the local economy," Mr Barnett said. Many readers supported his comments, while others strongly disagreed.

- I would like to know the last time Colin was in Rockingham. Bet it wasn't recently. - *Deborah Williams*
- Horrible idea. Locals will probably be excluded, along with the penguins. - *Christine Bittle*
- It should take a sleepy hollow into line with most tourist destinations. - *Michael Storer*
- Barnett has no idea what is good for WA, let alone Rockingham. - *Trish Mullan*
- I reckon it's a good idea. Rockingham needs something like this. - *Ben McGregor*
- On this one, he is spot on. Please people let Rockingham go forward. - *Merv Kearney*
- The marina and tourism complex at Mangles Bay near Point Peron will be a boon to the growing population in the Rockingham region. - *Rick Palmer*

POSITION IS CLEAR ON MANGLES BAY MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 4 March 2015

Premier Colin Barnett has thrown his support behind the controversial Mangles Bay marina project. He threw his support behind council mergers but when people voted against the amalgamations, he threw the plans out. I have been on the fence for years, undecided if the marina was worthwhile for Rockingham and if there would be an impact on wildlife and Richmond Lake, and if there would be a financial impact on residents.

I have read numerous letters and spoken to people to get points of view and now believe this is all about money. Someone has looked at this piece of land and thought they can make a fortune putting canals in. These people will try and assure Rockingham residents there won't be any impacts. The Environmental Protection Authority has predicted no significant impact. There are now reports turning up from eminent people who disagree. The area was given to the State and Rockingham for public recreation parkland. It is the responsibility of the Rockingham councillors and Federal, State and local politicians to make sure this agreement is adhered to. Take note, Queensland people voted out who they didn't want and Kwinana residents voted out what they didn't want. It's time Rockingham residents voted on this project. I believe there is a groundswell of people who don't want it to go ahead. The people need to be respected and heard. I'm off the fence and if democracy is demonstrated, I will vote "no" and hopefully send those who want to make a fortune on their way empty handed.

*Ray Cormack
Rockingham*

**VANDALISM TO REGION'S NATIVE HABITAT
PUZZLES CROWEATER**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 11 March 2015

In response to letters about Point Peron and Rockingham, why evict wildlife from their homes for money? Floods and fires do, it for free. Every year, when we travel from Tiddy Widdy Beach in South Australia to Waikiki, to see my mother there is more vandalism to native habitat to be seen. We will be visiting in July and wonder what more vandalism will have hit the area since last year.

*John Could
South Australia*

FLUSH CANAL IS NOT A HELPFUL SELLING POINT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 25 March 2015

A sinister aspect of the proposed canal estate facing Mangles Bay is the flush problem. This is well understood and one canal has been strategically positioned so that it points, straight to Shoalwater Bay. Planning for a contingency flushing measure by extending this canal into the A Class Marine Reserve, effectively bisecting the isthmus is, in a strictly morbid sense, the right thing to do. It will flush the canals and equally underscores the insanity of the canal concept. It is just that at this sensitive stage, promoting a flush canal of this sort is an unhelpful selling point. The unfortunate thing is that our elected representatives, both State and Federal, fully endorse the developmental trajectory for the Cape Peron reserve, because they have calculated it won't affect their electoral capital. There are visions for the reserve where the focus is on community and the environment, but it is democracy in action hence reasonable to deduct that the community favours private development within the Cape Peron reserve.

*Jarl Andersen
Shoalwater*

WAYS TO IMPROVE
Weekend Courier
Friday 27 March 2015

The City of Rockingham's glossy magazine arrived last week. Its message was the usual self-congratulatory presentation of shire activities. Many are undoubtedly essential and of a high standard - 10 points to all the hard-working councillors. However, in the interests of the environment and the ratepayers' pocket, an improvement would be to use recycled paper for all publications, especially that of the magazine. A big improvement would be council's rejection of the proposed Cedar Woods/LandCorp canal project. One of Rockingham's unique assets is its relatively unspoilt seascape and diverse marine wildlife. The shire should be protecting all that against commercial interests, and protecting what is left of our bushland from further housing developments. The modern sales pitch is to offer an experience such as in the promotion of "a quality leisure tourism experience". Presumably, this is what is meant by the mayor's push to turn Rockingham into a Gold Coast clone in the name of progress.

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

BARNETT BULLDOZES OUR RIGHTS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 1 April 2015

What a coincidence. Bulldozer Barnett is pushing the anti-protest laws just as his destructive Mangles Bay marina development has been federally approved. Barnett is hell-bent on destroying WA's natural beauty. These proposed anti-protest laws go against our democratic rights - this is Australia, not North Korea. We are a democracy, not a dictatorship.

*Lauren Barndon
Leda*

SEABIRD'S WARNING
Weekend Courier
Friday 3 April 2015

It was reported that houses in the seaside town of Seabird are at risk of falling in the ocean amid disagreement over how to stop the erosion, who is responsible and how to fund it. This is the future awaiting business owners and residents in the Point Peron canal estate (aka "Mangles Bay marina based tourist proposal"), if construction goes ahead. Can I hear the proponents of this folly shaking in their boots? No, I can't. However, I can hear lawyers doing a tap dance to the bank.

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

FEARS FOR PENGUINS
Weekend Courier
Friday 10 April 2015

Cedar Wood's full-page spread in your April 3 edition raises my concern for the little penguin, which is Rockingham's iconic species. Cedar Woods spruik it will look after the little penguin. The seagrass meadows have roots into the seabed for at least 15cm. Fish that live amongst it are food for the penguin. Cedar Woods intends to remove the meadow in Mangles Bay and transplant it in the Southern end of Cockburn Sound, then to bring it back to Mangles Bay after five years.

A study of the seagrass meadows in Cockburn Sound in 2004 stated there were only 872 hectares left, a loss of 78 per cent. Industrial discharges, boat anchors and propellers caused the loss. Cedar Woods wants to introduce 560 boats to the area. Yet most injuries and death of the little penguin are the result of boat propellers, together with not enough food - they love white bait the best. Wake up Rockingham people. Choose a coastal park not a housing development on Bush Forever land that was put aside by wise decision makers for everyone's recreational use.

*Mary Ann Rath
Waikiki*

MARINA ROBS US OF BEACH
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 15 April 2015

How dumb do the Mangles Bay Marina developers think we are here in Rockingham? Their advertisement (Telegraph, 8/4) says their canal suburb will provide "greater public beach access", but take a look at the conflicting image on their accompanying map. I used to be able to walk along the beach all the way from the Rockingham Foreshore to Point Peron, with a slight deviation around the causeway. If we let this private acquisition of public land go-ahead it will stop us all from doing this forever.

Cedar Woods' map clearly shows a channel and groins cutting through the beach into Mangles Bay. This takes away our beach. There will be less for us to access and it prohibits us all from our long beach walks. The plan will permanently remove Point Peron Road, which runs parallel to the beach and allows public access at several points. The private residential estate will occupy more than 1 km of what was our beachfront. How much access will private residents allow us, the public, through their estate to the beach? The reality is that our beach access is being placed in the hands of a private developer and, contrary to their own comments, their map clearly shows we will have less beach, not more. For us, our kids and grandkids, we have to stop it now.

*Gary Hardegen
Shoalwater*

EROSION NOT KEY ISSUE IN BAY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 22 April 2015

Opponents of the proposed canal development at Point Peron need to stop making alarmist claims about the consequences of development in that area. There is no comparison between Mangles Bay and Seabird, which bears the full brunt of storms from the west and is not protected. Mangles Bay is sheltered by the Garden Island causeway. In the 30 years I have been accessing that shoreline, I have only observed deposition and not erosion. People opposed to the development would do far better to worry about the ingress of salt water into the freshwater aquifers and the loss of sea grass. The environmental report by the Environmental Protection Authority (bulletin 1237) expresses concerns about the damage to and planting of seagrass. Also maintenance of the water quality in Lake Richmond is an issue in that report.

*Max Milne
Shoalwater*

FLOOD GATES A SOLUTION
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 22 April 2015

The existing drain for the Lake Richmond overflow goes to the sea through the middle of the proposed site for the Mangles Bay Marina. It was reported (Mangles Bay drainage issue yet to be assessed, Telegraph, 26/11/14) that no proposals had been received by the council for a new drain. A new drain would have to take into account the change in sea levels predicted to result from global warming.

The Department of Transport predicts the sea level will rise by 0.7m by 2080 so that the low tide in winter would be around 1.15m Australian Height Datum. High tide would be 1.9m. The present overflow is designed to keep the level of Lake Richmond to 1.2m AHD. It will be interesting to see how drainage of the lake will be designed to ensure this is maintained in the future. The other

problem faced by coastal developments with global warming is flooding of the site. The study completed for the coastal councils as part of the Peron Naturaliste Partnership said that for the Port Mandurah Estate the least expensive option in the future could be to put floodgates across the mouth of the canals. This could also be applied to the Mangles Bay Marina.

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

ADVERT CLAIMS CHALLENGED
Weekend Courier
Friday 24 April 2015

The Cedar Woods full-page advertisement in the Courier's April 3 edition claims an inland canal and marina is set to become a unique regional asset for the people of Rockingham. I beg to differ. Our family have enjoyed living in the Palm Beach area for almost a quarter of a century. Along with countless others, we have had a wonderful time experiencing the beauty of Point Peron, including sailing from the yacht club hard stand, swimming and snorkelling, and the education camp facilities. I believe as a community we must stand up to value and protect this land that was given to us by the Federal Government in 1964 for parkland and recreation.

If an inland canal estate and marina goes ahead, what will happen to the weekly yacht club racing, the fishing boat club facilities, the school camps from regional WA, and annual West Sail camps, and this list goes on? There is no way we can replace this beautiful part of WA once they start digging a massive hole in our bush forever parkland, and digging up Mangles Bay sea grasses where our Rockingham little penguin forages for food. This development is so close to the fresh water Lake Richmond, making it under threat from saltwater contamination. This will affect our pelicans and other bird life, and destroy the ancient thrombolites.

This proposal by Cedar is a land grab from our Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, and a bush forever site. More than 400 housing lots are planned by Cedar Woods and LandCorp that will benefit only the rich, as will the 400-pen marina. We must create Cape Peron Coastal Park, to save this area for future generations. This will then continue to be our greatest and unique asset, where eco-tourism and the environment will thrive forever.

*Debbie Kelly
Rockingham*

DREDGING A BIG PROBLEM FOR LITTLE PENGUINS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 29 April 2015

The advertisement about Mangles Bay Marina (Telegraph, 8/4) claims the project will benefit the Penguin Colony at Garden Island, but 27 independent experts disagree. The proposed development site is a prime penguin feeding area. Breeding pairs feed almost exclusively in the Mangles Bay area directly adjacent to the proposed construction site, especially when feeding chicks. Seventy seven of their food sources - seagrass meadows - have been lost in Cockburn Sound since 1967, and the canals will take more and completely bisect the main remaining seagrass meadow. If successful, rehabilitation will take up to 10 years to resume full coverage. Boat strikes currently account for one third of penguin deaths. The canals will add 500 more boats and could thus devastate our penguins. In addition, penguins in the Mangles Bay area already contain mercury above safe levels.

The development, through dredging and the poorly-flushed, blind-ending canal design, will increase heavy metals release and threaten the commercial and recreational fisheries in Cockburn Sound, the local aquaculture industry and the penguins. The Penguin Island colony has declined 50 per cent since 2007 and the 2012 Federal Marine Bioregional Plan called for Perth's little penguins to be treated as a conservation priority. Yet science shows the local penguin colonies could be lost to us all by the dredging, removal of sea grass, release of heavy metals, diminished fish abundance and increased propeller strikes. Our little penguins need big help. We simply can't have canals and penguins.

*Lorraine Mackenzie
Shoalwater*

VANISHING SIGHT
Weekend Courier
Friday 1 May 2015

Is it legal for me to buy a shotgun and shoot a wedge-tailed eagle? How about taking a chainsaw to their homes? Would it be OK to bulldoze their habitat? Probably not. So is it going to be OK to destroy their habitat and replace it with barren concrete all in the name of development? There are wedge-tailed eagle living at Point Peron, I see them often from my back yard and from around the lake. They can be seen flying high above Shoalwater Bay most days. I've seen one close up with a fish from the lake, flying over Safety Bay Road, back to the bushland adjacent to there. Therefore, it would be nice if someone with a better camera could take some pictures for our grandchildren to show them what nature looked like before they built a festering canal development there.

Stephen Lawrence
Shoalwater

BETTER SPOT FOR MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 13 May 2015

In the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Master plan there is not a mention of the possibility there might/maybe some time in the future be a marina at the end of Wanliss Street. You would think with all the problems with the Mangles Bay proposal and the great demand for marinas in Rockingham the council would make room and some consideration for the future potential. But no, it's clear in black and white. Just compare the alternatives at Wanliss Street: no environmental problems, no worries about rerouting the sewage waste water pipes, no rerouting of the Lake Richmond overflow drain and no worries about rising sea levels. There would be no loss of bushland, no seagrass destruction, no loss of penguin feeding grounds, no loss of access to the beach, no traffic problems, no dumping polluted water from Lake Richmond into Mangles Bay near Palm Beach and no salinity in bores.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

JUST THE JOB
Weekend Courier
Friday 1 May 2015

Writer Debbie Kelly opposes the building of the Rockingham marina and canal development (Advert claims challenged, *Courier*, April 24), but this is a \$700 million project that will be an enormous boost to the local economy, with flow-on benefits such as tourism and recreation for years. Local business will benefit, which means more local jobs. Opponents continue to repeat the mantra criticising all development and the project will destroy our pristine environment. WA has no less than 20,780 kilometres of pristine coastline. Compare this to Belgium, which has a coastline of 67km, less than the distance from Scarborough to Mandurah. They have developed this into a magnet for tourists, providing recreation, marinas, resort hotels and apartments. I wonder if Debbie Kelly read the letter next to hers from a mother about just how difficult it is for her daughter to get even a part-time local job.

Robin Linke
Safety Bay

CASE SELF DEFEATING
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 May 2015

So, the Barnett Government and its "partner" the Cedar Woods Property Group are unhappy about growing resistance to their planned privatisation of "bush forever" parkland at Point Peron. I understand that the Government has already paid several million dollars to develop the concept - a luxury residential precinct called the Mangles Bay Marina. However, there will be no marina in Mangles Bay. The proposal is to sell some 400 residences "off the plan", then excavate a lagoon and canal development, to be followed by commercial development and an inland boat harbour over a period of 20 years, as profits are generated.

As in the case of Mandurah and Geographe Bay, local ratepayers will conveniently pay for any costly mistakes and engineering problems. Although an excellent marina site has been approved adjacent to the burgeoning Rockingham retail and tourism precinct, it cannot go ahead. There are but meagre profits to be made from real estate sales there: the State Government and City of Rockingham have provided no incentive to build a marina at that ideal location.

Unfortunately, exploitation of the Point Peron district will, according to dozens of scientific experts, be disastrous to the district's main tourist attractions - the already dwindling small colony of little penguins and other rare wildlife, including sea lions. The proponents' arguments about new tourist attractions are thus self-defeating. It is for that reason that the local population has risen up, demanding that the whole of Cape Peron and the unique freshwater Lake Richmond be protected as a recreational sanctuary zone, together with the existing Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. LandCorp's Point Peron plan is akin to excising a large parcel of Kings Park for the building of McMansions and high rise residential property: no wonder it is being howled down.

Brian Jenkins
Safety Bay

POINT V CAPE
The West Australian
Friday 15 May 2015

The article, Battle looms over Point Peron plans (News 8/5) was timely Rockingham has suffered enough destruction of forest, bushland, flora and fauna over the past five years, particularly in Baldivis. Not so long ago, a drive around suburban Rockingham offered native bushland on one side and beautiful beaches on the other. Now, with threat of further land claim and property development by LandCorp and Cedar Woods, we need to be kept informed. I attended the meeting last week and, as reported, George Burns of the lobby group, Hands Off Point Peron, has a viable vision, Cape Peron Coastal Park. Hands Off Point Peron are not about progress and making money, but about saving bushland, keeping the ocean and Lake Richmond clean, and protecting local wildlife.

Sandy Hudson
Warnbro Beach

PUT ENVIRONMENT FIRST
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 13 May 2015

Over the years one has often had to smile at the extreme investment-inspired proposals of Robin Linke, self-appointed local spokesman for just about everything bad in our society. However, his latest letter (Further comment preferred in piece, May 6) surely warrants a reply on behalf of the majority, who must be regularly offended by his views and personal attacks on selected citizens, in this case a Telegraph writer. Predictably, there was a topical plug for the unpopular canal development at Point Peron which masquerades as an inland marina. I am persuaded a more acceptable location for a genuine marina would be the already approved one off Wanliss Street, well away from our protected marine park.

There are many valid objections to the drive by State Government and favoured investors to "get rich quick" from the dubious conversion of Peron's public parkland to private residential lots. If implemented, this proposal would obliterate our already dwindling little penguin colony. The obnoxious live-animal export industry is another excellent example of greed-driven investment, which hands all the work of processing and value-adding to foreign operators whose abattoirs, as we well know, can be places of sadistic torture. Why then, Mr Linke, do you want to see those filthy truckloads and ships full of distressed animals at Kwinana, (Fremantle having wisely banned them)? Predictably, too, Mr Linke blandly promotes nukes, fracking, GMOs and other potentially destructive industries which have met continuous and resolute public opposition since long before the dreaded Greens existed.

Brian Jenkins
Safety Bay

SOUTH AFRICA SHOWS WAY
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 May 2015

A few years ago, I visited the Cape of Good Hope. It is a spectacular natural feature. The surrounding area is a nature reserve where baboons and antelope roam. On the same peninsula, there is a penguin colony that can be reached by walking a couple of kilometres. Thousands of people visit both of these attractions every week. Here in the Rockingham area we have a comparable natural wonder; in fact, a whole area of natural wonders including a freshwater lake with thrombolites; a spectacular peninsula and a number of islands with penguins, sea lions, pelicans and other wildlife. Most of it is already declared as nature and marine reserves. The difference is that South Africa has preserved its natural wonders on the Cape Peninsula and it is promoting it as one of the country's tourist attractions.

If you look at the Rockingham City website, the Point Peron area does not even feature in the top reasons to visit. Phil Edman has started to get involved in restoring some of the features of Point Peron. Why not get behind the Point Peron Coastal Park idea? It can be achieved very easily and will not require all the disruption that the proposed marina will do. The marina will take years and an estimated \$100 million to complete. At the end we are likely to have a canal development filled with stagnant water and 500 stink boats. A spectacular nature reserve area will add enormous value to our area and confirm that we are a mature community with authentic values.

Rosell Croeser
Shoalwater

RECORD STRAIGHT
Weekend Courier
Friday 15 May 2015

In responding to Hands off Point Peron's alternative plan for Cape Peron, Paul Sadleir of Cedar Woods talks about "misinformation" about the location of the proposed canal estate/marina. What a sick joke. Anyone who has seen the scale model of Cape Peron made by a local community member at his expense will know exactly where the proposal is. People were appalled that it was taking so much land from the regional park, almost cutting it in two. Cedar Woods' misinformation began in 2012 with renaming their proposal "Mangles Bay Marina". To set the record straight: the proposal is not in Mangles Bay except for a channel dredged through seagrass and a small reclamation also covering seagrass. Moreover, the proposal is largely a housing development: only 14 ha of the 77 ha is for a marina, most of the rest is for luxury canal-side housing. Geographically the whole area up to Safety Bay Road is Cape Peron. Sure Hands of Point Peron is not accurate either, but at least they do not want to steal the public's park and make themselves millions at our expense.

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

LEFT GREENS FAIL TO OFFER PLAN FOR FUTURE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 May 2015

I reply to Brian Jenkins' letter (Put environment first, Telegraph 13/5) in which he ridicules several of my previous letters that support economic development to create new jobs, new industries and exports. What is equally important is that, like other left Green supporters, he fails to offer any alternatives! He opposes the \$700 million marina, which will be an enormous boost to the local economy. It will create jobs for many years to come. There will be new recreation facilities, a boost for tourism, resort hotels and apartments. His opposition is based on the myth that the penguin population will be wiped out. He opposes the live animal export trade which benefits thousands of farming families. He ignores the fact that we have negotiated with the Gulf States and South East Asian and African countries and reduced mortality to 1 to 2 per cent. I challenge Brian Jenkins and other left Green supporters to identify their solutions that will support the future of our children and grandchildren.

*Robin Linke
Safety Bay*

**POINT PERON GARDENS PLAN LACKS RESEARCH
ON SOIL**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 May 2015

How much research has been done about botanical gardens at Point Peron (Public meeting to unveil Point Peron future plan, Telegraph, 6/5)? I have lived in this area for 25 years and am still endeavouring to grow basic plants in sandy soil. As it stands, Point Peron is a disgrace with rubbish everywhere. Why has it taken so many years to plan and clean up this area? Go down to Lease Road and see the rubber burns from hoon drivers.

*T. Adamson
Shoalwater*

**PRAISE FOR DEVELOPER'S MARINA PROJECT
RESCUE**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 20 May 2015

Congratulations to Tony Poli's Aigle Royal Developments for buying the Port Geographe marina project. It's great that someone has come up with money after the original company and the bank refused further funds to fix it up when piles of rotting seagrass brought progress to a halt. In the lead up to the last State election the local member who happened to be the treasurer came up with the \$28 million to fix the groynes. This has now been spent. What seems to be forgotten is the public interest in this smelly affair. Will the State Government ensure that its (read: the WA community's) investment is repaid - with interest? Or is this another case of unacknowledged corporate welfare?

*James Mumme
Shoalwater*

RESPONSE TOO LATE
Weekend Courier
Friday 22 May 2015

There are a number of factors that were not considered in the environmental review of the proposed Mangles Bay Marina including traffic outside the project area, and the overflow drain for Lake Richmond. So far, my questions to those in the public service and council staff have received the reply "that the detail has not been submitted yet. It will be considered when the project is approved". That's too late in my book.

The information on the drain so far is that it would be piped under Safety Bay Road and Hymus Street to the beach and then to the marina entry. The design of a new drain of such expense must take into account the long term predictions of sea level due to global warming and a one in 100 year rainfall. In a normal winter the two 1.5m pipes under Safety Bay Road run at full flow. The pipes going more than 1 km would have to be enormous. With no difference in water level at each end, any flow out of the lake is not possible. In addition, it will be difficult to stop the seawater flow into the lake at high tide. Presumably, the engineers must be considering pumps to do the job. They would have to be big and consume a lot of power. If this is to be the outcome, ratepayers and taxpayers should be assured that we are not paying the bill for the works or the power used. We have had enough of rate rises to pay for the councillors' grand designs with the justification that "it is just to meet ratepayers' expectations"

*Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham*

STATEMENT NA'IVE
Weekend Courier
Friday 22 May 2015
LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM STATE, FEDERAL DEBT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 10 June 2015

Why does local government fail to learn from the far from innocuous debt accumulated by the Federal and State governments? The forecast figures by the City of Rockingham predict that it will rise from the present \$22.7 million to \$65.9 million in 2021 (Debt is no cause for alarm, Courier, May 1). Perhaps an underestimation, but how does one know? Mayor Barry Sammels stated that unprecedented low interest rates - estimated to be between 5 and 6.5 per cent for the next six years - meant the City could actually save money in the long run by building infrastructure sooner, rather than later. Isn't this a rather na'ive statement, considering that interest has to be paid accumulatively on borrowed capital?

*David Rudman
Rockingham*

DEVELOPMENT COULD SEND DOLPHINS AWAY
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 27 May 2015

Congratulations to Clare Negus on her wonderful story about Terry Howson and his dolphin dream. We remember those early days for Terry, we would be out fishing with our dear old friend Ned and see Terry heading out to swim with the dolphins. What a wonderful example of just what one man's dream and persistence can achieve. Terry has done wonders for Rockingham, bringing people from all parts of the globe to our beautiful beaches to share and discover our amazing marine life, and indeed taking Rockingham to the world. I believe he truly deserves the highest of praise.

It saddens me though, to think that all of Terry's dedication and hard work could be irrevocably damaged should the proposed marina go ahead; the dredging alone would be horrendous and send our wonderful dolphins heading off for less disturbed waters, not to mention the penguins and any other marine life in the vicinity. I wonder if the developers have even considered the impact all this will have on Terry's dolphin dream - probably no, they do not care that this man has worked so hard for years to achieve. Terry says he will happily swap lives with a dolphin - hopefully he would get to swim in the pristine waters of Rockingham, Point Peron and Shoalwater Bay - not in a choked up marina.

*Jennifer Rinnie
Hillman*

COUNCIL OUT OF TOUCH
Weekend Courier
Friday 5 June 2015

As a 40-year Rockingham resident and a former local government councillor, I was astonished to read that the City of Rockingham is considering raising rates by five times the Perth consumer price index. And this at a time when both state and federal government budgets are billions of dollars in deficit, and with unemployment approaching 6 per cent. The City's decision-makers are clearly out of touch with reality if they think that the community's capacity to pay these outrageous fees is unaffected by the prevailing economic environment. This is the seventh successive year of exorbitant hikes in rates charges, with no foreseeable end to this strategy in sight. I know from past experience that ratepayers always ask for more facilities and services than can be afforded and that it is hard for elected councillors to say no. This is a time for strong leadership aimed at ensuring the City's expenditure on new infrastructure and programs is funded from past cash flows and CPI increases. I call on councillors to vote no to the proposed budget at the June 23 meeting.

David Winter
Rockingham

CR STEWART PRAISED
Weekend Courier
Friday 5 June 2015

It was interesting to note the comments of a councillor justifying rate increases:

1. That the 'Point Peron group' would like to see council spend \$20 million on a Wanliss Street Marina. HOPP has suggested that the Wanliss Street Marina should be supported, not the Mangles Bay version. They have never suggested council should spend \$20 million on that proposal.
2. That the rate increases amount to \$2 a week and that they were sympathetic to the people who can't afford this. It amounts to a \$40 increase per fortnight over the past five years and that does not include the increases to landfill charges, security, emergency and fire levies etc.
3. The suggestion that many residents are clamouring or asking for more facilities. This is an over-exaggeration.
4. The suggestion that now is a great time to take on extra debt and bring projects forward because the interest rates are low. Council needs to consider bigger picture possibilities such as global economic factors/meltdowns, changes in the WA economy, local issues in the next 20 years such as our landfill site expiring etc.

Cr Stewart was the only councillor who had the courage to suggest that the rises should be limited to CPI only. Let's hope more of our councillors can get in touch with reality as she has.

Rainer Winkler
Rockingham

CANAL PLAN FLAWED
Weekend Courier
Friday 5 June 2015

At last week's council meeting, Mayor Barry Sammels commented on the Cape Peron Coastal Park concept plan and stated that in his view, it had many excellent ideas and features. The mayor suggested that by overlaying the canal development over the area concerned, a number of the alternatives could be accommodated, which technically is correct, but he fails to recognise that the area concerned is a major part of the Coastal Park Plan, and home to a variety of birds, reptiles and mammals, where walk trails would meander through native bushland. With the population of Rockingham anticipated to increase by 62 per cent over the next 20 years to more than 200,000 people, we need more open space, not less.

It is estimated that more than 16,000 Australians die prematurely each year as a result of physical inactivity, with nearly 2000 of those in WA. Nature and access to natural environments can reduce the impact of life stress on children and help them deal with adversity. It is important that the natural environment is appreciated both for its contributions to ecosystem services and for its intrinsic value. This includes conserving areas of native vegetation and the biosecurity of species populations and ecological communities (WAPC State Planning Strategy 2050, page 101, Environment). It is of concern when documents such as Directions 2031 and State Planning Strategy 2050 seem to be thrown out the window when these ill-conceived canal developments are thrust upon the community at large. We are told by LandCorp this development could take 20 years, and it would be progressed in stages, with the first stage being the sale of housing to generate sufficient funds to carry on to the next stage. When asked when the canals would be built, we're informed it could be 10 years, maybe never. Who in their right mind would buy a housing block, build a house and live in a construction site for 10 to 15 years with the noise and dust as company?

Peter Green
Cooloongup

VALUE OF PRESERVING PENINSULA PRICELESS
Weekend Courier
Friday 5 June 2015

Each day during this lovely weather, I have cycled to Point Peron and enjoyed the magnificent 360-degree views from Perth 35km away to Mandurah to the Darling Range and across the beauty of the Shoalwater Marine Park to Wambro Sound and north to Garden Island and Cockburn Sound. Nature at its majestic best! What amazes me is that no attempt has ever been made to declare this peninsula a state and national park. It is not too late for this to happen. Kings Park in Perth suffered 35 years of logging until it was rescued as degraded bush by the State Surveyor-General in 1871 and rehabilitation could begin. Unfortunately, people with vision are thin on the ground and we are represented by political hacks who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Glyn Lloyd
Shoalwater

TIME TO SHOW SOME COURAGE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 10 June 2015

It was interesting to notice the comments of a councillor justifying rate increases at our last council meeting, saying the "Point Peron group" would like to see the council spend \$20 million on a Wanliss Street marina. Hands Off Point Peron has suggested the Wanliss Street Marina is the one that should be supported, not the Mangles Bay version, because it is the more sustainable project. It has never suggested the council should spend \$20 million on the proposal. The councillor also said the rate increases amounted to \$2 a week and suggested the council was sympathetic to the people who could not afford this.

This displayed a lack of understanding and empathy for residents. It amounts to a \$40 increase a fortnight over the past five years, and that does not include the increases to landfill charges, security, emergency and fire levies. The suggestion by a councillor that many residents are clamouring or asking for more facilities is an over-exaggeration. Many people are not asking for more, as indicated earlier in their meeting.

Regarding the suggestion that now is a great time to take on extra debt and bring projects forward because the interest rates are low, the council needs to consider bigger picture possibilities such as global economic factors/meltdowns, changes in the WA economy and local issues in the next 20 years, such as our landfill site expiring. It was great to hear an entity was lobbying the council for funding solutions to homelessness - surely this wouldn't justify a rate increase.

It was good but sad to see Cr Joy Stewart was the only councillor who had the courage to suggest the rises should be limited to consumer price index only. Let's hope more councillors can get in touch with reality as she has.

Rainer Winkler
Rockingham

PRISTINE POINT PERON DESERVES PROTECTION
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 10 June 2015

Each day of this recent lovely weather I have cycled to Point Peron and had my breath taken away by the magnificent 360-degree views. From Perth, 35km away to Mandurah, to the Darling Range and across the beauty of the Shoalwater Marine Park to Wambro Sound and north to Garden Island and Cockburn Sound - it's nature at its majestic best.

What amazes me is that no attempt has ever been made to declare this peninsular a State and national park. It is not too late for this to happen. Kings Park in Perth suffered 35 years of logging until it was rescued as degraded bush by the State Surveyor-General in 1871 and rehabilitation could begin. Unfortunately, people with vision are thin on the ground and we are represented by political hacks who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Glyn Lloyd
Shoalwater

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Vanessa Schmitt
Weekend Courier
Friday 12 June 2015

Cooloongup resident Peter Green has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to conservation and the environment. He made the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his contribution to environmental causes. Mr Green said it was a bit of a shock to be nominated. "I'm appreciative though," he said. "I love being involved because it's a passion of mine. I want to make a difference."

Mr Green has been on several boards and committees, such as the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee since 2011. He was a coastal marine representative for the Rangelands Natural Resource Management from 2002 to 2005. The passionate grandfather was also involved in local government. He was the Shire of Exmouth deputy president from 1995 to 2003. Mr Green lived in Exmouth for 37 years.

Since moving to Rockingham to be closer to his grandchildren, Mr Green has been an advocate for a coastal park at Point Peron. He is a vocal opponent to the proposed marina development, which he described as "ludicrous". "The idea of a marina at Point Peron is just terrible," he said. A marina won't flourish. People need more open space to enjoy, not less." Mr Green prefers the proposal of a miniature Kings Park, with walk trails to Port Kennedy.

Governor General Peter Cosgrove said medal recipients had made a significant contribution to the nation. "We are fortunate as a community to have so many outstanding people willing to dedicate themselves to the betterment of our nation and it is only fitting that they have been recognised through the Australian Honours system," he said. "Since 1975, these awards have drawn national attention to the personal efforts of individuals, made willingly, without thought of recognition or recompense."

THANKS, COUNCILLOR

Weekend Courier
Friday 12 June 2015

It is interesting to note that the only City of Rockingham councillor to oppose the new council rate hikes is also the only councillor who is opposed to the 'so-called' Mangles Bay Marina. Thank you, Cr Joy Stewart.

*Dawn Jecks
Safety Bay*

MARINA MAINTENANCE WILL COST A PACKET

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 17 June 2015

Rockingham's rocketing rates are in the news but this is nothing to what we could be paying in the future. Did you know that the proponents for the private canal housing estate on Point Peron have asked the City of Rockingham to take on the responsibility of the waterways management of their canal project? This is before the City and is soon to be voted on by our councillors. If they decide to do so, it means that you, I and every Rockingham ratepayer will face the exorbitant costs of maintaining and dredging the canals for the handful of households in the expensive estate.

All ratepayers of the Shire of Murray foot a bill in excess of \$500,000 every time the Yunderup canals have to be dredged. The failed canal development at Port Geographe Bay threatened to bankrupt the City of Busselton until the WA Government poured in millions of our taxpayer money and continues to do so. If we don't want to bear the resultant escalation of our rates here in Rockingham, we need to let our elected councillors know. Email or phone the council now with the message: "We strongly oppose the council and City of Rockingham taking on the waterways management for the Mangles Bay Marina and the resultant burden this could place on all Rockingham ratepayers."

*Lorraine Mackenzie
Shoalwater*

SHOW FEELINGS AT THE BALLOT BOX

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 24 June 2015

From the letters in the *Telegraph* it appears a lot of Rockingham residents are unhappy with Barry Sammels as the Mayor. Many years ago a mayor in an Adelaide seaside suburb went against residents' wishes and allowed a developer to build three huge apartment blocks on the foreshore, blocking views of the park and beach. At the next election he was voted out and wanted to know why. Perhaps it's time for Rockingham residents to do the same if they're unhappy

*Stan Walters
Cooloongup*

PLAN DESTRUCTIVE TO PARK

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 24 June 2015

Cedar Woods' advertorial (*Telegraph*, 10/6) is nothing but a blatant theft of community ideas. For several years, several community groups have been working on developing the Cape Peron Coastal Park concept plan. This plan was published in a free magazine and presented at an open Community Consultation in Rockingham on May 7.

Cedar Woods has now taken these ideas and claims them as its own. How can it compare the CPCP concept plan with its own highly flawed proposal? Our community concept plan is to save the whole of the Cape Peron, Lake Richmond and Shoalwater Marine Park as one continuous community recreational area. Cedar Woods' proposal is to bulldoze and dig out almost 200 acres of the park. How can it expect us to believe it will include all the CPCP plan features when it will permanently destroy so much of the park? There simply won't be room left for our community facilities and 500 homes. And Cedar Woods' promises are at least 20 construction years away - the rest of my life and many other Rockingham residents' lives.

The CPCP plan could be rolled out in two to four years for everyone to enjoy. Let's be clear on the bottom-line difference. The community-based concept plan for Cape Peron has one clear objective - to preserve and protect this area with high quality community facilities for the benefit of the people of Rockingham and WA forever. Cedar Woods/LandCorp also has one clear objective - to make private profit out of the destruction of our publicly owned land.

*Adjunct Professor George Burns,
Cape Peron Coastal Park Steering Committee*

WORSE AHEAD

Weekend Courier
Friday 26 June 2015

Rockingham's rocketing rates are in the news but this is nothing to what we could be paying in the future. Did you know that the proponents for the private canal housing estate on Point Peron have asked the City to take on the responsibility of the waterways management of their canal project? This is now before the City and is soon to be voted on by our councillors. If they decide to do so it means that you, I and every Rockingham ratepayer will face the exorbitant costs of maintaining and dredging the canals for the handful of households in the expensive estate. All ratepayers of the Shire of Murray foot a bill in excess of half a million dollars every time the Yunderup canals have to be dredged. The failed canal development at Port Geographe Bay threatened to bankrupt the City of Busselton until the WA Government poured in more than \$30 million of taxpayers' money ... and continues to do so. If we don't want to bear the resultant escalation of our rates here in Rockingham, we need to let our elected councillors know that.

*Lorraine Mackenzie
Shoalwater*

LET DOWN ON BIG ISSUE

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 1 July 2015

In 1982 the State Liberal Government installed, despite two years of angry protest, the second-biggest sewerage outfall in the Southern Hemisphere, 3km west of the Shoalwater Marine Park. In 2015 the State Liberal Government plans to take 34 per cent of the Point Peron peninsular, public land, for swank homes and a stagnant canal.

It doesn't pay to be a safe Labor seat it seems. You would think that in these circumstances our parliamentary and council representatives would see fit to inform themselves of public thinking on what must be the most important social and environmental issue in decades. Unfortunately, with the exception of our Federal Member Gary Gray and one councillor, they are not even interested enough to attend public meetings. We elect these people to represent us and our local issues. Our rates and taxes pay them. If they are unprepared to do the job, roll on the next election.

*Glyn Lloyd
Shoalwater*

WHAT BENEFIT OF MANGLES BAY PROJECT?

Sound Telegraph
 Wednesday 15 July 2015
 Weekend Courier
 Friday 17 July 2015

Everyone, including supporters of this Mangles Bay project, should be calling for full cost-benefit information. The public has a right to know this before our State Government gets any more involved. Several years ago Cedar Woods commissioned the Mangles Bay Economic Study and leaked just one figure to the public. The developers claimed Rockingham would benefit by \$43 million a year for 30 years. Since then they have refused to release any more information. Even the Rockingham City Council was not informed. Recently on TV the company's chief executive failed to mention this study.

So what's wrong with it? Did it really show all that benefit? Did it factor in the costs and risks? Let's learn from local history Port Geographe Marina had environmental approvals but cost the local council millions. It then cost the taxpayer \$28 million and there could well be more. This inland marina is way more complex, costly and risky than either Port Geographe or Hillary's Boat Harbour. I call on Cedar Woods to come clean, on council to demand full financial information about costs, benefits and risks before it makes any further commitment and on the State Government not to risk any more public money.

James Mumme
 Shoalwater

COSTLY VICTORY

Weekend Courier
 Friday 17 July 2015

All those who favour a marina at Point Peron might find that if the project gets planning approval it will prove to be false victory. The way things are with the State's finances I am sure all the Government wants to do is sell the land and minimise the costs. It seems that Cedar Woods - and therefore the Government - have the OK to sell the land in 2017. This is two years before the Water Corporation plan to relocate the big sewer wastewater pipeline around the site. It is a likely result that the bush will be cleared and the marina project stopped there. Of course, houses would be built on the land sold. There are so many construction problems with the environmental restrictions, relocation of sewer wastewater disposal piping and Lake Richmond overflow drain and rising sea levels that the costs must be making the whole project very expensive. Once the blocks have been sold, it is all outgoings for Cedar Woods and the Government. It is very likely that when it gets to the real site work it will be decided that the money is not available. Unfortunately, by then West Australians will have lost their heritage.

Norm Hodgkinson
 Rockingham

LIMIT GROWTH

Weekend Courier
 Friday 17 July 2015

Endless growth: this is the mantra of most governments and businesses. Those who question this are castigated. Yet the premise of endless growth on a finite planet is actually absurd and impossible. This is the age of peak everything - oil, soil, wheat, water and so forth. The evidence is overwhelming: unlimited growth is neither possible nor desired. Wake up people ... there is no Plan B.

Brad Capes
 Coolbellup

HOW OUR COAST FELL INTO POWER VACUUM

Sunday Times
 Sunday 19 July 2015

I refer to Annabel Hennessy's article "Our battered beaches" (TST, July 12) highlighting the uncertainty as to which agency or department should be responsible for controlling erosion along our coastline. Until the demise of the Public Works Department of WA in 1985, effective management of the state's coastline was the responsibility of the harbours and rivers branch of that department. The role and responsibilities of the engineering division of the department, and particularly the harbours and rivers branch, were set out in the 1984/85 report (incidentally the last report) of the PWD: "The investigation, design, construction and maintenance of maritime works, including fishing industry facilities, recreational boating facilities, public jetties and navigation aids including the effective management of the state's coastline by investigating coastal erosion problems and carrying out foreshore protection works ... also to provide advice to government and various government bodies on engineering aspects of resources development, town planning and land use and the proper management of estuaries and the coastal margin ..."

Unfortunately, in the amalgamation of departments this most important aspect of the state's heritage appears to have ended up in what Transport chief executive Reece Waldoock has described as "a policy vacuum". There definitely is a need to have one state authority taking on all aspects of coastal erosion including investigation, remedial works and particularly monitoring. I was the last chief engineer of the harbours and rivers branch of the PWD, retiring in 1985 after having occupied the position for 13 years. Most of the beaches listed in your article had been a subject of investigation before 1985, and ongoing remedial works had been carried out by the PWD in conjunction with the relevant local authorities at the time.

Max Anderson
 Attadale

LAKESIDE CLEARANCE A CALAMITY FOR BIRDS

Sound Telegraph
 Wednesday 22 July 2015

My husband and I were walking our two dogs at City Park in Rockingham recently when we saw, to our horror, that all the vegetation surrounding the lovely lake had been removed. City Park is home to many species of waterbirds - moorhens, swamphens, black swans, cormorants, mallard ducks, shelducks, wood ducks, Pacific blacks ducks and many more. The vegetation surrounding the lake is vital for their survival. This is where they sleep, lay their eggs and hide from predators. On this recent walk all that we saw were a lot of unpleasant seagulls and only three dispirited-looking Pacific black ducks. All the others species had fled because their homes had been destroyed. It was heartbreaking to see the lake devoid of almost all life. This is a lovely park to walk in and is always teeming with life, until now.

I cannot imagine why Rockingham City Council would want to destroy these birds' homes, but I am not surprised by their actions. This council is a heartless one that does not care about our lovely environment. This has been proved to us many times - especially in the case of Baldvis where they have allowed the destruction of so much bushland, and in the appalling Point Peron development. When the Point Peron bush is destroyed and the beautiful water is dredged to allow for the stinky canals, more animals will lose their homes. But, as we have seen, Rockingham Council doesn't care about the homeless - human or animal.

Lauren Barndon
 Leda

RESIDENT BUNNIES

Weekend Courier
 Friday 24 July 2015

I echo the call for a full costing of the Mangles Bay marina and housing complex (Right to know, *Courier*, July 17) . For instance, who pays for the upkeep of the canals, and how much will it cost? Here is the "answer" from the developer Cedar Woods: "Typically monitoring and maintenance of the waterways are paid by the marina manager, usually either the local government authority, Department of Transport or a private entity." In other words, this has yet to be decided. The sensitive issue of who will pay for the maintenance and its anticipated cost is thus nicely sidestepped. However, as the bunnies at the end of this fiasco, Rockingham ratepayers will ultimately be the ones paying - because our council is the chief bunny. Surety, there should be a formal declaration from Rockingham council to the State Government that the Mangles Bay project is not in the best interests of the community, and therefore it is unacceptable. This is a duty of care on our behalf.

J. Pommerin
 Safety Bay

SPRAWL STRANGLING PERTH'S ENVIRONMENT

The West Australian
 Friday 7 August 2015

I was astonished to read about the landmark report (The West, 7 Aug) where the EPA claimed that Perth's environment was under severe strain from urban sprawl. The EPA admitted that our rivers, lakes and wetlands are in particularly bad shape.

Why was I astonished by this? This is the same EPA which has recently approved, as sustainable, the land grab called 'Mangles Bay Marina Project' incorporating high rise housing and canals that will rip into and destroy the integrity of Cape Peron. This is in an iconic area of our State designated Green Forever. The EPA's approval for this housing and canal project opens the door for more urban sprawl, which it now claims to condemn.

The Cape Peron area encompasses one of our few remaining freshwater wetlands, Lake Richmond, with its millions of years old thrombolites. The area encompasses an array of amazing wildlife, right on Perth's doorstep, yet the EPA has approved the endangerment of this important ecological hotspot.

How can the EPA justify its approval of the bulldozers rolling in to destroy one of Perth's scarce remaining environmental treasures, where it is in direct conflict with its own landmark report?

Cape Peron is one of the only remaining undeveloped open spaces in the metropolitan area. It is now time for the EPA to reverse its approval for the destruction of Cape Peron and preserve this important area for all West Australians. Time also to show the community that the EPA is something more than just a governmental rubber stamp.

Richard Usher
Shoalwater

WE MUST STOP MARINA
The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 12 August 2015

Congratulations are in order for Cr Chris Elliott for getting the WA Planning Commission to approve an alternative to plans for housing development at Singleton and saving the sand dunes - or are they? Maybe a little of what he has achieved in his home patch of Singleton could be exercised in another part of the City of Rockingham, namely Point Peron and the Mangles Bay Marina. Let's look at the facts, LandCorp chief executive Frank Marra stated at an estimates committee meeting held on June 9 that the marina would not commence for two to three years because of the monitoring required. In discussions with LandCorp (manager south metro), in response to question when the marina would commence - construction, he stated 10 to 15 to 20 years, maybe never, this is the marina that is the centrepiece of the Mangles Bay Marina project, and not guaranteed to happen. Mr Marra also advised that the first stage of development would include land development; this was also confirmed by a manager at LandCorp. So the first stage is to clear vegetation, sell off housing blocks to generate funds for the next stage, that's in accordance with LandCorp, yet Cedar Woods in recent advertisements intends to install wastewater lines, with no mention of housing blocks - just what is going on?

We also know the City of Rockingham received the Local Structure Plan from Cedar Woods on April 20; it was returned to Cedar Woods because it was incomplete, and not expected to be released to public until end of year. It must be quite incomplete. The South Metropolitan Peel Sub Regional Planning Framework draft, public submission period closed on July 31, but councils have received extensions until August 28. Point Peron has been designated as urban extension (housing).

I do hope all councillors take the time to read Directions 2031, and State Planning Strategy 2050 when and if they are involved with submission, and note EPA chairman Paul Vogels' comments in the August 7 edition of *The West Australian*. There is a long way to go before any decision is finally made; amendments to Metropolitan Region Scheme, Town Planning Scheme and reviewing Local Structure Plan. However, at the end of the day I wonder how councillors will feel if the development goes ahead. Clearing of land, selling housing blocks, infrastructure needs, then the marina is cancelled. What have we done? Lost all wildlife, and produced a housing estate on a bush forever site? Well done councillors, think again. Just because Premier Colin Barnett has stated the Government view the development is a priority, does not mean it is a "done deal"; we, the people, have a say in this; so get on board and voice your objections.

Peter Green
Cooloongup

**PUBLIC FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON PLANS TO
REDZONE CAPE PERON**
The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 August 2015

Rockingham residents are invited to provide feedback on a Western Australian Planning Commission intention to rezone portions of Cape Peron. The amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme seeks to place an "urban" zoning on the Mangles Bay Marina project area and create regional reservations for the realignment of Memorial Drive and the foreshore reserve. Concept plans for the Mangles Bay Marina include a single entrance marina comprising public and private mooring facilities, a combined aquatic club, a marina village offering tourist based commercial uses such as cafes and restaurants, short stay and permanent residential uses and public open spaces. The MRS amendment is a step in the statutory planning process after the Commonwealth and State environmental approval was issued last year. After considering the submissions, the WAPC will make a recommendation on whether the amendment should proceed, and in what form. The final decision rests with the Governor of Western Australia on recommendation from the Minister for Planning.

The submission period closes on Friday, November 13.

REJUVINATE PARK INSTEAD
The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 August 2015

I was pleased to see the recent letter by Richard Usher in *The West Australian* (Why the EPA must act, 11/8). He quite rightly points out that the EPA seems to approve of many developments, and then decries the loss and degradation of our environment, and poor condition of our rivers, lakes and disappearing wetlands. Surely it is the responsibility of the EPA to actually protect our environment? I, too, am concerned that the EPA gave approval for the proposal to dig out the Bush Forever regional park land at Cape/Point Peron to turn it into inland canals, commercial premises, homes and a marina. This is especially so when one is aware that canal developments have been banned in several Eastern States of Australia, due to the ongoing long term environmental damage that they cause. Much better to protect the area and rejuvenate it as an A class reserve for generations to come.

Julie Byrne
Palm Beach

CAPE PERON WORTH FIGHTING FOR AS WELL
The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 12 August 2015

Congratulations Cr Chris Elliott on your success in saving the sand dunes, "the birds and other wildlife", at Singleton from wall-to-wall housing. I commend your passion and commitment. I'm glad you've managed to save the character of the area for Singleton residents for the benefit of the city as a whole (Singleton joy at rejection of development, 5/8).

However, Cr Elliott, your good efforts for Singleton have not been matched when it comes to the health and wellbeing of Cape Peron. You continue to be one of the staunchest pro-Mangles Bay Marina lobbyists within the council. I request an explanation as to why you voted to support residential development at Cape Peron, thereby obliterating a Bush Forever site and cutting the Cape Peron Park (part of Richmond Lakes Regional Park) almost in half. You did not mention the birds and other wildlife living in those 66 hectares that will have their habitat bulldozed by Cedar Woods (on behalf of the State Government) to build the so-called Mangles Bay Marina. You neglected to consider the residents who will have their lives made miserable by up to 20 years (latest estimate) of dredging and bulldozing. And have you considered that it is possible that all we will have at Point Peron is a housing development if the marina is too expensive to build? You worked to protect Singleton because you said it was "highly appreciated, scenic and environmentally important":

Well, Point Peron is larger and more environmentally important. I know you were elected by Coastal ward residents but, Cr Elliott, you are not in council just to protect your patch. Your votes affect all 120,000 residents of Rockingham and our environs. Reconsider your support for this risky "WA Inc. Two" land grab and vote to save the character of Cape Peron. Please remember you represent in council also the residents of Palm Beach, Shoalwater and the Anchorage.

James Mumme
Shoalwater

MUSEUM SITE BETTER THAN POINT PERON

The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 19 August 2015

I sympathise with Wendy Durant and her concerns about the eight storey building going up near the museum. Far better we develop there, than Point Peron, surely. We all need to live somewhere; maybe this development should incorporate sheltered housing. I fully support the *Sound Telegraph* letter from James Mumme (Cape Peron worth fighting for as well, 12/8) and the *Southern Telegraph* letter from Peter Green (We must stop marina, 12/8) who are following all aspects of the moves to change our Bush Forever site, and make it understandable to the layman.

*Vanessa Dewey-Adams
Shoalwater*

STATE'S INTEREST

Weekend Courier
Friday 4 September 2015

I am not under any illusion that council members can veto or approve the Mangles Bay project, (City has no say: Mayor, *Courier*, August 28). I do thank council for their careful inspection of the amendment plans, and for raising their concerns with the proponents. Nevertheless, there is still something more that can be done. The City of Rockingham can request the State Government to issue a call-in notice to Cedar Woods and LandCorp. There is an urgent need for a ministerial reassessment of the project. Here is why it is within the State's authority: one, it is against the State's own interest to give approval because of serious community opposition, and two, Point Peron belongs to the State, and because of its unique coastal environment, it is in the State's interest to retain it. Point Peron is for the people of Western Australia to refresh the spirit. It is not for refreshing the coffers of real estate developers.

*J. Pommerin
Safety Bay*

REVERSE APPROVAL

Weekend Courier
Friday 21 August 2015

I was astonished to read of the Environmental Protection Authority's Landmark Report where it claimed that Perth's environment is under severe strain after 200 years of European settlement. The Authority admitted that our rivers, lakes and wetlands are in particularly bad shape. Why was I astonished by this? This is the same Authority that has recently approved, as sustainable, the land grab called Mangles Bay Marina Project incorporating high rise housing and canals that will rip into and destroy the integrity of Cape Peron. This is in an iconic area of our State designated Green Forever. The approval for this housing and canal project opens the door for more urban sprawl, which it now claims to condemn.

One of Perth's few remaining freshwater wetlands, Lake Richmond, and its millions of years old thrombolites is under threat. The area encompasses an array of amazing wildlife yet the Authority has approved the endangerment of this important ecological hotspot. How can the Authority justify its approval of the bulldozers rolling in to destroy one of Perth's scarce remaining environmental treasures, where it is in direct conflict with its own report?

It is now time for the Authority to reverse its approval preserve this important area for all West Australians. Time also to show the community that the Authority is something more than just a government rubber stamp.

*Richard Usher
Shoalwater*

SHAME OF EMPTY MEGA MANSIONS

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 9 September 2015

Every time I'm getting into my wetsuit at Secret Harbour beach, I can't help but reflect on how our system facilitates such pointless wealth accumulation, as represented by that sea of mega-mansions near the beach - most of which, ironically, are empty. It doesn't matter how wealthy one gets in this system, surely no one really needs a 10-bedroom, four-bathroom, double-storey, four-carport palace. Any system that facilitates such pointless greed, while so many people struggle to get a basic roof over their head, is in serious need of ethical scrutiny. A multitude of situations now exist, evidencing the reduced circumstances of ordinary working-class people, as brought on by ludicrous house prices. There are people sleeping in cars, people living in carparks and buses, in granny flats, in industrial warehouses, or people "couch surfing" around several places or being forced into overcrowded shared house situations. These empty palaces by the sea symbolise the worst aspects of our moral and ethical approach to social equity. With most of those palaces only being built to be on-sold for individual profit, the entire ideology of our system seems ludicrous. All levels of government and any person behaving in such a way that supports this ridiculous ideology of increasing disparity of wealth should be utterly ashamed of themselves.

*Robert Kapinsky
Armadale*

MUSEUM SITE BLOCKS VIEW

The Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 26 August 2015

In response to Vanessa Dewey Adams' letter in the *Telegraph* (Museum site better than Point Peron, 19/8), I am at a loss to find the link between the high-rise next to the Rockingham Museum and Point Peron. I am a supporter of Hands off Port Peron; a marina will cost the people of Rockingham. Once the developer has done their bit, they will walk off and leave the destruction and the problems to ratepayers. This area will be for the boats of those who live there and the marina will not be big enough to hold our boats with only 500 pens. The council call it tourism but they know nothing about tourism, or they would not be spending our money on the Mersey Point Jetty. The people who use these tours do not bring tourism to the rest of Rockingham. We have nothing in our area for tourism - no caravan sites, no motels or RV sites.

The high-rise next to the Rockingham Museum is on land owned by the Department of Planning and as a joint operation, the City Planning Department did not have a say. There was no consultation with neighbours. The people who bought in the Quest building would have expected a view that they will not get. Quest is advertising ocean views on its website.

*Wendy Durant
Rockingham*

PRESERVE POINT PERON

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 16 September 2015

The proposal to restore the World War II army bunker on Point Peron, as reported in the *Telegraph* (War bunker to be restored, September 9), is honourable. However, this project should not be taken in isolation but co-ordinated with the total development of this wonderfully unique area into an asset for all to enjoy for all time. We, the citizens of Rockingham, have been granted this total Point Peron area for "recreation and/or parklands" as part of the 1964 Point Peron Land Agreement. Let us develop a nationally recognised park with this superb heritage, to include Penguin Island, for ourselves and for the appreciation of tourists, without any encroachment of flawed short-term commercial interests. In case you are wondering, I am 82-years-old, and Palm Beach and Point Peron were heaven to me as a small boy, the glorious white beach, fishing off the turtle factory jetty. Please keep this priceless area intact for everyone to enjoy.

*Tony George
Rockingham*

RESIDENTS, SPEAK UP FOR POINT PERON THIS ELECTION

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 23 September 2015

Are local government councillors elected to represent the views and wishes of their electorate? The majority of Rockingham electors want to preserve Point Peron for the people of our region and are against the private-profiteering canal and housing proposal. Now is the time to hold election candidates accountable. Their decisions will determine whether we keep this iconic marine and coastal park for our children and grandkids. Let's be active this election time. Contact your local candidates to ask if they will take a stance:

- Against the City of Rockingham taking over the waterways management for the canal proposal, and the potentially consequential escalating rates.
- H Against the metropolitan region scheme amendment to rezone Point Peron (bush forever site 355).

BATTERY COMPLEX PLAN GAINS FUNDING

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 2 September 2015

Conservation plans for the World War II battery complex at Point Peron have received a major boost via a \$14,500 grant from the City of Rockingham. The grant will enable the Point Peron Rehabilitation Committee to complete a conservation management plan for the battery complex. The battery complex is a category A heritage site under the City's municipal inventory, giving it a high priority for protection. Completing a conservation management plan, will give a detailed overview of the historical details of the site, provide the scope of works needed to ensure the site is conserved and allow for the story of this site to be told and understood.

- Against the proposed Mangles Bay Marina that could be imposed on Rockingham against local wishes.
- For the zoning of Cape Peron as a fully protected A-class reserve to preserve it for our future recreation and enjoyment.
- For the Cape Peron Coastal Park concept plan – a proposal initiated from the Rockingham community with no vested commercial interests. Let your candidates know the issues you want them to support.

Let your friends and family know their stance. Then cast your vote. This is an important election.

Let's lodge the postal votes or tick the boxes at the polling booths on Saturday, October 17, and make it happen for the people of Rockingham and the Point Peron Coastal Park.

Lorraine Mackenzie
Shoalwater

SEWAGE SPILLS INTO LAKE

Weekend Courier
Friday 25 September 2015

Sewage flowed into Lake Richmond on Tuesday afternoon after telecommunications workers drilled into a water main. The spill occurred at the corner of Safety Bay Road and Lake Street about 2.45pm after a crew working on mobile telecommunications accidentally hit a water main. Waste water flowed on to the road and into nearby Lake Richmond, but Water Corporation crews responded quickly and stopped the leak about 4pm. The Water Corporation said it would work to help with a clean-up and to determine the extent of the water flow into the lake.

TRAFFIC ADDED

Weekend Courier
Friday 25 September 2015

Poor old Rockingham: all outsiders and insiders want to do is knock it down and "develop" it. Now we have a developer who wants to convert the Palm Beach Caravan Park into a housing estate. The client in this case is Defence Housing Australia. The requirement is just to provide homes for 180 navy personnel. However, it is not just building 180 "dwellings". It proposes to fit 450 "dwellings" on a site, which now fits only 200 homes in caravans and park homes on a few square metres each. To get the 450 "dwellings" it is proposed to build an eight-storey building.

One characteristic that differentiates Rockingham town from a housing estate is that as you go along a street, every house is distinctively different. This is a result of building over the centuries and small-scale projects. The proposed estate looks very much like an institution with all buildings in the same style. The most unsatisfactory aspect about the estate is it is predicted that the 450 "dwellings" will result in 4000 car journeys a day. That is if there is only one car per "dwelling". According to the references used in the traffic study, this number of journeys is fine for Fisher Street and Lake Street. A resident on Fisher Street has protested that it is already a hazardous experience even to walk along Fisher Street in peak hours. The consultants had no answer to handling traffic when the children come out of Rockingham Beach Primary School in the afternoon, except to provide a carpark at the junction of Lake and Fisher streets. In addition, the traffic study took no account of other threats to the safety on the roads posed by the Mangles Bay canal estate. It is early days in the concept we are told, so we can only hope that someone will fix all these problems.

Norm Hodgkinson
Rockingham

ELECTION POINT

Weekend Courier
Friday 25 September 2015

Big things from little things grow. Big decisions begin at a local level. According to a Courier poll in October last year a "whooping 81 per cent" of voters wanted Point Peron preserved as a park for future generations and not as a housing/canal development. However, have our councillors listened? In June 2012, the Courier reported that when councillors reached a stalemate on the Mangles Bay Marina project, Mayor Barry Sammels used his casting vote to push the motion through and finalise council's official support. Councillor Richard Smith said he could not believe the public would approve of the council giving the project the thumbs up. And he was right. If our councillors had listened to 81 per cent of people and acted for the reasons they were elected – to be our representatives - we, the people of Rockingham, would not be having a major fight on our hands to preserve unique and iconic Point Peron. It was given by the Federal Government in 1964 to remain a park for the people of Western Australia forever.

We simply cannot afford to lose Point Peron. It brings tourists and money into our community. It gives us a place to exercise, relax, swim, snorkel, fish or just watch a sunset. We need our councillors to help us save this area

and we need to keep them accountable this election time more than ever. This is our opportunity to do so. Please ensure you (a) vote and (b) vote for a candidate who will truly represent your views.

Steve Taylor
140a Kent Street, Rockingham

NO DEFENCE HOUSING NEAR LAKE

Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 30 September 2015

As a former serving navy member of more than 40 years, I continue to take an interest in the plight of service families and the challenges they face in finding suitable housing. However, I am concerned Defence Housing Australia's proposal for the reconfiguration of the Palm Beach Caravan Park site will have an adverse effect on the Lake Richmond area. Our family have been residents on the south side of the lake for 28 years and I believe a saturation level has been reached as to the effects of human habitation on this very rare environmental location.

As part of a sizeable group that opposes a similar development to the one proposed by DHA, the Mangles Bay Marina, a public forum on September 19 with DHA seemed to have been caught in a time warp. The audience was provided with a relatively narrow, project-focused presentation, very similar to those presented by the State's LandCorp to promote MBM. It was somewhat rushed and had the distinct feel of just another developer's standard marketing package. The proposed increasing concentration of large numbers of residents - DHA is proposing up to 450 units at the site - is not in the best interest of the existing community, nor Lake Richmond.

Charles Lammers
Shoalwater

HEED PROVERB

Weekend Courier
Friday 2 October 2015

"If it can go wrong, it will go wrong." The recent spill of sewage on to Safety Bay Road and into Lake Richmond reminds me of that old proverb. After months of safe underground drilling, last week a backhoe ripped a hole in a 1.2 metre wide pipeline. There is a message for those who propose to play Russian roulette with Lake Richmond by digging holes in Cape Peron, dredging up seagrass and building canals that won't flush, don't! The risks are too great. Accidents do happen. By October 17, we have a chance to vote for council candidates who will support a Coastal Park at Cape Peron instead of canal/housing. It is worth calling the candidates in our wards and asking them if they will definitely support the alternative Coastal Park instead of the canal/housing marina with all its risks.

James Mumme
36 Gloucester Avenue
Shoalwater

ATTEMPT CLUMSY

Weekend Courier
Friday 2 October 2015

Claims by Steve Taylor in his letter in last week's edition headlined "Election point" are not based on fact and represent a clumsy attempt to garner an emotive response from people regarding a very complicated and sensitive topic, the Mangles Bay Marina Concept.

At its June 2012 Ordinary Meeting, the City of Rockingham Council agreed to support the concept of the Mangles Bay Marina development subject to a number of important caveats, including:

- Environmental approval from Environmental Protection Authority.
- Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment approval from Western Australian Planning Commission.
- Town Planning Scheme Amendment and Local Structure Plan approvals from the planning commission and the City of Rockingham.
- The Mangles Bay Fishing Club and Cruising Yacht Club of WA being satisfactorily accommodated within the confines of the project.
- Traffic impact and management issues being resolved, including appropriate transport corridors to accommodate satisfactorily traffic travelling between the Garden Island Causeway and Safety Bay Road.

The motion was carried 6/4, which is a majority and the casting vote was not used. To be clear, the City's main role in assessing the proposal was to review and comment on the Public Environmental Review document. The project itself is a joint venture between a private development company and LandCorp. It is not a council initiative. The Couriers informal Facebook poll conducted in October 2014, indicated that about 145 residents would be opposed to a marina development, which does not account for even 1 per cent of the City's 126,000 residents.

Barry Sammels
Mayor
City of Rockingham

VIEWS NOT GIVEN FAIR AIRING IN Q&A
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 7 October 2015

I was most disappointed my responses to the questions posed to candidates in last week's *Telegraph* were described as "Abstain." In my e-mail exchanges with the newspaper, I had stated the answers to the questions required much more than a simple yes/no answers. For example, the question on the Mangles Bay Marina might imply that the council would decide whether or not the marina proceeds. The decision was and is not one for the council. It is a State Government decision so what individual candidates might think isn't relevant. In my campaign I have stated that if returned to council I would make every endeavour to have council address two major marina issues:

- (1) Rockingham's environmental values must be protected; and
- (2) That the construction and future maintenance of the marina must not result in any expense to Rockingham ratepayers.

I have said that managing the marina could be extremely expensive and the City should not manage it. Cedar Woods and LandCorp should carry the expense of marina management. The City must not manage the waterway going into the marina. The long-term expenses of that management could be enormous. The relevant Government Department charged with managing waterways should do so. I had clearly indicated to the newspaper that more than a yes/no to the questions was needed. It was a major disappointment that my expression of view was reported as "Abstain".

*Comet Bay candidate and
 incumbent councillor Chris Elliott*

**MARINA PLAN WILL NOT AFFECT THE REAL
 POINT PERON**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 7 October 2015

With the council elections focusing on Point Peron, it's about time Dawn Jecks, the Greens and the support Point Peron groups started telling the public of Rockingham and Perth the full correct facts. Reading various letters to the editor, I get the impression writers are not fully aware of the area of Point Peron that is considered for the proposed marina. It appears they think the area west of the causeway will be destroyed. The inference that the exquisite part of Point Peron will be destroyed by the proposed marina as depicted by these preservation groups is a complete falsification.

For more than 40 years since I have lived in Rockingham, these groups have put minimum effort into the preservation of the true Point Peron. That is, the peninsula west of the causeway. The City of Rockingham and other government groups have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on additional car parking, walkways and other benefits. Recently, Phil Edman advocated for the preservation of the gun battery and engaged hands-on help to preserve this historic monument. Where was the preservation group then?

The prestige area of Point Peron west of the causeway is under no threat. The area of the marina is, and has been for at least the past 40 years, a degraded bush area with a mosquito-infested drain flowing now and again through it. The council has had to clear rubbish from the area continually. As far as I know, these groups have not done anything constructive in this area as yet except for drawing up a plan and expecting someone else to pay for it. I have no interest in whether the marina goes ahead or not, but I can guarantee that if it does not, the so-called preservation groups will disappear with no trace with no hands-on input into the area. It should also be noted that a large portion of Point Peron is occupied by restrictive "camps" that restrict access to the general public.

*Brian Warner
 Baldivis*

PROJECT CONCERN
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 7 October 2015

Here we go with another ad from Cedar Woods promoting the so-called Mangles Bay Marina (Advertorial, *Telegraph*, 23/9). It states: "Projects of this magnitude are often completed in stages, usually beginning with early land releases and proceeds going towards delivering community facilities." I have asked Cedar Woods how many early sales they would need to ensure that community facilities can be funded. I asked if they would tell buyers the project would take at least 11 years, possibly 20, and there would be pile-driving and dredging for seven of those years. I am thrilled to know most of the candidates in the council elections want a coastal park, not canals and housing. I hope we'll get a council that will take a stand over Cape Peron.

*Dawn Jecks
 Safety Bay*

**DEFENCE OF POINT PERON HAS A LONG AND
 PROUD HISTORY**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 October 2015

Brian Warner's *Telegraph* letter (Marina plan will not affect the real Point Peron, 7/9) calls for comment. He accuses Dawn Jecks and Point Peron groups of not telling the "full correct facts" and of not doing "anything constructive in this area". In 2006 I founded Friends of Point Peron with support from DEC/DPaW and the Rockingham City Council to look after the Bush Forever site and areas near Point Peron itself. Since then at least 150 volunteers (including Dawn Jecks) have spent hundreds of hours planting more than 5500 seedlings, watering them, removing tonnes of weeds and rubbish. We also put on a community education day with walks and talks on the bird life, plant life, military history and Aboriginal heritage - and we won an award in 2009.

I'm astounded that Mr Warner denies this. Over the years we've had photos and articles in both papers which I can show him and which he should have noticed. He was a councillor until 2013. Supporters of a people's coastal park just care about the little that's left of our bush and we are people from across the political spectrum. We've done our best and will continue to do so especially if 42ha of the best bush gets destroyed for housing.

Finally Mr Warner is correct about terminology, but most people in Rockingham use the term Point Peron to refer to the whole of Cape Peron. We've displayed a model showing clearly what this marina proposal will destroy. When people see the model, many are shocked because they thought the marina was in Mangles Bay. It's not in Mangles Bay, it's in Cape Peron.

*James Mumme
 Shoalwater*

**ISSUES MISSED IN BITTERSWEET HOUSING
 WORKSHOP MEETINGS**
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 October 2015

Thank you Arran Morton for the two *Telegraph* articles (Plan for Palm Beach and Housing plan bittersweet, 23/9). Unfortunately Ms Morton must have missed the first two community workshops completely and maybe the earlier part of the third. At every workshop many concerned persons attended, and at each the same issues were aired, but appear to have been ignored; we list a few below.

Traffic: An additional (DHA's figures) 4000 per day, on two very quiet residential streets alongside a primary school. These 4000 movements does not make allowance for other infill housing yet to come or the proposed marina development. When asked after the workshop how many would use the bus provided from the train station to base, they did not know. We have never seen more than a couple on this bus at any one time.

Adjacent Zoning: The adjoining residential areas are only zoned R30 with the odd R40. These both require building setbacks and a max six metre external wall height and nine metre to the top of a pitched roof. Not even three storeys or, heaven forbid, "eight floors" similar to the higher multi-storeys on the foreshore.

The 450 apartments: All one and two-bedrooms for singles and couples. This smacks of "lack of sense of community" not to include for families with children.

DHA: The department is not doing this for Rockingham or for our boys and girls in the navy. It plans to sell all 450 units and advised it will not be occupying any of them in seven to 10 years.

*Colin Osborne
 Palm Beach*

IT IS THE READERS WE SERVE
By Clare Negus
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 14 October 2015

In response to criticism of the *Telegraph's* Q&A with council candidates, I would like to point out it is not the newspaper's responsibility to help political wannabes get elected. It is the newspaper's job to present the most important information to our readers and, in turn, empower electors to know which candidates share their views before they vote.

Some candidates were not happy they were asked about topics which were so divisive that, no matter what they answered, their responses were bound to put some voters offside. That's just politics? Rockingham's electors have a right to know where candidates stand on key issues and, with that in mind; the *Telegraph's* editorial team came up with questions based on the topics which are most frequently raised with us by the community. The so-called "adverse effect" of the Q&A on different candidates' campaigns is because electors now know more about each person who has thrown their hat in the ring. We've had feedback from readers who don't usually vote in council elections because they know nothing about where the candidates

stand on the issues, but have told the *Telegraph* they will take part in the poll this year after reading the Q&A.

The questions in the Q&A were purposefully simple - yet another criticism - and designed to get to the crux of each topic. We knew a "yes" or "no" answer would not sufficiently cover the issues, so each candidate was also given the opportunity to explain their views and the *Telegraph* made significant space in the paper to enable candidates to have their say. There was no onus on the newspaper to provide each candidate with a platform to spruik themselves and we considered it more than generous to sacrifice pages that would usually be used for news to allow candidates to explain their positions. We are aware there have been grumbings among candidates about the Q&A, but the *Telegraph* editorial team knows the newspaper was acting in the best interests of our readership. About 50,000 readers - not council candidates - are the ones we are here to serve.

Clare Negus is the *Telegraph's* news editor.

RESPECT OPPONENTS OF MARINA
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 October 2015

Brian Warner's letter (Marina plan will not affect the real Point Peron, 7/10) was deplorable. His swipe at those promoting an environmentally friendly coastal park for Point Peron as a better alternative to a profit-driven residential/canal development is simplistic and immature. He obviously hasn't bothered to consider the well-researched and detailed alternative plans they have proposed for the entire precinct. His criticism that local environmentalist ratepayers did not become personally involved in clearing rubbish from the precinct is naive. Ratepayers rightly expect the council to carry out such works. When the council develops a reserve, does it expect ratepayers to plant lawn and dig reticulation trenches?

Busselton and Mandurah canal developments have proved that enterprising developers paint a glossy picture of a proposal, cream off big profits, and leave ratepayers to carry the long-term ongoing costs of maintenance. The real issue in the marina/canal development proposal is a weak council and mayor. Time is due for a new council and mayor to ramp up stiff resistance to LandCorp and Cedar Woods, and pursue instead the development of a breaksea marina at Wanliss Street.

Ted Ansell
Rockingham

KINGS PARK SHINING EXAMPLE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 October 2015

I note Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce president Karen Court (Concern over candidates' lack of marina support, 14/10) predictably bewailing the opposition among council candidates to the proposed canal development on public land at Cape Peron. Out comes the usual smoke and mirrors of "local jobs, economic development, boost to tourism," and so on. To top it off she describes the site of the proposed development as "degraded bush". I should remind Ms Court that an area of degraded bush which had been logged for 35 years was set aside from further destruction in 1871. Ms Court may have heard of it, it is called Kings Park.

Glyn Lloyd
Shoalwater

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Glyn Lloyd
Shoalwater

COMPLACENCY ON CAPE ISSUE
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 October 2015

I agree with the statements in last week's *Telegraph* by the Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce president Karen Court that Point Peron "is presently a degraded bushland that is not looked after". This is an indictment on every one of us who have represented Rockingham, whether it was as a State representative, councillor or other influential community group. What we see in Point Peron is a result of our complacency. The Cape Peron Peninsula is a unique location on the WA coast and presents an opportunity to develop it as an icon in the Perth metro area. It's accepted that we need better public and private marine facilities in Rockingham but these could easily be provided by upgrading the existing areas occupied by the Cruising Yacht Club hardstand and the Mangles Bay fishing club without destroying Point Peron. Let's face it, the pressure for a Rockingham marina has come from the publicity given to the boats washed ashore during the north-west winter gales sweeping down the Sound; but these groundings have been caused by the failure of anchoring and mooring systems not being fit for purpose or, the lack of planned maintenance by private owners, the weekend sailor, not the weather. When was the last time anyone saw a boat used for commercial purposes washed ashore at Palm Beach?

Anyone who has toured the Eastern States would have seen the beautiful botanical gardens, large and small, that a lot of the country towns have which draw families to them. Point Peron lends itself for us to do the same. The existing camping facilities which rim the cape and which are leased by WA organisations should be opened to caravans and campers and a management plan put in place for this use, with any fees ploughed back into the upkeep of the cape. Personally I wouldn't give two bob for any employment or economic benefit figures with respect to the marina development as they are heavy on totals but short on detail and I can't see any promises that the proposed development will achieve its planned potential. We should have learned a lesson from the overstated benefits which should have been realised from the Port Kennedy Resort Development which never came to pass but it seems we haven't. Hopefully common sense will prevail and the cape preserved as a low-cost visitor destination for this generation and those to come.

Mal McFetridge
Safety Bay

MAJORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 October 2015

What a good letter that was from Brian Warner, "Marina plan will not affect the real Point Peron" (*Telegraph*, 7/10). It is always nice to hear the facts rather than fiction. He is correct; the Development is not on Point Peron. It is actually in that uncared and grubby bush area that stretches from the RSL Caravan Park area towards the environment complex. Have the people who are against this project ever walked through this overgrown rubbish dump? We can all still walk/drive to Point Peron, the beaches and fishing areas. The Rockingham silent majority have no problem with this development. In fact, many welcome it.

David Innes
Coo loongup

VOTING HIGHLIGHTS MARINA CONCERNS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 21 October 2015

As one of the unsuccessful candidates, I hope you will allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were elected in last week's local government election here in Rockingham, particularly those who stood successfully in Safety Bay - returning councillor Leigh Liley and newly elected councillor Katherine Summers. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding representation provided by retiring councillor Ron Pease, who can be justifiably proud of the effort he has put in on behalf of the residents of Safety Bay in recent years - I have no doubt the council will miss his input in the months ahead.

If this election has done nothing else, it must surely have put to bed once and for all the lie that those who oppose the development of a Point Peron marina are simply a small, overly vocal group of malcontents. By my own estimate, somewhere in excess of 21,000 votes were cast for candidates who openly opposed the development, and publicly committed themselves to oppose it selected to the council. That level of community concern simply cannot be ignored, brushed under the carpet, or belittled. Instead, I trust that all those elected on Saturday, most especially those who spoke out against the marina development during their campaigns, will take the considerable level of public disquiet into account, and will vote accordingly when the issue next comes before the council in a month's time.

Craig Buchanan
Rockingham

STUDY COSTLY
Weekend Courier
Friday 23 October 2015

Mayor Barry Sammels uses an informal Courier Facebook poll to justify council support of a canal and housing development at Point Peron. A more accurate and comprehensive method would have been for council to send a Reply Paid letter to ratepayers. This would include information about the development, and a simple Yes or No tick box for a "support" vote. That is, if Rockingham council was serious about the wishes of the people.

In the past, there was a feasibility study. The City contributed \$100,000, and the Rockingham Kwinana Development Office contributed \$112,000 for it. This was done in the belief that it was a good thing to have a marina at Point Peron. Well, all due processes were carried out according to the book. However, one is left with the impression that approval for the development the rest was cosmetic dressing. Overall, expenditure to determine the project's viability was more than \$700,000, which included a contribution from the State Government. This is a lot of money to spend on something that would not go ahead.

J. Pommerin
Safety Bay

COMPLACENCY SEEN
Weekend Courier
Friday 23 October 2015

Cape Peron has recently been described as "a degraded bush land that is not looked after", which I have to agree with. This is without doubt an indictment on every one of us who has represented Rockingham, whether it be as a State representative, councillor or other influential community group. What we see in Point Peron is a result of our complacency. The peninsula is a unique location on the WA coast and presents an opportunity to develop it as an icon in the Perth metro area. It is accepted that we need better public and private marine facilities in Rockingham but these could easily be provided by upgrading the existing areas occupied by the Cruising Yacht Club hard stand and the Mangles Bay fishing club without the need to destroy Point Peron. Let us face it, the pressure for a Rockingham marina has come from the publicity given to the boats washed ashore during the north-west winter gales sweeping down the Sound.

Yet these groundings have been caused by the failure of anchoring and mooring systems or the lack of planned maintenance by private owners, the weekend sailor, not the weather. When was the last time anyone saw a boat used for commercial purposes washed ashore at Palm Beach? Anyone who has toured the eastern states would have seen the beautiful botanical gardens, large and small, that many country towns have that draw families to them.

Point Peron lends itself for us to do the same. The existing camping facilities that rim the Cape and that are leased by WA organisations should be opened to caravans and campers and a management plan created. Any fees would be ploughed back into the upkeep of the Cape. I would not give two cents for any employment or economic benefit figures with respect to the marina development as they are heavy on totals but short on detail. Moreover, I can't see any promises that the proposed development will achieve its planned potential. We should have learnt a lesson from the overstated benefits from the proposed Port Kennedy resort development but that never came. Unfortunately, it seems we have not.

Mai McFetridge
Safety Bay

MARINA PROJECT SET TO CREATE JOBS
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 October 2015

Why should people support the Mangles Bay Marina and tourism precinct? In 1992, then-Education and Training Minister Simon Crean established the South Coast Regional Advisory Committee on Employment to identify work-creating opportunities in our region. We approved funding for projects including foreshore rehabilitation, the Apprentice Training Centre on Hope Valley Road, land care management; the Naval Association's facilities at Mangles Bay and so on. Long-term unemployed people were given the chance to learn skills. Why was our committee needed? Because 55 per cent of young Australians aged 15-25 living in the area could not get a job and the community suffered as a result.

Many attempts to build a marina have been stymied. Potential damage to seagrass was an issue until an 'inland marina' was proposed. A company of the highest standard, Cedar Woods, is partnering with LandCorp and they are going through the final stages of the approvals process. The project is already generating work and paying wages to scientists and planners, public relations officers and council employees as well as State and Federal Government public servants. There will be jobs for bulldozer drivers, road builders, land scaping firms and construction workers. There will be work for people installing floating pens and laying carparks, and staff will be needed in

restaurants, hotels and the boating club. Many of these jobs will go to young people. The public will have an amazing venue to visit where they can eat, be entertained and just enjoy the place, and there will be a safe harbour for some local boat owners. In the period between 1992 and 1998, I saw how awful unemployment could be for young people especially

The marina project alone will not solve employment problems in our region, but it will contribute to the remedy. It will add to the diversification of our economy, which might help us cope if ever we suffer another recession like the last one. Local government authorities have limited powers over major developments. It is important the Telegraph's readers know that. The marina and tourism precinct at Mangles Bay has Federal and State Government approval. It is a project supported by a State Government and led by Premier Colin Barnett. As it is built and when it is complete, the people of the Rockingham region will be the beneficiaries.

Rick Palmer
Rockingham

MANGLES BAY PROPOSAL CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY POLICED
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 October 2015

At this point in time I do not trust the State Government, LandCorp, Cedar Woods or the City of Rockingham Council to act in the best interest of Western Australia, because there is no doubt this proposed Mangles Bay Marina project is a grab for money. That being the case, I am now expected to carry complete trust in all those parties for the next 20 years or until the completion of the project. Furthermore the situation is not reversible and no matter how stringent the conditions applied cannot be effectively policed without political will and expense which will adversely affect the bottom line desired.

Nor will any persons be held responsible and punished should those conditions be contravened. AU West Australians will be required to pay for this for a long period of time before any (if any) benefits can filter through to the general public, but it is worse still for the people of Rockingham who will also lose a facility, no matter how degraded some claim the area to be. Meanwhile the RSL boating and fishing clubs will obviously need alternative accommodation. Hey, don't even think about the fuel spillages and anti-fowling paint and cement bags driven by the Sou-Westerlies straight into Cockburn Sound. No. It's not for me.

Dave Worth
Safety Bay

POINT PERON DEVELOPMENT IS ALL ABOUT THE DOLLAR
Sound Telegraph
Wednesday 28 October 2015

Brian Warner's letter "Marina plan will not affect the real Point Peron" (*Telegraph*, 7/10) made me put pen to paper. I too am a resident of more than 40 years, and have. Been involved with a couple of groups which have also helped weed and clean up Point Peron. I was a 13-year-old South Perth girl and my neighbour who liked to fish brought me down to the Cape. I sat on the rocks, the colours of the ocean, blue into green - so beautiful. I've never forgotten it.

I'm not against the marina, I used to sail too. There's the best location at the end of Wanliss Street where there's deep water and no one objects. But it would cost more than the cheap Bush Forever site. I think that's what it's all about: dollars.

Diana Hitchin
Shoalwater

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 11

Various correspondence of relevance to the proposed
Mangles Bay Marina development and MRS amendment
(provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)

LETTER FROM MIKE BARNETT
18 June 1992

Parliament of Western Australia
Mike Barnett, J.P., M.L.A.
Member for Rockingham
P.O. Box 121,
Rockingham 6168
Office: (Opposite Post Office)
Rockingham City Shopping Centre,
Telephone: Rockingham 527 3444
Fax: 592 1683
Perth: 222 7222 (Parliament)

Mr and Mrs J.P. Vogel
21 Richmond Avenue
SHOALWATER 6169

Dear Mr and Mrs Vogel,

Recently I wrote to you informing you about the proposed downgrading of the Garden Island Highway from a freeway road to a local traffic road.

These proposed changes to the building of the highway are to be gazetted on June 19 by the Department of Planning and Urban Development. The downgrading of the proposed road will then go before the Rockingham City Council for consideration.

Plans for the road will be on display at the Rockingham City Council from Monday, June 22.

Submissions from the public on these proposed planning changes are open until August 21, 1992. Submission forms are available from the Council and also from my office in the Rockingham City Shopping Centre, telephone: 527 3444.

If you would like any further information on this or any other matter I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Barnett JP, MLA
Member For Rockingham
18 June 1992

LETTER TO CMDR VINCE DI PIETRO
Commanding Officer
HMAS STIRLING
Rockingham WA 6168

Dear CMDR Di Pietro,

RE: GARDEN ISLAND EXPRESSWAY

I am writing to follow up our telephone conversation earlier in relation to the proposed Garden Island Expressway.

My understanding is that the Expressway has been on the State Planning Commissions Metropolitan Region Scheme since STIRLING was commissioned.

The Expressway eventually joins the proposed Western Suburbs Freeway which has met with widespread opposition and I expect will never be constructed.

The current route of the Expressway takes it between the suburbs of Hillman, Woodbridge, Cooloongup, Careeba, Safety Bay, Rockingham Park, Shoalwater as well as dissecting Point Peron. Its route takes it over sensitive land that abuts Lake Richmond and would result in the destruction of some of the thrombolite ecosystem (which are apparently the world's oldest living organisms).

It is my view that for these reasons the Expressway will never be constructed. It is also my view that the Navy sees no need for it to be constructed with the existing road system meeting current and expected needs.

Accordingly, I am seeking an indication whether you are prepared to advise the WA Planning Commission that the Expressway is no longer required by the Navy.

Please contact me should you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,
The Parliament of Western Australia
Mark McGowan M.P.
Member for Rockingham

**LETTER FROM LOCAL MEMBER FOR
ROCKINGHAM**
Western Suburbs Freeway
22 March 2000

The Parliament of Western Australia
Mark McGowan M.P.
Member for Rockingham

Dear Rockingham Resident,

I am writing to let you know the latest in relation to the Government's proposed Garden Island Expressway. There are long term plans in place which involve the construction of a dual carriage expressway along Rae Road, cutting along the edge of Lake Richmond and through Point Peron.

I am opposed to these plans.

Whilst this plan is in existence it has the potential to affect local resident's lifestyles, property values and the ecology of Lake Richmond for no real benefit.

Therefore I have written to the Navy asking that they advise the WA Planning Commission that this Expressway is no longer needed (see enclosed copy).

I am hopeful that in time plans for this road will be abandoned and you need not live in apprehension that it will be constructed.

If you would like to speak to me about this matter or any other please call.

Yours sincerely,
Mark McGowan
Member for Rockingham

ELECTORATE OFFICE: Rockingham City Shopping Centre (Near National Australia Bank)
POSTAL ADDRESS : PO Box 88 Rockingham W.A. 6168
TELEPHONE : 08 9592 7422 FACSIMILE : 08 9592 1683
The Parliament of Western Australia
Mark McGowan M.P.
Member for Rockingham

LETTER TO DOTARS
Bob Goodale Naragebup Convenor
7 August 2003

To: Public Affairs@dotars.gov.au
 Subject: Rockingham WA Marina Proposal

Dear Sir/Madam,

The City of Rockingham, our local council, has hired a former councillor, David Winter of Business Horizons, to submit an application to the Regional Partnership Program seeking \$250,000 toward a management plan and implementation plan for a proposed Point Peron marina.

Before a decision is made we believe you should be made aware of the following:

Point Peron was originally sold to the State Government of Western Australia at a fraction of its value on the understanding that it was retained for education, conservation and passive recreation, NOT as a development zone. The Commonwealth Government has a caveat over Point Peron stating the above.

Point Peron is currently under a Draft Management Plan to be included in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. This Draft Management Plan is currently being reviewed by Conservation and Land Managements Corporate Division and the State Minister for the Environment before being released for public comment.

Over the past 2 years the Cockburn Sound Management Council, managed by Water and Rivers Commission, have carried out lengthy studies and public consultations on Mangles Bay, the boating access to the proposed marina. The Garden Island causeway, which impacts on the flow of water around Mangles Bay, which is part of Cockburn Sound, would also impact on the proposed marina entrance and would require constant dredging and maintenance.

Cockburn Sound Management Committee and the Environmental Protection Authority both promote zero loss of sea grass in Cockburn Sound. They have concerns about the impact on sea grass meadow health should the proposed marina go ahead.

The Recovery Team, which manages the Critically Endangered Ecological Community of Thrombolites in the Australian Heritage Listed Lake Richmond, which is part of Point Peron, have serious reservations about salt water intrusion from this proposed marina and development canals. The marina and canals would bring salt water much closer to the Lake and

because it is on limestone bedrock it would permeate through and contaminate the fresh water of Lake Richmond.

If you require more detailed information please do not hesitate to contact me on 08 9591 3077.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Goodale
Naragebup Convenor
on behalf of Committee and members

LUXURY HOTEL AND CANAL DEVELOPMENT
TO OUST LOCAL BOAT OWNERS

Naragebup Environment Centre
20 May 2005

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAY 20, 2005

While the Cape Peron canal marina proposal (now renamed Point Peron Tourist Precinct) is being promoted as a solution to the problems experienced by ordinary Rockingham boat owners currently keeping moorings in the area, most of the pens planned are earmarked to serve elite residents of its luxury housing canal development component. According to the State Boating Council, most existing owners of boats on moorings in Mangles Bay will not be able to afford the likely cost of the very few pens available to the general public.

The State Boating Council was also very dubious about the proposal on other counts. The marina will cut the main access road to the Garden Island causeway, necessitating either the building of a heavy vehicle access lifting bridge, or for there to be a longer by-pass road through Cape Peron, a precious community asset and registered Regional Park set aside by State legislation to be preserved for conservation and recreation only. Referring to the fiasco of a similar development implemented at Geographe Bay against prevailing advice, the Council is also concerned at the prohibitive long term substantial cost of maintaining boat access because no practical natural channel exists to the proposed site.

At a meeting with Naragebup representatives last week, Mark McGowan MLA acknowledged that a twin canal luxury housing development and hotel complex were implicated in the proposal. However, these would require a major service road, presumably the proposed Garden Island Highway, which was originally planned to serve the now defunct Fremantle Ports' Mangles Bay sea-container terminal, not the Naval Base on Garden Island as often mistakenly thought. The Garden Island Highway to the canal marina at Cape Peron as proposed would pose a serious threat to the rare Thrombolite or "living rocks" of Lake Richmond, already an internationally recognized "Critically Endangered Ecological Community", Australian Heritage listed and also formally recognized for its national significance with the Environmental Protection Agency, Canberra.

Mark McGowan has given us assurances that the Garden Island Highway won't happen, reports Bob Goodale. "Rick Palmer, President of the Cruising Yacht Club of Rockingham, said he is opposed to a road across the edge of Lake Richmond. Phil Edmonds, founder and president of the Rockingham Marina Action Group, and now elected Councillor, has personally told me that if the marina has any impact on Lake Richmond, he will oppose the project. We therefore invite Phil to join our community groups' opposition to this proposed Canals/Marina/Tourist Complex.

Although a draft plan of the proposal has been presented to some stakeholder groups, neither of the two websites display a plan. Without any firm idea of what is being planned it will be impossible for the community of Rockingham to make an informed contribution at upcoming "consultation" events. Why are they being secretive about showing the plan to the general public, why are they hiding it?" commented Mr Goodale. "It's time", he added, "that the plans were made public". Naragebup Regional Environment Centre is calling on concerned members of the community to come forward and join them in opposition to the proposed canal-marina concept for Cape Peron. "At last we have been briefed on this proposal and better understand its full extent," commented Naragebup's Convenor Bob Goodale, a highly suitable alternative site such exists on the proposed at the Wanliss Street Jetty Development, where proponents have a lease on the sea bed. This site has naturally deep boat access and negligible environmental costs and should be investigated in a feasibility study.

The Rockingham Development Office Manager, Mr Simon Proud's claims that there is no opposition to a road across the edge of Lake Richmond are in total error as many government agencies, local MLA and hundreds of community members have voiced their complete opposition to the proposal. Claims that the Tourist precinct is wanted by the majority of Rockingham residents is also false Mr Goodale concluded.

Media Contact
Dr Meg Howe
Sustainability Manager
Tel: 9591 3077

MANGLES BAY DEVELOPMENT*Enquiry from Anne Pettit**Email***28 May 2005 19:416**

To: rrec@naragebup.org.au

SUBJECT: MANGLES BAY DEVELOPMENT

Hi. I am just wondering about what involvement the Centre might have in the community consultation process (see below) for proposed development of Mangles Bay. I imagine that your group would be aware of the public forum this Tuesday evening.

A public Forum will be held on Tuesday 31 May from 6pm to 9pm, at the City of Rockingham Function Centre, Civic Boulevard, Rockingham.

I have visited Point Peron regularly for more than 45 years and I am very interested to see that only most sensitive development occurs there. I highly value the simplicity of current facilities and the existing remnant vegetation of the area and I am concerned that, too often it seems, development that seeks to provide improved amenity impacts in such a way that much of what attracted people to an area in the first place is lost and an unacceptably high level of environmental damage occurs. I appreciate that development pressures will increase, particularly in coastal areas, and I know that change will come to this area but I am keen to urge a very conservative approach here.

The need to prevent damage to sea-grass beds in the bay is obviously already considered a priority. I have in mind several other issues that don't necessarily come up in traditional discussions of development options. Among these are the potential for development to proceed according to environmentally sensitive design principles and I trust that LandCorp now has the expertise, will and authority to ensure that this happens.

Can you let me know if your group is taking part in the consultation etc. I live in Perth and will be unable to attend this particular forum.

Best wishes from:

Anne Pettit**104 Canterbury Terrace****East Victoria Park 6101****Ph: 0419098748****TIDY UP POINT PERON****Weekend Courier****18 August 2006**

Help tidy up the Point Peron area by joining in a clean-up on Saturday, September 2. The clean-up will start at the Naragebup Environment Centre at 9.30am. There will be a brief botany lesson about how to recognise weeds. Take along a hat, water and gloves. The Department of Environment and Conservation will supply a trailer and other equipment.

CONGRATULATIONS ! YOU LIVE NEAR A VERY SIGNIFICANT WETLAND

*The threatened Sedgeland in Holocene Dune Swales
CALM Information Pamphlet 2005156-06-0
June 2005*

WHERE DO THESE WETLANDS OCCUR?

These important wetlands are mostly found in the Rockingham area. They are located in the Shires of Rockingham and Mandurah, with a single occurrence being in the City of Wanneroo. They occur within linear wetlands in dips known as swales, that occur between sand dunes. The wetlands occur on land vested in the City of Rockingham, in regional parks and on private land.

WHY ARE THESE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

Frequent fire has greatly increased weeds in this area of the community The Rockingham-Becher Plain, on which these wetlands occur, was formed through the build-up of sandy Holocene sediments during the past 10,000 years. The dunes and swales are of high geomorphological significance because they provide a relatively undisturbed record of soil development, from the older inland soils to the younger soils deposited recently near the coast. They provide an insight into the evolutionary record of sea-level history, shoreline and climatic changes. These wetlands are examples of a threatened ecological community, which is a particular group of plants and animals that occur together in a particular habitat, and are considered to be under threat of destruction. This community is classified Critically Endangered which indicates that it is under threat of immediate destruction unless high level threats can be managed. The typical wetland in which this threatened community occurs is known as a dampland, which means that in winter it becomes waterlogged, and in summer it remains quite wet near the soil surface. Some of the wetlands contain surface water during the winter months while others contain limited amounts of surface water for most of the year. These types of wetlands are known as sumplands. These damplands and sumplands are generally narrow and linear, but may also be circular. The composition of species that occurs in this threatened ecological community varies between occurrences. Typical and common native species include: the shrubs, climbing lignum (*Muehlenbeckia adpressa*), orange wattle (*Acacia saligna*), and balga (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*); the sedges, bare twigrush (*Baumeajuncea*), knotted club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*), and coastal sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*); and the grass, *Poa porphyroclados*. One sub-set of this community has trees such as melaleucas, banksias or tuart forming an overstorey.

PLANT COMMUNITY IN DANGER

Only 132 ha of this Critically Endangered community are now found in the world, and only a small percentage of this area is in protected reserves. Some of the areas of the community are proposed to be cleared. The health of the sedgeland community is also under threat from declining water quantity and quality resulting from the drying climate and high water use on surrounding lands such as residential developments, golf courses and other grassed sporting grounds. While this community is relatively resilient, too frequent fire has a big impact on it and encourages the invasion of weeds. Weeds compete with the native species and further increase the risk of fire.

ABORIGINAL SIGNIFICANCE

Aboriginal beliefs relate to some areas of this community type. One of the sites has been identified as a hunting area, and another as containing artefacts.

RECOVERY OF THIS THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered ecological communities are not destroyed. This is done through the preparation of Interim Recovery Plans which outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address threats that have the greatest impact on the community, and begin the recovery process. CALM has set up a recovery team for the 'Sedgeland of Holocene dune swales' to oversee the implementation of recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the community. This team consists of representatives from CALM, the City of Rockingham and a community-based wetland conservation group.

Recovery actions that will be progressively implemented with the help and support of neighbours:

- Monitoring the groundwater within this community to help ensure that current water quality and levels are maintained.
- Ensuring developments on adjacent lands have minimal impact on the community.
- Seeking to prevent fire from occurring too frequently in the community.
- Controlling weeds within the community.
- Fencing occurrences of this community to help ensure its protection.

What can you do to look after these important wetlands?:

- Don't rubbish. These wetlands are of high conservation value, and activities such as dumping rubbish, especially garden waste that contains lawn clippings or seeds, degrade them.
- Dispose of rubbish properly.
- Reduce fertiliser use. The nutrients from fertilisers can end up in the drains into the wetlands and reduce water quality.
- Keep to the tracks. Walking off the tracks can crush the vegetation.
- Please use paths and boardwalks.
- Report fires. Too frequent fire has a huge impact on this sedgeland community by increasing weeds that out-compete behaviour that could relate to arson to the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.

If you would like more information about the sedgeland community near you, please contact CALM'S Swan Region office on 9368 4399.

CONGRATULATIONS ! YOU LIVE NEAR A VERY SIGNIFICANT LAKE

*The threatened microbial community of Lake Richmond
CALM Information Pamphlet 2005144-06-0
June 2005*

WHERE IS LAKE RICHMOND

Lake Richmond is immediately inland of Point Peron, between Safety Bay Road and Parkin Street in the City of Rockingham. It includes a City of Rockingham reserve for conservation and public recreation, land owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission that covers about a quarter of the lake bed and an area of foreshore that may be added to the City of Rockingham reserve.

WHY IS LAKE RICHMOND IMPORTANT?

WA contains the greatest number and most diverse array of microbial structures known anywhere on Earth. Perhaps the best-known structures built by microbes are the world-renowned stromatolites at Hamelin Pool, Shark Bay. Lake Richmond contains limestone structures similar in appearance and function to those at Shark Bay. The structures at Lake Richmond are thrombolites - those that have a clothed internal structure as opposed to those that have a layered structure, which are stromatolites.

As at Shark Bay, the microbial community that forms the limestone structures in Lake Richmond is a complex association of several species of bacteria and algae that, while growing, remove dissolved minerals (calcium carbonate) from the water and build up new 'rock' material, resulting in the formation of the obvious domed rock-like formations. Lake Richmond contains the only known example of this particular Critically Endangered microbial community. Critically Endangered means that it faces total destruction in the immediate future if threats are not managed.

Microbial communities similar to those at Shark Bay and Lake Richmond are believed to have been crucial in the history of the Earth. Fossilised stromatolites are the earliest record of life on Earth and it is believed that the bacteria that form these structures were the dominant form of life from 3.5 billion to 600 million years before present (the Pre-Cambrian period). Stromatolites occurred when the Earth's atmosphere was too hostile to support life as we know it. The bacterial community that forms stromatolites and thrombolites is believed to have been responsible for generating the first atmospheric oxygen, thereby making the biosphere habitable for all other life. This is perhaps the most critical event in the Earth's history.

PLANT COMMUNITY IN DANGER

Lake Richmond is also surrounded by another critically endangered community - the 'Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales', that surround the water's edge. The particular community is only known from a total of about 132 ha. This sedge community is also especially important as a filter for any pollutants that would otherwise flow into the lake.

IMPORTANT BIRDS

There are also a number of significant migratory bird species that use Lake Richmond on a seasonal basis, for example, common greenshanks (*Tiinga nebularia*) and red-necked stilts (*Calidris ruficollis*). These birds are protected under international agreements between Japan and Australia, and China and Australia.

ABORIGINAL SIGNIFICANCE

Aboriginal beliefs relate to Lake Richmond. A member of the local Naramya Aboriginal Corporation is consulted about management planning for the lake and also provides information about Aboriginal culture for lake visitors. Structures that resemble fish traps and may have been constructed by Indigenous people have been identified in the lake and management of the lake will not damage these.

MICROBIAL COMMUNITY IN DANGER

The health of Lake Richmond and its microbial community are under threat from declining water quality as a consequence of some land uses around the lake, such as residential developments and runoff from roads. In addition, when the microbial structures become exposed during summer, they are fragile and very vulnerable to crushing underfoot. Too frequent fire can also impact the microbial community by increasing flows of sediment that can smother the microbial community and cause a decline in the water quality.

RECOVERY OF THIS THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered ecological communities are not destroyed. This is done through the preparation of Interim Recovery Plans, which outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened ecological communities in the wild and begin the recovery process. CALM has set up a Recovery Team for the microbial community of Lake Richmond to coordinate the implementation of recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the community. This team consists of representatives from CALM, the Naragebup Environment Centre that manages the lake on behalf of the City of Rockingham, the City of Rockingham and various government agencies.

Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the threatened ecological community include:

- Monitoring the health of the Lake and the microbial community.
- Ensuring developments on adjacent lands have minimal impact on the Lake.
- Ensuring that current water quality and levels are maintained.
- Seeking to prevent fire from occurring too frequently in buffer vegetation around the Lake.

You as a near neighbour are vitally important in protecting this precious Lake. What can you do to look after this important Lake?

- Don't walk on the thrombolites. The structures are fragile and easily crushed underfoot.
- Keep to tracks. Walking off the tracks can crush vegetation that provides a buffer to the Lake.
- Report fires. Fires have a huge effect on sedgelands that provide a buffer to the Lake and help to prevent pollutants entering the waters. Please report all fires or any unusual behaviour that could relate to arson to the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.
- Don't put it down the drain. Chemicals such as oil can end up in the drains into Lake Richmond and other wetlands. Dispose of liquid wastes properly.

If you would like more information about the microbial community in Lake Richmond, please contact CALM'S Swan Region office on 9368 4399 or the Naragebup Environment Centre on 9591 3077.

POINT PERON, ROCKINGHAM'S KING'S PARK
Press Release - PPP
4 June 2005

All Western Australians must be thankful that far-sighted City fathers saved the 1000 acres which are King's Park - prime real estate though it looked at the time. The newest threats to our best, land based natural asset come in the form of a proposal for luxury housing, hotel, canals and marina to be built into Point Peron. The proposal is called Cape Peron Tourist Precinct. Any development of this "Gold Coast" type would change Rockingham's image, alter Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, overtake a Bush Forever site and remove one of the main reasons why people from all over the State journey to Rockingham. There are better options for boating facilities and marina in Rockingham.

It's time to do the same as achieved by Perth City in the 19th Century. If you are fond of Rockingham's best known, outstanding natural asset and would like to join this 21st Century campaign, contact the "Preserve Point Peron for the People" group meeting fortnightly on Saturday mornings. Next Meeting Sat. 18th June 10.30 am at Naragebup, Safety Bay Rd, PPP Contact: Esther Grogan 0417 904 404 or Bob Goodale 0413 824 101.

ABORIGINAL SITES CAPE PERON, LAKE RICHMOND AND MERCY POINT
Trevor Walley
9 June 2005

Bob Goodale,
Address: Safety Bay Road (opposite Lake Richmond) Peron
Postal: PO Box 537S, Rockingham Beach WA 6969
Tel: (08) 9591 3077 Mbl: 0413 824 101 Fax: (08) 9591 3061
Email: rrec@naragebup.org.au Web: www.naragebup.org.au

ABORIGINAL SITES CAPE PERON, LAKE RICHMOND AND MERCY POINT

- I forward some photos taken on Tuesday 7 June 2005, areas covered:
- Lake Richmond campsite. Obviously utilising Lake Richmond and possibly using Thrombolites to catch food.
 - Corroboree site (Boora grounds between Peron Road, Memorial and Lease Road.
 - Burial grounds at Cape Peron.
 - Mangles Bay fishing site.
 - Mersey Point, burial site.

Aboriginal elders and Elders present Russell A Nelly, Fred Pickett, Trevor Walley and Bob Goodale.

Trevor Walley
9 June 2005

**LETTER TO MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
FROM D. HITCHIN
15 June 2005**

*D.Hitchin. 15a McKinzie Rd.
Shoalwater. 6169
15th June 2005*

The Hon. Judy Edwards, Minister for the Environment,
29th floor Allendale Square
77 St George's Terrace.
PERTH. W.A. 6000

Re. Cape Peron Tourist / Canal/Marina Project

Minister as a resident of the Rockingham area for some thirty years, I wish to make my opposition and anger known to you. Having attended the May 31st meeting held by City Council where the council condescended to show to us the rate payers that they think we want and asked us if we would like to add more to their plan.

There was no public consultation. We should have been asked

1. Did we want a marina and if so.
2. Where should it go.

There were no options canvassed.

The logical place for a marina if we build one would be where there are already tourist oriented businesses and planned shuttle service from train station. Council have already got high rise apartments and facilities being built at the Wanliss Street end of Rockingham Beach, there is vacant land and deep water up towards Kwinana Shipwreck. Perfect. Cape Peron is still part of the "Bush Forever" legislation meant to be preserved for future generations. The point itself and the Marine Park around it is still one of our states best natural attractions with Lake Richmond and its Thrombolites part of this remarkable area.

My late husband was a keen sailor and scuba diver and we lived here because of all these things and it used to be a great place for children to grow up in. I just feel so angry that our City Council feel they can destroy what is left of our bush for very little gain to the people of this city. The grand plan will not be for the locals - some vendors may gain, there would not be any great increase in jobs, so who in the end would gain

I am against the proposed 'Cape Peron Tourist "Precinct" Project.

*Sincerely,
Diana Hitchin*

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; SCIENCE
22 June 2005**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; SCIENCE
Our Ref: 4-2171

*D Hitchin
15 a McKinzie Road
SHOALWATER WA 6169*

Dear D Hitchin

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 June, 2005 to Dr Judy Edwards MLA, Minister for the Environment; Science concerning Cape Peron.

Your correspondence is receiving attention and Dr Edwards will respond as soon as possible.

Correspondence Officer
22 June, 2005
29th Floor, Allendale Square, 77 St. George's Terrace, Perth 6000
Telephone: (08) 9220 5050 Facsimile: (08) 9221 4665
E-MAIL: judy-edwards@dpc.wa.gov.au
WEBSITE: www.ministers.wa.gov.au/edwards

**CAPE PERON TOURIST PRECINCT PROJECT
STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP
The Navy Club - Point Peron Road
6:00 to 9:00pm, Wednesday 22nd June 2005**

**LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO POINT PERON
TOURIST PRECINCT
Graham Anderton
3 September 2005**

Re Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project
PO Box 138
Burswood
WA 6100.

Dear Manager,

As a member of the Reference Group I oppose the development of the proposed Marina at Pt Peron and Mangles Bay. I don't believe it is the best option for our area nor does it satisfy the initial goals socially, environmentally and economically.

I believe a better option would be to:

Locate the Marina near Wanliss Street and reclaim land needed (eg Woodman's Point) as has been done in other parts of the Cockburn Sound. I realise that this is a more costly option, but so is the possible long term effects from the loss of land, salinity increases at Pt Peron. Sea grass loss would be virtually negligible as there is no sea grass at this location.

Revegetate the Pt Peron area that has been degraded and establish circle paths, barbeque and picnic areas.

Maintain the status quo in terms of camps and leaseholders. There would need to be some expectation that leaseholders would improve their facilities from a viewpoint perspective.

Re align the Causeway to improve water quality flow. It is obvious that the Chittleborough Report from the early 1970's was inaccurate to the long-term effects on water quality and sea grasses. A classic example of consultancy gone wrong and what could happen with the marina should it proceed. The same thing has happen at the Cottesloe Artificial surfing reef.

Affordable accommodation, restaurants, tourist centre etc could be developed at the old Police and Citizen Campsite adjacent safety Bay Road where the remnants of their oval remains. It would be hope should such a development take place that most of the trees would remain.

All boat holders with moorings in Mangles Bay should have a DPI stipulation that they must have vertical moorings if they are in proximity to sea grass meadows. Provided they do this they should be allowed to keep their moorings and not join perhaps a more costly marina group.

Roads need to be reconstructed to fit in with the needs of the Defence, cyclists, campers and day-trippers etc. The present arrangements are unsuitable. Memorial drive needs to be widened with either traffic signals or an overpass to the causeway.

The present option will disenfranchise those who have come to Pt Peron for many years and spent lost on money on local services. Further under initial agreements local groups were promise the present use by the Commonwealth Government. These propose changes to this Park Land will compromise what this land had been set aside for. It also goes against the initial promises to the RSL, AIW, CYC and Mangles Bay Fishing club when the Marina was first muted.

There is no 100% guarantee that:

The proposed sea grass rehabilitation area will take off; the area closest to the causeway has strong currents and is dissimilar from the successful Albany areas.

Lake Richmond will be affected.

Added salinity won't affect existing flora.

Added facilities will be in the reach of the socio economic folk who live in Rockingham and that the propose marina will be more for the upper class.

I strongly believe that the option proposed above is a better one socially, environmentally and would be just as economically viable in the long term. It would certainly pose less negative effects on the environment.

*Yours sincerely
Graham Anderton*

B Educ UWA Dip PE; Teachers Higher Certificate; Associate of The WA Museum; SSI/CMAS Snorkel and Scuba Instructor; Wet Paper Marine Consultant; RecFish West Member.
Unit 3/28 Harrison Street
Rockingham
WA6168.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING CAPE PERON

*Doug Prichard
5 September 2005*

5 Anzac Place
ROCKINGHAM WA 6168
5 September 2005

Bob Goodale
Naragebup Environment Centre

Bob,

I have taken the FAQ segment from the Rockingham Development Office – Point Peron website – to be the basis for this! Using THEIR Agenda! Then change it to suit ourselves. Same script, same text size, etc. The print version is same as floppy disc – almost – made a few last minute changes. I was thinking a link on the PPP page to "FAQ's". Hope this helps.

*Doug Prichard
9592 5223*

PS: On this disc is the letter I sent to the community Newspaper over a week ago.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These are some of the questions asked by community members being confronted with a proposal to develop a marina in Mangles bay, which would compromise the Preservation of Point Peron.

What area is to be preserved?

Cape Peron, as defined by the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, in its draft management plan (2003-2013), The area under threat from the Rockingham Development office is generally defined by the Causeway to west, Hymus Street to the east and by the proposed Garden Island Highway to the south. The site under threat, stage one, is approximately 75 ha in area.

What land uses does the community support?

When a public meeting was called to consider a tourist based marina, on Point Peron, the questionnaire revealed community support (279 registered attendees) with the following priorities.

Topic Number in support

- Toilets 165
- Cycling and walk paths 160
- Park and open space 155
- Conservation of land 150
- Boardwalk 148
- Picnic and BBQ area 140
- Fishing platform 140
- Boat ramp 140
- Marina with boat pens 75

Statistics show that 100 members of the Rockingham community who attended the public meeting were so offended by the plan they saw, and the way the questions were asked, that they refused to take part in any further part of the process. The numbers above are taken from a report tabled by Landcorp, on their website.

Who is in favour of a land based Marina on Point Peron?

The project is being overseen by the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Steering Committee. The committee consists of representatives of: the City of Rockingham, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, South West Corridor Development and Employment Foundation, LandCorp, Peel Area Consultative Committee, and The Australian Navy (to be confirmed).

Is the Rockingham Development Office reflecting community desires?

No. It obviously has a very different agenda to the community of Rockingham.

How can I prevent this land grab?

Join a community driven group "Preserving Point Peron".

Are the various "minutes" tabled by Landcorp a true reflection of events?

After the "Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Steering Committee" appointed its 40 stakeholders to define what the community wanted, it minuted each of the meetings. Minutes are normally accepted by the following meeting to check whether they are a true and accurate record of events. Landcorp, with Rockingham council approval, do not require minutes to be accepted. Members of the stakeholders group, and observers, are concerned that reports of these meetings do not accurately record events. Members have resigned from this stakeholders group, being concerned with the content, agenda and process of these meetings.

Are these appointed stakeholders running the agenda, or Landcorp?

Are you satisfied to believe that 40 unbiased members of our community accepted the "preferred concept" as being a reflection of the outcome from the public consultation meetings? Hint, refer to stats above. A few people do, very few. But no names attached.

What is the City of Rockingham view of this project?

The City of Rockingham supports the development of a preferred concept plan that meets environmental requirements while still providing strong social and economic outcomes. The City of Rockingham Approves of the agenda which allows Landcorp to co-ordinate a public meeting and questionnaire which 36% of the participants refuse to complete. The democratic system encourages you to contact your local councillor if you are concerned that you may lose our most magnificent waterfront asset to a small handful of land developers. Like the State Government, the City will await the development of the concept plan, the outcomes of the community consultation and the strategic environmental review before deciding whether to support development of the project or not.

Is Mangles Bay the best location for a marina in the area?

No. Taxpayers have contributed towards a study of other areas along the Rockingham coast. The Wanliss street site presents a logical "Best Solution". An assessment of the coast has been completed as part of this project. For a copy of the report [click here]. If you find that you also agree that Wanliss Street is the preferred site, then why not contact your local councillor and let them know.

What will happen to the many leaseholders currently based on Cape Peron?

They will be involved in the progressive development of Point Peron as a "Bush Forever" site.

What are the likely environmental impacts?

It is a goal of the "Preserve Point Peron" group to develop a concept plan that provides for; sea grass in Cockburn Sound, water quality of Mangles Bay, vegetation and fauna, Rockingham Lakes Regional Park; and the environment of Lake Richmond.

What impact would the "Preserve Point Peron" group have on the water quality in Mangles Bay?

A goal of the group is to not cause deterioration in the water quality of Mangles Bay. Any proposed realignment of the existing causeway, to increase the opening from 300m to 600m, would need to have environmental approval.

Can development occur in a Bush Forever site?

Yes. The Bush Forever policy do not preclude development which has community support, however, this is subject to policy guidelines. Not all the project area is designated Bush Forever. The goal is to enhance vegetation linkages between Cape Peron and Lake Richmond.

What effect would any development have on sea grass?

Substantial losses from dredging and altered land use. Any significant marina, residential, and hotel development currently will threaten this Mangles bay area.

What impact would marina development have on Lake Richmond?

Scientific data already available shows adverse impacts upon Lake Richmond to be very high. The marina option put up by "The Rockingham Development Office" provides for only a 200m buffer between the marina and the lake. Indeed, the marina project may present a further threat to the environment of Lake Richmond.

Cape Peron is part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. Is a marina-based tourist/recreation development consistent with this Regional Park?

No. The community clearly favours the draft Management Plan for the Regional Park prepared by CALM supporting the use of the park for both conservation and recreation. This plan already includes the continuation of private lease areas at Cape Peron. The draft management plan recognises that development of marina facilities and infrastructure may occur within the park. A full copy of the draft plan is available via the News and Resources links, of the Rockingham Development Office.

Will the marina project improve public access to Cape Peron

No. The marina project intention is to secure 40 hectare for Hotel, inland marina, and privately owned residential accommodation; a canal development in fact. Only by supporting "Preserve Point Peron" will you prevent this land from being taken forever.

Will the marina project provide new jobs for the region?

Yes. If you regard land developing executives as being jobs for Rockingham residents. Your land will now be privately owned, and not necessarily by Rockingham community members. A few people will financially benefit from the "marina". A few people speculate on increased land value. They may not have looked at Crawley and its proximity to Kings Park. A few may be employed to clean shoes and make beds for tourists.

Will Point Peron Preserved support training and educational opportunities for our kids?

Yes. Preserving the site in a fashion of Kings Park with community supported development will fit in with the marine education and training courses already provided by Murdoch University, Rockingham High School and others within the region.

What zoning currently applies to this land?

The subject land is currently reserved for Parks and Recreation and Port Installation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS). Thankfully, redevelopment

extensive environmental research

PROPOSED MARINA DEVELOPMENT AT CAPE PERON ADJACENT TO HMAS STIRLING

14 September 2005

Steve O'Loughlin, Department of Defence, CSIG.

Internal departmental agreement with the attached dot points for the Stake Holders Group Meeting held at the Navy Club, Rockingham 14 September 2005:

Suggestion that Defence should submit an interim response prior to a workshop being convened, in line with some Departmental Staff concerns re the public consultation being closed.

Meeting included the results and suggested outcomes from the feedback from the over 700 respondents – as well as other reports.

Urban encroachment is a serious issue for Defence establishments, and has affected capability at other locations. For this reason, Defence approaches proposals for development adjacent to military bases with caution.

The increase in marine traffic at close proximity to the base is not a desirable outcome.

Defence does not support the option preferred by the Rockingham Development Office as it proposes replacement of the Causeway. Defence has no requirement to realign the Causeway, and does not intend to replace it at this time.

The proposed option relocates the Navy Cadets and the entry to the Causeway. Defence would expect full and equitable compensation in any land swap agreement that the proposed marina project may propose.

Defence will require all environmental issues raised by the proposed marina project, such as silting, flushing and effects on seagrass populations, to be addressed to the full satisfaction of local and federal environmental authorities.

A formal response from Defence to the project committee will be submitted in October 2005.

Following the presentation one of the stakeholders requested who from Defence authorised the issues:

Issues authorised by the Assistant Secretary Strategic Planning Estate and Development (ASSPED), Ms Chris Bee.

Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group (CSIG) manage the Defence estate for the Australian Defence Forces (Navy are the users of the estate – HMAS Stirling).

ASSPED Branch manages defence issues with regard to the Cape Peron Marina project.

**LAKE RICHMOND CONSERVATION RESERVE
ROAD PROPOSAL**
Mark McGowan
21 September 2005

The Parliament of Western Australia
Mark McGowan MP
Member for Rockingham

Mr Bob Goodale
Naragebup
Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
PO Box 5375
ROCKINGHAM BEACH WA 6969

Dear Bob,

Thank you for contacting me in regard to your concerns with the proposed road that runs through the Lake Richmond Conservation Reserve.

I have raised the matter of the proposed road through the Lake Richmond Conservation Reserve with Alannah MacTieman the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and her senior staff including the department.

I have expressed my opposition to this road and I am confident that the road will not be constructed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you on any other matter.

Yours sincerely
Mark McGowan
Member for Rockingham
21 September 2005
PO Box 88 Rockingham WA 6168
Telephone 08 9592 7422 Facsimile 08 9592 1683

**CONSEQUENCES OF A MARINA AT POINT
PERON**

Wetland Research Association Inc
25 September 2005

Wetlands Research Association Inc.
Registered No A1007876D
12 Monger St
Perth, W.A., 6000
Phone: 0427 473 705
Fax: 9227 3503
25th September 2005

Dr P. Jennings
President of the Wetlands Conservation Society
c/- Murdoch University
South St., Murdoch, 6150

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONSEQUENCES OF A MARINA AT
POINT PERON**

Dear Dr Jennings,

This letter is in response to your request for scientific and environmental advice in relation to the consequences of constructing a marina at Point Peron. The letter is structured as follows:

1. Natural history of the Point Peron area.
2. Established scientific and heritage importance of the Point Peron area.
3. Outline of the proposed marina.
4. Environmental consequences of the marina.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE POINT PERON AREA

The Point Peron area is part of the double cusp Rockingham-Becher Cuspate Foreland system. It is the northern cusp, the larger cusp, the older cusp, and most complex cusp of the double cuspate foreland system (Searle et al 1988). Through stratigraphic and geomorphic studies, coring, and radiocarbon dating of the beach sediments and underlying seagrass-derived sediments, Searle et al (1988) show that the coast in this region began to accrete about 7000 years ago from a former limestone cliff situated 10 km inland from the present shore.

The coast prograded as a wave dominated and hence sand dominated shoaling-upward seagrass bank to beach-and-beach ridge system, located in the protected lee of off shore limestone ridges, small islands and reefs, with the subaerial portion of the accumulation comprised of shore-parallel beach ridge system. The beach ridge systems record the history of the shoreline movements over the millenia. In local areas, the progradation of the coast extended as seaward projecting large cusps (the Becher Cusp), and elsewhere, the shore prograded to the extent that the offshore island at Point Peron was captured.

The Point Peron area itself is comprised of a limestone reef (a former limestone island that has been captured by a narrow cusate

foreland, or tombolo). The area thus comprises a limestone rocky shore and a narrow neck of sand (the tombolo). As such the terrain of the Point Peron area is underlain by sand of dune/beach ridge, beach, and seagrass origin, with limestone rocky shore at Point Peron itself. The stratigraphy of the area, outlined by Searle et al (1988), comprises dune sand (underlying the beach ridges), sand and shelly sand (buried former beaches), and grey seagrass-sediment (enriched in iron sulphide). The reef-and-tombolo system separates Warnbro Sound to the south from Cockburn Sound to the north. Within the accretionary area of the tombolo, complex coastal processes some 2500 years ago resulted in the development of a deep water embayment which in becoming isolated from the sea became a freshwater lake, now called Lake Richmond, (figure 8 of Searle et al 1988).

Hydrologically, the Point Peron area is underlain by unconfined groundwater of freshwater salinity. The shore is underlain by groundwater of marine salinity. C A Semeniuk (2005) in a drilling programme in the region, empirically established that the interface between marine and freshwater descends as a steep incline with marine groundwater at depths of 10 m some 25 m - 30 m from the shore, and brackish water to near marine water at depths of 10 m some 40 m from the shore. Also, the complex limestone-and-sand stratigraphy resulted in freshwater occurring under the marine groundwater at the shore.

ESTABLISHED SCIENTIFIC AND HERITAGE IMPORTANCE OF THE POINT PERON AREA

This cusplate foreland is the largest sedimentary coastal deposit on the south western Australian coast which, by nature of its formation, contains a 7,000 year Holocene history of seagrass-dominated sedimentation, sea level changes, shoreline and beach ridge plain origin and development, calcrete development, rocky shore development, and climate history. It is the largest seagrass-sediment-derived seagrass bank, developed on a cusplate foreland, in the world (Semeniuk et al 1989). Another important feature of the cusplate foreland and its surface beach ridge plain, which distinguishes it from plains and cusplate forelands in eastern Australia and globally, is that it is underlain by a calcareous quartzose sand, i.e., the sand is relatively carbonate rich, which has implications for wetland evolution and hydrochemistry.

It is against this background of coastal beach ridge plain geohistory that beach ridge development, wetland initiation, landscape evolution, and response to climatic variability were examined as described in a series of international papers by Fairbridge (1950, 1961), Semeniuk & Johnson (1985), Semeniuk & Searle (1985a), Semeniuk (1986), Searle et al (1988), Semeniuk et al (1989) and C A Semeniuk (2005).

The relevant critical/key features in the Point Peron area are:

1. Stromatolites.
2. The rocky shores.
3. Seagrass sediments in a cusplate foreland.
4. Lake Richmond.
5. The tombolo as part of the northern cusp.
6. Seagrasses and algae.

These are described below, with reference to the level of significance.

Stromatolites

The stromatolites (also termed thrombolites by some authors along the shore of Lake Richmond are globally distinct and unique systems; they are relatively young (< 2500 years), and have formed in the hydrochemical setting of permanent freshwater that has a strong Ca²⁺ cation source from the surrounding dune sand terrain; they are located mainly on the northern shore of the lake, and encrust the relatively steep slope of the northern wall of the lake.

Globally significant

Limestone Rocky Shore

The rocky shores in the Point Peron area are of global geoheritage significance as they form the foundation work of Fairbridge's (1950, 1961) work on sea-level history that became a landmark and benchmark study for Holocene sea level history research,

Globally significant

Seagrass Sediments in a Cusplate Foreland

The seagrass to beach to beach ridge transition occurring in the twin cusplate foreland in the Rockingham-Becher area is a globally unique system, seagrass banks are recorded as mud mounds in Florida, forming sands wedges in South Australia, forming muddy sand wedges at Shark Bay, and forming sand wedges in the Mediterranean Sea, generally elsewhere globally, where seagrasses are instrumental in forming sedimentary deposits they are not in a cusplate foreland setting (Semeniuk et al 1989; Semeniuk & Semeniuk (2000).

Globally significant

Lake Richmond

This lake, the deepest natural freshwater lake in Western Australia, is a former marine embayment that was cut off from the open marine system by a barrier some 2300 years ago; its floor is 10 m deep, and is the stranded former tract of the Warnbro-Cockburn Sound which themselves today are 10 m deep; the lake is unique in the manner it formed, its sediments on its margins and floor (the floor containing Holocene shells of the former marine biota), its hydrochemical

evolution (transforming from a marine embayment to a natural freshwater reservoir) and the stromatolites along its shore and steep walls.

Nationally significant

The Tombolo (Part of Northern Cusp)

The complex history of the northern cusp of the twin cusplate system that captures a former offshore island/reef forming this tombolo is manifest in the landforms and beach ridge patterns; as part of an internally significant cusplate deposit, this tombolo as a geoheritage feature represents the last stage of evolution of accretion-and-island/reef-capture of a coastal evolutionary process; the landforms also record complex coastal interactions with periodic/cyclic climate changes, preserved in the beach ridges, of the entire off ????

State wide significant

Seagrasses and Algae

Seagrasses and macroalgae inhabiting the protected shallow environment of Mangles Bay and on the rocky shores are ecosystems of regional importance; the sheltered systems here are not replicated elsewhere.

Regionally significant

OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED MARINA

The marina at Point Peron is proposed be cut into the limestone-and-sand parts of the tombolo complex at its north western end. The entrance to the proposed marina will front Mangles Bay. The marina itself will house 600 boat pens, and these will be located at the eastern and south-eastern part of the cut. The marina complex and associated supporting infrastructures will involve some 40-50% of the tombolo system.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE MARINA

The construction of a marina in the Point Peron area will have several consequences. These are described briefly in terms of:

1. The construction phase impacts.
2. Operational phase impacts.
3. Maintenance phase impacts.

Description of these phases is provided below. The significance of these impacts deriving from these phases are outlined in terms of the key natural features of the Point Peron region in Table below.

The construction phase would involve excavation of the sand underlying the tombolo and dredging of the limestone at the mouth/entrance of the marina. The excavation of the sand will mobilise any fine grained material from the seagrass sediment (Semeniuk & Searle 1985b), and will bring into the zone of oxidation the formerly buried iron sulphide enriched sediments and formerly in the anoxic zone of the groundwater, with consequences firstly for turbidity in the area, and secondly in generating acid sulphate soils. The dredging of the limestone will mobilise fine grained sediment into environment with consequences for turbidity in the area.

The operational phase will have two major impacts: seawater will intrude into the freshwater aquifer, and the nutrients and contaminants associated with marinas will flush directly into Mangles Bay and affect the biota, and will also become part of the shallow groundwater, and potentially affect the freshwater.

The accumulation of the cusplate foreland over 7000 years of its history involved the transport of some 100,000 m³ of sand annually. While this superficially appears to have been stabilised, the potential still exists for large volumes of sediment to be mobilised, as evident in the history of Peel Harbour during the 1800s on the south side of the tombolo, which filled with sediment within decades after it was first surveyed by Captain Roe (Forbes & Semeniuk in prep), suggesting some 100,000- 220,000 m³ of sand was transported annually in this coastal region. Opening an artificial inlet (the marine entrance) in this coastal region runs a strong risk of sedimentation filling the mouth of the proposed marina, and hence requirement of maintenance dredging. The maintenance phase impacts deriving from sedimentation and dredging would affect the local biota on the rocky shores and seagrasses in Mangles Bay.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS ON THE CRITICAL/KEY FEATURES IN THE POINT PERON AREA

Stromatolites

Constructional Phase: None.
Operational Phase: Potential of seawater intrusion and contamination run strong risk of entering and altering the lake hydrochemistry with the threat the stromatolites will not be maintained.
Maintenance Phase: None.

Limestone Rocky Shore

Constructional Phase: Locally destroys an internationally important geoheritage feature.
Operational Phase: Maintenance of cementation zone and freshwater seepage zone of rocky shores locally and permanently altered.
Maintenance Phase: None.

Seagrass Sediments in a Cuspate Foreland

Constructional Phase: Locally destroys an internationally important geoheritage feature of the end stage of seagrass cuspate foreland sedimentation ie the tombolo stage.

Operational Phase: None.

Maintenance Phase: None.

Lake Richmond

Constructional Phase: None.

Operational Phase: Potentially of seawater intrusion and contaminants run strong risk of entering and altering the lake hydrochemistry with the threat the stromatolites will not be maintained.

Maintenance Phase: None.

The Tombolo

Constructional Phase: locally destroys an important geoheritage feature of the end-stage of seagrass cuspate foreland sedimentation, i.e., the tombolo stage, and destroys the climate and landscape history contained therein (see Semeniuk 1995).

Operational Phase: None.

Maintenance Phase: None.

Seagrasses and Algae

Constructional Phase: Turbidly impacts on biota in the short term.

Operational Phase: Plumes of contaminants emanating from the marina will affect the biota.

Maintenance Phase: Periodic dredging will affect biota as during construction phase.

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I trust this information is to your satisfaction. If you require further information, or amplification of any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
Dr V Semeniuk

wished to draw it to your attention. We have sought legal advice on the land tenure for this proposal and have been advised as follows: Breach of Contract. Development of the site would entail a departure from the uses agreed as part of the State's purchase of the land. If this were to constitute a breach of contract, it would be enforceable only by a party to the contract (ie the Commonwealth). Therefore we ask you to persuade the Commonwealth to examine whether there has been a breach and if so to enforce the terms of the contract. Please see the documents attached.

We would like to extend an invitation to meet with you at the Point Peron location to discuss matters further.

Bob Goodale
Preserve Point Peron (Inc) committee member
 Mb: 0413 824 101
 29th September 2005

**LETTER TO MEMBER OF NORTH
 METROPOLITAN REGION
 10 October 2005**

Mrs MB. Osborne
 384 Safety Bay Road
 SAFETY BAY WA 6169

Hon G. Watson
 339 Oxford Street
 LEEDERVILLE WA 5007

Dear Ms Watson

CAPE PERON RESERVE

I write to express my concern about the future of the above Reserve in light of the planned Cape Peron Tourist Precinct project that will result in loss of habitat for unknown numbers of flora and fauna. My specific concerns are;

- (a) Has a bio diversity study been undertaken in this Reserve to estimate the numbers and types of flora and fauna? The proposed project will effectively halve the habitat of the said flora and fauna.
- (b) What is the purpose of this Reserve? if it is for recreational purposes why is "residential" use of the land included in the planning?

I am aware that holiday camps have been present in this area for many years but this is not what I believe will be proposed "residential". On a recent walk through the Reserve I noticed two species of bird life, which are not seen in the suburban garden. I acknowledge the need for a safe area for boating is necessary in Rockingham however an alternative site for the tourist precinct within Rockingham such as Rockingham Beach, which is already developed, is surely preferable to the Cape Peron Reserve that provides one of the few remaining bushland areas in Rockingham and abuts the Shoalwater Marine Park.

In the interests of conservation of the Cape Peron Reserve I bring this matter to your attention with particular regard to consideration be given to the above when changes to the Cape Peron Reserve are tabled in Parliament

Yours sincerely
M.B Osborne
 10 October 2005

**LETTER TO FEDERAL MINISTER FOR
 ENVIRONMENT**

Preserve Point Peron Inc

29 September 2005

Preserve Point Peron (Inc)
 www.naragebup.org.au
 The Honourable Senator Ian Campbell
 Exchange Plaza 2
 The Esplanade
 WA

Dear Senator Campbell,

I am writing to you on behalf of the committee and members of Preserve Point Peron (Inc) to inform you regarding environmental issues surrounding a proposed inland canal/marina development. My involvement and awareness of environmental issues in this immediate area include the following; I am a full member of the Cockburn Sound Management Board, an environment advisor to the Commodore of HMAS Stirling located on Garden Island, a member of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks environment advisory committee and founding member of the Recovery Team for the Critically Endangered Ecological Community of Thrombolites located in Lake Richmond.

Through my involvement in these organisations the importance of sea grass and the management of water quality are of paramount importance to ensure clean water, an abundance of marine life, ongoing tourism and an acceptable quality of life in this area.

The implications of the proponents proposed canal/marina development are as follows:

Significant loss of sea grass which is unlikely to be countered by remedial sea grass planting which is at best improver and in this location almost impossible.

Acid sulphate soils, as indicated on the EPA map, identify Point Peron/Lake Richmond as a hot spot. This could implicate the government in a long term, costly maintenance programme.

Already there are serious difficulties in managing traffic to and from Garden Island which this proposed project would compound. There are health and safety issues involved in transporting considerable quantities of explosives, dangerous chemicals and volatile fuels through a luxury development. The expansion in urban traffic will increase the number of traffic accidents which would result in huge environmental damage.

An inland canal development/marina as proposed would have major silting, seaweed build up and poor water circulation all adversely impacting on the Mangles Bay region.

Salt water contamination of Lake Richmond, home to some of the world's rarest and iconic life forms, which are registered in the federal EPA. As Lake Richmond is Australian Heritage listed there would be serious implications for the Commonwealth if this proposal were to go ahead.

The area in question is a state regional park under a draft management plan and a Bush Forever site, although this is only a state matter we

Subject: Re: Marina issues
 From: Golfrangewa@aol.com
 Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2005 19:13:03 EST
 To: philedman@iinet.net.au

Gooday,

Bob can't have his cake and eat it to. Compared to Point Peron, Tern Island is not significant at all!

What 1997 study is this and where can I find it. I would be also interested in the type of marina plan it referred to and where the jobs were and what type of jobs they would be. I still would like to know how many jobs would be created if the Cape was developed into a bush forever site and a concept plan for it's preservation and maintenance was tabled. Imagine if the Cape was our region's answer to Kings Park.

With it's Coastal setting it would be even better than that WA icon.

Regards,
 Mal

MARINA ISSUES
*E-mails Between Phil Edman and
 Mal (Golfrangewa@aol.com)*
 1 November 2005

From: Golfrangewa@aol.com
 To: philedman@iinet.net.au
 Cc: grogantojsouthwest.com.au
 Subject: : Marina issues

Phil,

All your points can be managed. It really seems that you are clutching at straws and I would love to be a reporter as it would easy to see this canal development as a rich persons' playground. Tell me how many jobs it will provide and how many visitors it will attract. Then use the same modelling to assess the worth of the Cape as a natural attraction.

I guarantee Point Peron as a natural visitor attraction will win hands down.

This "marina" will compete with Port Catherine and Mandurah and it would be interesting to have an analysis carried out to see which would attract the most visits. The people pushing this marina are so short sighted it's not funny. The bush forever site will serve many more people than a marina, and supported by visitor infrastructure on Rockingham beachfront will provide diverse activities for day trippers which we will rely on in the future. Once you replace the natural bush with concrete, bricks and mortar it is gone forever.

I really do think you should consider the Safety Bay option as I think it is a win-win concept for everyone.

Regards,
 Mal.

From: Phil Edman philedman@iinet.net.au
 Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2005 10:11:35 +0800
 To: Golfrangewa@aol.com
 CC: "cr. Wamer" toducks@bigpond.com "Simon Proud" Simon.Proud@landcorp.com.au "barry" parkingprint@bigpond.com mayorsammels@rockingham.wa.gov.au "kevin dorotich" kdorotich@rockingham.wa.gov.au "cr. smith" janrich@wn.com.au "gary holland" ghol3and@rockingham.wa.gov.au "cr. dunkling" gdunk@iinet.net.au "cr. hamblin" D.Hamblin@murdoch.edu.au "bob Jeans" bjeans@rockingham.wa.gov.au "cr. Prince" ann.prince@bigpond.com grogan@southwestcom.au

Mal,

You need to talk to Bob Goodale about your idea on a Safety Bay marina. He and many others will not follow it. He spoke to me on Sunday when I was inspecting the jetty's and facilities in Safety Bay and Rockingham.

Also mate you don't have to be a Einstein to figure out that this marina will bring in more than 300 jobs for the local community (Check out study by landcorp 1997).

I also agree with you in regards to bush forever, that's why the plan is being changed to bring back exactly what you are describing.

Cheers
 Phil

**PRESENTATION OF PPP PETITION TO STATE
 PARLIAMENT**
 29 November 2005

PETITION

The proposed Point Peron Marina and other developments not associated with a Marina.

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned citizens of Western Australia.

Want the area known as Point Peron/Cape Peron, City of Rockingham in the State of Western Australia to remain, in Perpetuity as Parks and Recreation and that an inland Marina not be built. Further that any improvements made to the area do conserve the natural environment and provide for continual access by people of all socio-economic groups.

We request that the Council ensure:

That studies of the impact on the natural environment of a proposed Marina and any developments not associated with a Marina be assessed preferably as any part of Metropolitan Region Scheme amendment, necessary for such a marina or other developments and that this should include effect on sand erosion, seagrass, littoral drift, algal growth and flushing of Cockburn Sound.

That the land now currently zoned Parks and Recreation and Port Installations does not become privately owned or leased for 99 years for commercial development and that access remains for the public for the purpose of recreation and holiday accommodation.

That a study on the need for such a marina and or other developments is completed and made available to the public prior to any rezoning or development.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME ADDRESS SIGNATURE

Please return this petition to: Lorraine Bratt, PO Box 1077
 Rockingham 6168.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION
DR BERT ENGLAND
 30 November 2005

30th November 2005

Dr E B England
66 Arcadia Drive
SHOALWATER 6169

Dear Dr England

On behalf of the above committee, I would like to thank you for your generous donation from yourself and your wife. As you know we have had our re-union picnic in Pt Peron, which was enjoyed by all who came last Sunday 27th November, and this week we have also presented to the Hon. Giz Watson at Parliament House a petition supporting that the land does not become privately owned and used for commercial development of a marina or canals in the Pt Peron area. We had 2145 names on the petition.

Once again thank you.

Yours sincerely
Esther Grogan
 Secretary

**APPLICATION FOR MEETING WITH MINISTER
FOR PLANNING**

Bob Goodale
23 December 2005

**LETTER TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Chair PPP
11 January 2006

Member for North Metropolitan Region
Office of the Minister for Planning
and Infrastructure
13th Floor, Dumas House
West Perth WA 6005
Telephone: (08) 9213 6400
Facsimile: (08) 9213 6401
Email: amactiernan@dpc.wa.gov.au
ABN: 61 313 082730

December 23 2005
Our Ref: 2-5547

Mr Bob Goodale
Naragebup Convenor
Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (Inc)
PO Box 5375
ROCKINGHAM BEACH WA 6969

Dear Bob,

CAPE PERON TOURIST PRECINCT PROJECT

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2005 seeking a meeting with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Alannah MacTiernan MLA and her Cabinet colleagues Dr Judy Edwards and Mark McGowan to discuss the marina-based tourist concept plan for Cape Peron. The Minister has asked that I reply to you on her behalf and apologise for the delay in replying.

The Government will consider the final concept plan, together with the outcomes of the community consultation program and strategic advice from the Environmental Protection Agency before a decision is made to proceed further with the project. While the Minister would be happy to meet with you, I believe such a meeting may be more worthwhile if delayed until after advice on the preferred concept plan is provided by the EPA.

Yours sincerely,

HON Adele Farina MLC
Parliamentary Secretary
To the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

PRESERVE POINT PERON (INC)

www.naragebup.ora.au
Mr Mark Warner
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Sir

**RE: ISSUES RELATED TO THE MANGLES BAY MARINA (CAPE PERON
TOURIST PRECINCT) PROPOSAL**

Thank you for the opportunity to outline the issues related to our petition tabled by the Honorary Anthony Fels MLC tabled in the Legislative Council on 29 November 2005.

Point Peron was originally Defence land sold to Western Australian government on the condition that it would remain essentially in its natural state as an area for public recreation. Many Western Australians have spent happy, relaxed times as school children, scouts, naturalists or holiday-makers at the many camps on Point Peron. This experience would be lost to the massive earthworks and privatization of the area should the LandCorp proposal be allowed to succeed. As it stands the proposal may constitute a breach of contract with the Commonwealth.

The hydrological changes that are likely to result from the excavation of the proposed harbour threaten the ecology of Lake Richmond, including the critically endangered ecological community of Thrombolites. The proposed harbour and canals could drive the intrusion of seawater into the freshwater lake, activate toxic acid sulphate soils and mobilize contaminants into the water table.

The ability to flush a marina exiting into the south-eastern corner of Cockburn Sound would be negligible. The seagrass meadows of Mangles Bay would be further damaged by rock walls, dredging and the resulting sedimentation. An important nursery for King George Whiting may be lost.

About 70% of the Point Peron Bush Forever site would be destroyed by the current preferred option and the viability of the remaining patches would be questionable. Little remains of the coastal vegetation of the Perth metropolitan region and Point Peron is an important remnant. The cusped foreland landscape of the area, built by the sedimentation of seagrass meadows, is globally unique. The loss of the Bush Forever area would also break a vital link in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park between Lake Richmond and the tip of Point Peron.

The proposal is inconsistent with Defence Department requirements for direct and secure access to the Garden Island Causeway and the Navy is unlikely to assent to changes to the causeway alignment or further bridging necessary to flush the marina. The existing yachting community using the moorings in Mangles Bay will not be as claimed the beneficiaries of the up-market marina.

Other arms of State Government have contrary plans for the Point Peron. The Conservation Commission plan to incorporate the Bush Forever area will be part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. The Water Corporation assumes it will continue to operate the wastewater pipeline to the Sepia Depression, including ultimate duplication and the possibility of a bitterns pipeline from the second Perth desalination plant. The project if implemented would have significant implications for traffic flow in Rockingham and parking adjacent to the "tourist precinct". The project has not been fitted into a wider planning context. The project would change the demographic character of the area by forcing up land values and rates with significant negative financial implications for the many retirees and low income earners wishing to remain in the area. We trust these points are sufficient to assist the Standing Committee with its decision with respect to further investigation. We respectfully submit that the matter is of considerable public interest and merits close parliamentary scrutiny.

Yours faithfully
Bob Goodale
Chair PPP
11 January 2006

**LETTER TO FEDERAL MINISTER FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**
PPP Committee
9 March 2006

PRESERVE POINT PERON (INC)
www.naragebup.org.au
The Honourable Senator Ian Campbell
Exchange Plaza 2
The Esplanade
WA

Dear Senator Campbell,

Thank you for your reply to my correspondence (29th September 2005) advising me of your unavailability to meet with members of this organisation, regarding the proposed development of the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Development.

However, I am disappointed that the serious Commonwealth issues that I raised in the letter (verified by the attachments) have not yet been answered. I am still waiting for your legal opinion on these matters.

To quote the original letter *"We have sought legal advice on the land tenure for this proposal and have been advised as follows: **Breach of Contract.** Development of the site would entail a departure from the uses agreed as part of the State's purchase of the land. If this were to constitute a breach of contract, it would be enforceable only by a party to the contract (ie the Commonwealth). Therefore we ask you to persuade the Commonwealth to examine whether there has been a breach and if so to enforce the terms of the contract."*

And

"....salt water contamination of Lake Richmond, home to some of the world's rarest and iconic life forms, which are registered in the federal EPA. As Lake Richmond is Australian Heritage listed there would be serious implications for the Commonwealth if this proposal were to go ahead."

Looking forward to your prompt response to this query, as the matter is now very urgent.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Goodale
Preserve Point Peron (Inc) committee member
Mob: 0413 824 101
9th March 2006

LETTER TO MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
30 MARCH 2007

Adjunct Associate Professor Kevin Smith
16 Samsun Way
MINDARIE 6030
Western Australia
Phone: +61(0)8 9304 6950
Email: kps4comm@ozemail.com.au
Mobile ...+(0)408 893 292
30 March 2007

Hon. D.A. Templeman MLA
 Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel
 Floor 29 Allendale Square
 77 St George's Terrace
 PERTH WA 6000

Dear Minister

City of Perth RSL Caravan Park, Point Peron

On behalf of the lessees on the Perth RSL Point Peron Caravan Park site I am writing to express our support for the scientific findings in the recent environmental enquiry announced by the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority Mr. Wally Cox. However we are still concerned about the Proposal to develop Point Peron as an up-market resort development with marina, canal homes, apartments and a major hotel.

We believe that the value of Point Peron is as a natural haven for marine animals, birds and fish. These would be threatened by the introduction of a major real estate cum canal development. We endorse the view that Point Peron is uniquely sited for recreational fishermen and students of the natural sciences in the metropolitan area to pursue their local hobbies and interest.

This was the place that nurtured such famous Western Australian naturalists as Vincent Serventy, Harry Butler and Climatologist Dr Joe Gentilli who took young members of the WA Naturalists Club on excursions here in the 1940s and 50s. The Club is still active here. In the past few weeks at the caravan park we have sighted a dolphin giving birth in shore near the caravan park. The mother and baby still visit regularly and we believe they could be the beginning of a new colony. We have seen sea eagles occasionally and a continuous range of more common sea birds. The bay attracts seals, the occasional sea cow and a variety of edible fish.

As citizens we have supported the Preserve Point Peron campaign over the past three years in the belief that plans to hand Government land at Point Peron to developers ignored the Commonwealth Government's condition, when handing over the land to the State, that Point Peron be preserved for recreational use. The Point Peron peninsular, like many coastal sites in Western Australia, is fragile and threatened by overuse. Currently in the vicinity of Mangles Bay crabbing is forbidden and fishing for mussels and scallops is severely restricted. Much scientific evidence has been given the Government that the grasses where local whiting and other fish have thrived since before white settlement are in need of pro-active preservation.

The original native name for Garden Island was the aboriginal name for yellow-tailed whiting and Point Perron itself was depicted in the local dreamtime narrative as the Waggle. In their story the Waggle was set to pounce and devour the island. Point Peron was the meeting place for tribes from many districts in Western Australia and has later indigenous significance as the holiday place for Sister Kate's home. We know from the 50 years or so that we have occupied our caravan site, that our coastal waters are very shallow and becoming more shallow as sand is dumped by the Shire each year at the western end of Mangles Bay. We believe they are doing this to prevent winter seas and winds eroding the shore and undermining the road at the corner of The Esplanade and Safety Bay Road/Hymus Street.

The Council has experience of the severe damage done from time to time along the foreshore and Rockingham Beach Road where the promenade itself and monuments along it have had to be rebuilt. The plan for the development of the Mangles Bay area has been in existence since it was first mooted by the Burke government some 20 years ago. Recent minor changes to the plan have not altered the main thrust of its proposed land usage. In association with the current plan it has been suggested that the Navy spend some \$30 million dollars re-aligning the road and causeway to Garden Island. We believe that this expenditure is not warranted or necessary and would be extremely unwise in the current Defence situation where funds are at a premium. Would the State be prepared to take on this expenditure on behalf of developers?

We think not.

Minister we are taking this opportunity to alert you to this issue as one which is a constant in the portfolio you have undertaken. We are prepared at any time to meet with you to discuss it and we wish you well with your new Ministerial responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,
Kevin P Smith
 For lessees of the City of Perth RSL Caravan Park

PPP PETITION TO STATE PARLIAMENT
Response from Chair Louise Pratt MLC
16 January 2007
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mr Bob Goodale
 Chair
 Preserve Point Peron Inc
 26 Safety Bay Road
 Rockingham WA 6169

Dear Mr Goodale

Petition No 24 - Regarding a Proposed Marina at Point Peron

Reference is made to the above petition which was tabled by Hon Giz Watson in the Legislative Council on 29 November 2005. The petition has been referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee) under the Committee's terms of reference.

The Committee travelled to Rockingham on 22 May 2006 to receive a presentation from Mayor Barry Sammels, and Mr Simon Proud, Senior Project Manager Rockingham Development Office. The Committee also took that opportunity to visit Point Peron to see the site for the proposed development themselves.

The Committee took evidence from you and Mr Chris Tallentire, Director Conservation Council of WA, on 28 June 2006. The Committee sought additional information from Hon Mark McGowan, Minister for the Environment; Hon Allanah Mac Tieman, Minister for Planning; and Hon Dr Brendan Nelson, Minister for Defence.

The Committee at its meeting on 30 August 2006 resolved to report separately into this petition. The Committee conducted further inquiries, and tabled Report No 7 A Petition into the Proposed Marina at Point Peron, in the Legislative Council on 7 December 2006. Please find enclosed a copy of that report for your information.

Under Standing Order 337 the Government has been requested to respond to the 13 recommendations contained in the report. The Committee thanks the petitioners for their contribution to the debate and believe that their concerns have been brought to the attention of the Parliament by the tabling of the petition, and report No 7, in the Legislation Council.

Should you have any further queries please contact Vincent Cusack, Advisory Officer (General) on 9222 7406 or Mark Warner, Committee Clerk on 9222 7410.

Yours sincerely
 Louise Pratt MLC
 Chair
 16

January

2007

POSTCARD TO POLITICIANS
From Bob Goodale Chairman PPP
14 May 2007
Dear (POLITICIAN)

The enclosed postcard is to remind you that in the near future Cabinet discussions will be undertaken concerning a proposed marina/canal development (Cape Peron Tourist Precinct). As Chairman of Preserve Point Peron I would like to state that, on behalf of members, we stand strongly against the proposal. Our communities wish is that this area remains a Regional Park and Bush Forever site (our Kings Park) forever.

We draw to your attention the findings of the recent environmental inquiry announced by Dr Wally Cox, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority. A large body of scientific evidence was tabled showing that such a development would have a hugely detrimental effect on the sea grass in Mangles Bay and its nursery areas of whiting and blue manna crabs, both of which are popular recreational and commercial fisheries. It will also have a severe impact on Australian Heritage Listed Lake Richmond which is home to two Critically Endangered Ecological Communities, Sedgeland and Thrombolites (living rocks).

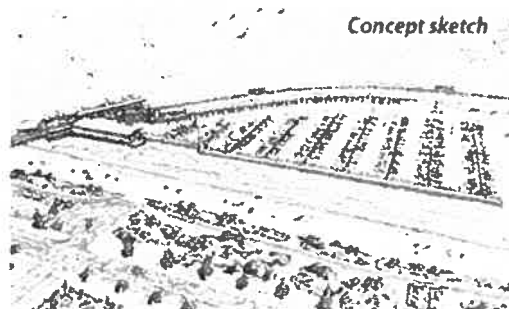
The Upper House Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (ref# Petition 24, Report 7, tabled in the Legislative Council on December 7th 2006) has come up with 13 recommendations which we feel that show clearly why this project should not go ahead. Particularly relevant is recommendation 2 "The Committee recommends that the Government clarify by way of relevant documentation whether or not the Commonwealth did release the State, from its obligations, that the future use of the 'transferred Point Peron land' be restricted to a reserve for recreation and/or Park Lands under the 1964 agreement." This public land is not a land bank for a commercial development interests.

There are many unanswered complexities to this issue, besides the public ownership, with other environmental issues, such as; acid sulphate soils, hydrological changes, impact of salt water being drawn inland, the cumulative effect of other projects, current and future in Cockburn Sound and the multi million dollar cost of moving the causeway, the existing sewerage pipe and a future sewerage pipe.

Our community group is not opposed to a marina in Rockingham but as stated on our postcard we recommend the proposed Wanliss St jetty marina as a suitable alternative. It is situated in a deep part of Cockburn Sound, with no impact on seagrass, able to cater for boats of various drafts and the capacity to be expanded as the City grows. This could be the 'Hillary's Boat Harbour' of the Southern Region. Our delegation would be prepared to meet with you if you require further clarification or input into your deliberations on this important issue.

Yours sincerely
 Bob Goodale
 Chairperson
 Many thanks for being patient.

The proposal has a responsible integrated approach to the existing urban framework.
 The proposal maintains beach access and existing recreation uses.
 There is an existing seabed lease allowing for a pier / retail development and boating facility.



Concept sketch

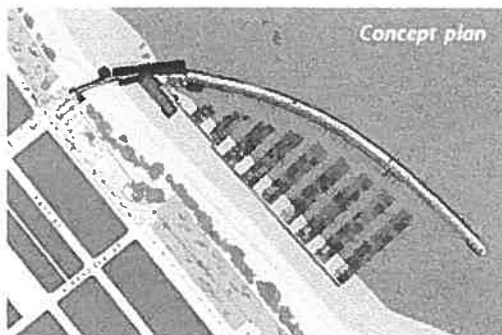
Community Consultation

The proponents welcome public comment on this proposal and on the environmental review that is being undertaken in conjunction with the EPA. Key stakeholders have been consulted throughout the process. Simply click [here](#) to send an email with your comments or call the project telephone line on 1800 467 733 to register your interest as a stakeholder and we'll contact you. Public meetings will be held regularly throughout the consultation process.

The EPA approved the Environmental Scoping Document in March 2008. At this time a team of specialist consultants is undertaking relevant environmental and engineering surveys including:

- Terrestrial vegetation study.
- Birds and marine fauna study.
- Impacts to fisheries study.
- Noise and vibration modelling.
- Marine survey.
- Water quality modelling.

Negotiations are proceeding on issues related to traffic management and parking.



Planning

Subject to field surveys and engineering studies (yet to be completed) the proposal would create an open pile construction pier extending northwards from the shoreline for approximately 200m and a breakwater extending north-east

PROPOSED PORT ROCKINGHAM DEVELOPMENT Developers Presentation Project Overview

The proposed Port Rockingham development will provide an iconic destination for local residents, tourists and day-trippers. It will also help to address the chronic shortage of moorings available for boat owners in Western Australia. The site for the proposal is located to the northern end of Rockingham beach out from the Wanliss St car park and at the northern end of Bell Park. The proposal maintains access under the pier by providing an upper deck level over the existing Wanliss St car park at the level of the pier.

The development will feature cafes, restaurants, tourist shopping and service outlets and boat sales. It will create a destination walk to and from existing local retail areas. The proposed site has been designated for a commercial pier development for more than a decade and there is an approved seabed lease in place that allows for a commercial / retail pier development with limited private berthing and charter boat operation.

Environmental and engineering studies are being undertaken to assist in producing detailed plans. Preliminary environmental investigations were undertaken in 2006 and found no significant environmental constraints that would preclude the environmental feasibility of the project. Parking and traffic management plans are also being prepared.

Key Points

- The proposal is modest in terms of a marina waterfront development.
- The proposal consists of a rock breakwater that is open at both ends.
- The proposal will meet flushing and water quality standards.
- The proposal has a responsible and manageable impact upon the environment.

(parallel with the shoreline) for approximately 550m. A maximum of 500 boat pens would be provided, using piled finger jetties and floating pontoons similar to those used at the award winning Mandurah Ocean Marina. The pier will provide public access to the boat pens and breakwater and will accommodate a retail precinct of approximately 4,000m², charter boat access and refuelling and public use refuelling and sullage facilities.

The breakwater will protect the marina from storm activity associated with north-westerly winds and the passage of winter cold fronts. The breakwater will also provide a public fishing platform. The location itself and the open pile pier and boat pen components of the marina design optimise natural flushing of the marina water and minimise impediment to natural coastal process. There is no provision for boat maintenance or hardstand associated with this proposal; such services are provided at both Fremantle and Jervoise Bay.



Concept sketch

Register Your Interest

Although this development is still at a conceptual stage and currently has no approvals in place that allows its construction speculative registrations of interest are invited for the lease of the associated boat pens and commercial tenancies.

Register Your Interest: BOAT PENS.

Register Your Interest: COMMERCIAL TENANCIES.

Please download the appropriate PDF, fill out the details and forward completed form to:

POST:
PORT ROCKINGHAM REGISTRATION
Unit 3 - 8 Day Road, Rockingham, WA 6168
or FAX: 08 9592 6864
or E-MAIL: rob.gleave@dev-x.com.au

LETTER TO MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 12 August 2008

Ref: 21-008651
The Hon. David Templeman MLA
Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel
29th Floor Allendale Square
77 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
12 August 2008

Dear Minister

PROPOSED CAPE PERON TOURIST PRECINCT PROJECT

When you wrote to us on June 8 last year regarding this project you intimated that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure would determine the timing for the next steps in the project such as the consideration of the project by Cabinet. You agreed that the advice from the Environmental Protection Authority from October 2006 had pointed to a number of important environmental issues requiring detailed consideration before a marina-based development at Cape Peron could proceed to the next stage of review.

On 4 June 2008 the City of Perth RSL Sub-branch received advice from the Department of Sport and Recreation that our Lease of Point Peron Reserve 27853 Lot 2057 would expire on 30 June 2009 pending the outcome of current negotiations and; that discussions with our organization would be undertaken well before the 2008/2009 term expires.

I spoke with the Business Unit Coordinator at the Department of Sport and Recreation, Mr Brian Saxby, as the person designated by the Department to contact for any further information. However Mr Saxby was not aware of the background to this issue and that concerns our committee. He indicated that our future was a matter for the City of Rockingham. The Acting Director of Facilities and Camps Mr Rob Didcoe is away at present so we are unable to pursue the matter at this level.

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate our concern that any canal development or marina at our location in Cockburn Sound would result in the elimination of the grasses that serve as feeding and breeding grounds for a wide range of sea creatures from fish and crabs to the nurturing of young porpoises and seals.

We are also aware that when the land was given under State Control from the Commonwealth Government after World War II it was on condition that it be used for recreational purposes only. Presumably this was to ensure that no development would be undertaken that would compromise the use of Garden Island for defence purposes. Under these circumstances the RSL caravan park is an ideal tenant and custodian of the land. For the above reasons we would ask that you bring this to the attention of your colleague the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure who is well aware of the dangers of even more developmental pressure on Cockburn Sound.

I look forward to your response so that we can be advised of Government policy before we find ourselves in negotiations with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

With sincere regards,
Professor Kevin Smith
City of Perth RSL Sub-branch
Box 3018 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA 6832

MEDIA RELEASE: CAPE PERON MARINA

Preserve Point Peron Inc
26 September 2009

Responding to the Media Statement by the Premier and Minister for planning announcing the next phase of this project, spokesperson for local residents group, Preserve Point Peron Inc., James Mumme said, "This canal-marina is wrong. It does not meet any prime need for Rockingham residents and no study has been conducted. "The site for this canal-marina is environmentally very difficult. Most of it is a Bush Forever site. The EPA have demanded the highest levels of approval possible and major concerns remain about seagrass, water quality in Cockburn Sound, ground water in the whole area, acid sulphate soils and two Threatened Ecological Communities at Lake Richmond. "The cost could well exceed \$500 million and in a time when Mental Health spending has been cut back by 13%, police spending reduced and infill sewerage programs suspended indefinitely, it makes no sense to spend \$3.7 million on a project that will be difficult to make environmentally and economically sound. Our Group's stand is not to oppose the needs of the boating community, as there is already a proposed Marina off the beach at Port Rockingham in open waters that is much more acceptable to the EPA. However, as the current custodians of the local environment, our Group is determined to ensure the preservation of what is left of the one percent of natural coastal bush land remaining in the Perth Metropolitan area.

Media Contact James Mumme
9591 1540 0434 110 224
36 Gloucester Avenue Shoalwater WA 6169
jgmumme@live.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE 20 APRIL

From Lynn MacLaren MLC, Member for South Metropolitan
Region Greens Spokesperson for Planning.

Government Sells off Point Peron

In response to today's announcement the Greens said Cedar Woods Properties Ltd has been chosen by the Barnett Government to destroy Point Peron by constructing a marina - at great loss of public lands, Cockburn Sound sea grass, rare bushland and Aboriginal heritage sites. "If you were one of the tens of thousands of school children who have enjoyed Camp Peron over the years then you know what is at stake," said Greens MLC Lynn MacLaren, Member for the South Metropolitan Region and spokesperson for Planning. Ms MacLaren visited the site and attended a rally of more than 100 residents last week. "This is another public land grab - and they are counting on State Government's weak environmental protection to buy the seabed, put a marine sanctuary at risk and destroy bushland." "It's not for us to tell private speculators how much money to throw around - but public money is being wasted on this project. We should be very concerned about the economics of this proposal. To date \$362,000 has already been spent by the State Government, with a further \$626,000 budgeted for feasibility studies." "The total cost, including loss of cultural heritage, public access and environmental values is inestimable," Ms MacLaren added.

ARE CANAL AND MARINA DEVELOPMENTS SUSTAINABLE?

Cities of Theory, Explorations of Planning Theory and Practice

<http://blog.roughtheory.org/>

May 7th, 2007 by Frank

DOWN LOADED JUNE 2010

In 1958, property developer Alfred Grant along with architect Karl Langer created two canal estates - Miami Keys (50 hectares) and Rio Vista (30 hectares) on Queensland's Gold Coast - creating approximately 400 new waterfront allotments based on similar American models. At the time, these developments were paraded as the answer to turning once neglected swamp and wetland into prime real estate, thus the era of canal development was born, with further development of canals occurring in areas stretching from the Tweed Heads coast in northern New South Wales, to the tropics of the Sunshine Coast in and around Noosa, and with similar canal developments being constructed in areas throughout Victoria, such as Patterson Lakes, the soon to be expanded Sanctuary Lakes in Melbourne's outer southwestern suburbs and the current construction of Martha Cove, on Mornington Peninsula. However, is the destruction and alteration of the environment too great of a cost to justify the benefits to property prices in the areas surrounding the canal and marina developments?

TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT STOPS RALPHS BAY DEVELOPMENT HOBART. INTERNET STORY ABC NEWS

The Tasmanian Government is to ban canal estate developments. It follows the Tasmanian Planning Commission's rejection of Walker Corporation's proposed \$300 million Ralphs Bay development east of Hobart. The Commission has found the canal estate development is unsustainable. It says the Ralphs Bay community would have benefited economically but its final report confirmed draft report findings that the environment would have been significantly compromised. Premier David Bartlett has told Parliament a ban will make it clearer as to what developments are acceptable in the state. "In the coming weeks I will take a paper to cabinet outlining a process by which we can quickly deliver certainty for potential investors and local communities by banning the development of canal estates," he said. "The government wants and welcomes potential investment in Tasmania but we want that development to be sustainable." "I've formed the view that canal estate developments are not appropriate for Tasmania. The Tasmanian community has also spoken on this issue, with the overwhelming majority of public submissions opposed to the Ralphs Bay proposal. "Wherever possible, we want to spare developers the considerable time, hassle and expense of pursuing projects that are not sustainable and highly likely to be rejected by the Planning Commission," he said.

PIPELINE WORK TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Weekend Courier
20 August 2010

The Water Corporation will start work on the first stage of the of the partial duplication of the Sepia Depression Ocean Outfall pipeline "as soon as possible". Corporation representative Dave Swallow, project manager of the East Rockingham Wastewater Treatment Plant, said the project would be submitted to the Federal Government for environmental approval next May. He told a City of Rockingham planning committee meeting on Monday that the first stage involved a 3.8-kilometre duplication of the old pipeline from Ritchie Drive to Point Peron, around Lake Richmond. It was hoped to construct the first stage as soon as possible. A second stage - a 4 km duplication between Ritchie Drive and Charles Street - would be built within five years. Mr Swallow said the duplication was necessary because the 24 km-long, 1400 mm-wide steel pipeline was about 30 years old and showing signs of deterioration. Having a duplicate line would improve safety and reliability and allow for internal inspections and regular maintenance.

The pipeline discharges treated wastewater from Woodman Point, Kwinana and Point Peron wastewater treatment plants, the Kwinana water recycling plant and selected industries to the Point Peron ocean outfall. It extends 4 km offshore from Point Peron into the Sepia Depression. Mr Swallow said there were a number of constraints with the proposal, such as the fact that the route ran through residential areas and major roads, went into Cockburn Sound, and through industrial and commercial areas. It also went near significant vegetated areas, including Bush Forever sites and the threatened ecological communities at Lake Richmond. Mr Swallow said a 30 m wide clearance was needed in some areas where the pipeline had to go 2.5m underground. However, the depth in other parts would be about a metre. "There is going to be quite a bit of disturbance in some areas, but we will try to minimise that," Mr Swallow said.

MEDIA STATEMENT
Preserve Point (Cape) Peron Inc. (PPP) Group
Stakeholder Submission
20 December 2010

PPP questions the meaning of statements about "in harmony with the environment" and "balance". City of Rockingham is on record as stating that the marina within the Cape will never meet all the environmental constraints but these shortcomings will be balanced by the benefits resulting from the Precinct. However, the "balance" has never been identified or qualified. The appropriate "in tune with nature" plans for the Cape were produced and clearly enunciated in the 2003 Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Draft Plan for the Rockingham Lakes - 2003- 2013. The Rockingham Lakes - 2003-2013. Plan was approved by the Barnett Government in November 2010. PPP has been working on its own alternative plan designed to provide most of the benefits claimed by the proponent without the environmental and social costs. (See attachment) Since its formation PPP has promoted the DEC Plan as the most articulate, enlightened, professional, and realistic strategy and management approach for the appropriate development, upgrade, use and future legacy for the Cape.

The handover of public owned crown land to private ownership in an effort to make the Precinct Project cost neutral for government is an insult to the citizens of Rockingham; by removing 38 hectares from the public recreational inventory of those same citizens. Too many businesses in the Rockingham area are competing for the limited consumer dollar. By creating another large commercial centre on Cape Peron will detract from the current centres, particularly the commercial/visitor/tourist hub that is Rockingham Beach and those of Shoalwater, The Anchorage and City of Rockingham shopping entities. Current publicly owned natural asset that is Cape Peron will be irrevocably transformed into "just another" upmarket largely private urban development with an artificially created water access, of dubious value.

No satisfactory information was presented during the Stakeholders' meetings that addressed the fate of the various lease holders camps. There is little recompense identified and the end result may well see the camps and caravan assets completely removed. The interim plans presented do little to win over natural bush, flora and fauna, natural coastal and unspoilt venue lovers; instead concentrates on a theme of previously undertaken upgrades to derelict industrial sites, existing down trodden urban centres, depressed waterfront areas, waste land, etc.,. Nowhere has the true value of a change from pristine nature to commercial industrial zone been qualified; even to be justified within the deliberations. Recurring disinterest by hotel chains to build a quality facility derides the continued demand of the proponents for a tourist precinct in the region of world standard. The failure to attract the clientele envisaged confirms the need for Cape Peron to remain the champion of the affordable accommodation visitor.

Questions were raised as to how commercial undertakings would be established and progressed. The response was; in the normal course of commercial operations, that of private purchase, construction, ownership and operations. This approach places impossible tasks on the various voluntary, community based entities in raising funds for facility constructions, maintenance and long term survivability in a very expensive

The Project is being promoted on the wrong site; based on data gleaned from the 2005-2006 Project of which much is inaccurate or, at least, questionable. The stakeholders' cooperation and information sharing efforts during that evolution were, mainly, ignored, manipulated or outright opposed. There is evidence of a similar situation having developed within the latest 2010 Cedarwood Stakeholders Forums. One example that comes to mind is the deletions and inaccuracies in the minutes of the first meeting, held in October 2010, and the change of reference to the same - as "only" a record of comments for use within the project terms of reference rather than "as minutes" of a wider community focussed meeting as indicated before the start of the forum process.

Further detailed background information is available from PPP.
 Esther Grogan and Charles Lammers
 Esther 95287133
 Charles 95921523

Proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) Amendment 1280/41

Submission of Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP)
to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
13 November 2015

ATTACHMENT 12

Various correspondence with the Conservation Commission
Regarding the proposed Mangles Bay Marina development
(known at that times as the proposed Cape Peron Tourist Precinct)
(provided by Charles Lammers of Preserve Point Peron Inc.)

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONCERNS
CAPE PERON TOURIST PRECINCT**

From Chairman
25 November 2005

Conservation Commission
of Western Australia
Keiran McNamara
Executive Director
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Hackett Drive
CRAWLEY WA 6009
CAPE PERON TOURIST PRECINCT PROJECT, ROCKINGHAM

On 14 November 2005, the Conservation Commission received a briefing on the concept plan for the Cape Peron Tourist Precinct. It was resolved at the meeting that you would be advised of our concerns about the project that arose from the briefing.

The following matters were of particular concern:

The excision of 42 - 51 ha from the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. As the population in the hinterland increases, there will be greater demand for the recreational opportunities that the Regional Park provides. The creation of housing and canals over such a large area considerably reduces these opportunities.

The loss of 34 - 44ha of a Bush Forever site (Protection Area 355). Extensive natural bushland areas are becoming more and more scarce in the metropolitan area as urban development occurs. Planning should aim to retain such areas.

The potential for salt water intrusion into Lake Richmond arising from canal construction is a particular concern due to the important features of the lake that rely on maintaining water quality, eg the critically endangered ecological community of thrombolites. The proponent agreed that if such an intrusion occurred, it would be a fatal flaw for the project.

On the basis of our current understanding, and the concerns currently held, the Conservation Commission does not support the project as described.

Yours sincerely

Dr John Bailey

CHAIRMAN

25 November 2005

CONSERVATION COMMISSION INFORMATION
E-mails Covering Marina Point Peron
1 December 2005

From: Graeme Rundle graemer@lgit.com.au
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2005 9:21:42 AM
To: CCWAEXEC@yahoo.com Brian Moyle (E-mail)
moyleb@bigpond.com Nic Dunlop (E-mail)
ntc.dunlop@conservationwa.asn.au
CC: Renata Zelina r_zelina@yahoo.com Bob Goodale
goodaleba@hotmail.com Cameron Poustie
cameron.poustie@conservationwa.asn.au
Subject: Task 207 Cape Peron Redevelopment Mangles Bay Marina
Proposal

Below are some comments that I have provided to members of the Conservation Commission. It would seem that, under the circumstances, if the Conservation Sector (including UBC) made a concise effort it could turn Cabinet support for the Cape Peron development around. This would mean keeping agencies in the information loop, so they can use their own opportunities press home points with Min, etc.

In pressing home a change of mind in Cabinet over this development, obvious starting points for consideration:

Publicising the glaring conflict with Labor's Bushplan Election Policy.

Using follow-up on progress with policy commitments (eg MRS amdt, SPP development/special planning control), as one of the vehicles to flag with DPI / WAPC the Sector's high interest in the Cape Peron/Lake Richmond Bush Forever promises.

Scrutinise the process/report by the Government's Rockingham Planning and Development Taskforce attachment) and highlight any deficiencies (like obvious gaps in consultation, possible lack of advice to that Bush Forever sites are involved, lack of acknowledgment of potential conflict with other Governments.

Regards,
Graeme

From: Graeme Rundle
To: Conservation Commissioners
Cc: Bill Carr
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2005 8:32 AM
Subject: Cape Peron Redevelopment/Mangles Bay Marina Proposal

Good morning

Further to the recent briefing on the Cape Peron redevelopment/marina proposal, it perhaps needs to be approached that it is a Cabinet-supported project by virtue of Cabinet last year deciding to set up the Rockingham Development Office.....with the task of pursuing a number of development projects (see attachment).

These two projects seemingly conflict with Labor's 2001 Election Policy concerning 'Labor's Bushplan':

Immediately move to conserve the regionally significant bushland on Government owned sites.

Introduce a MOU between all Government agencies and statutory authorities to ensure the control of Bushplan sites (now Bush Forever) to ensure the conservation of Bushplan sites under Government controlpolicy on the Environment, page 29

The Cape Peron area is Government land largely within Bush Forever site 355, while the adjoining Lake Rich site 358. Under MRS zoning, both areas are also largely coloured GREEN...'parks and recreation'. Other 'Labor Bushplan' commitments for the Cape Peron area are, however, being progressed.....Bush Forever MRS amdt 1082/33 (august 2004) proposes to convert more of the site to 'parks and recreation' zoning, and also ensure special planning control area in the MRS over all Bush Forever sites; Statement of Planning Policy 2.8 has been (July 2004) in conjunction with MRS amdt 1082/33, and one of its functions is to provide process for Bush Forever special control areas.....which will include both the Cape Peron and Lake Richmond sites.

However, if CALM or the Commission have not shown interest/taken part in the WAPC's public comment project began last year, we may be at a disadvantage in maintaining MRS protection for these sites in their entirety. A briefing should now be sought from the WAPC on current progress with MRS amdt 1082/33 and draft SPP 2. In the meantime, Commission members might find it of interest to go to the website below and browse through the information.

Regards,
Graeme

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONCERNS
E-mail Covering Marina Point Peron
1 December 2005

From: Graeme Rundle graemer@git.com.au
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2005 16:33
To: Ann Goodale
Cc: Chris Tallentire; Philip Jennings; Nic Dunlop (E-mail)
Subject: Point Peron

Thanks Bob,

I hadn't forgotten....just tardy in responding with new info update.

The Conservation Commission meeting a week later was briefed on the proposal by the Landcorp rep from the Rockingham Development Office. Informal feedback via CALM was that he was surprised by the hostile response given by Commission members. I guess there is now little need for us to prompt the Commission forming a stance on the issue.

However, I believe that it is still valuable for PPP to write to the Conservation Commission and place some additional information at its feet, in the event that the Commission takes the matter up with its Minister.

Here are some suggested points:

Address:-Associate Professor, John Bailey Chairman Conservation
Commission of Western Australia Cnr Hackett and Australia II Drives
Crawley WA 6009

Mention your group.

Mention the genesis of the Rockingham Development Office, viz the report by the "Premier's Rockingham Planning and Development Taskforce" that influenced Cabinet's decision.

That at the time, Cabinet possibly didn't envisage such a radical over-development of a BUSH FOREVER Site.

Provide your background information on the post-war Commonwealth hand-back of the Cape Peron site. (include copies of any old corres etc).

Regards,
Graeme

POINT PERON CONCERNS

Bob Goodale
13 December 2005

Preserve Point Peron (Inc)
www.naragebup.org.au

John Bailey
Associate Professor
Chairman Conservation Commission of Western Australia
Cnr Hackett and Australia II Drives
Crawley WA 6009

Dear John,

I would like to bring to your attention to a potentially devastating commercial development being proposed in the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park at Point Peron. The bulk of this proposed development would also devastate a Bush Forever site (335) and impact on the adjoining Lake Richmond site (358). Site 358 contains Australian heritage Listed Lake Richmond with its Critically Endangered Ecological Community of Thrombolites.

Lake Richmond is a freshwater lake, the deepest in WA. "Lake Richmond presents an excellent example of a fresh unpolluted lake system. It should be managed so as to remain so" was stated in The Naturalist News' January/February 1987 (K F Kenneally, J Dell, B M J Hussey, D P Johnson).

From strong, local resident opposition to this proposed commercial development has arisen a community group, now incorporated, seeking to protect this environmentally valuable land. Preserve Point Peron (Inc) is a growing, active group dedicated to ensuring this land remains for the use it was originally intended for when sold by the Commonwealth to the State Government, that is, for the purpose of passive recreation. I have enclosed some copies of documents explaining the original land transfer from Commonwealth to State Government. You will note that the Commonwealth's

general requirement has been that the handover was subject to the area being reserved for "Recreation and Park Lands".

Our organisation is sure that when Cabinet endorsed the Premier's Rockingham Planning and Development Taskforce's report, it did not envision such a radical over development of a Bush Forever site being proposed. Likewise the report whilst endorsing positive development strategies for Rockingham was not designed to support the destruction of an element as crucially important as a CALM managed Regional Park under a Draft Management Plan.

This is also a "Bushplan" site under Government control, for which the present State Government promised special protection, to ensure their conservation, in its 2001 election policy. As stated in Labor's Bushplan "... much more needs to be done to conserve and manage our urban bushland, particularly on government owned sites" (Labor's Bushplan Election Policy 2001).

Bush Forever Policy Statement, policy measures for implementation, states "There will be a general presumption against clearing bushland containing ecological communities or representation of vegetation complexes of which less than 10 per cent currently remains on the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region...". The Point Peron site is located in just such a site.

Our concerns are that, if endorsed, this proposed development would set a precedent allowing commercial development in other Regional Parks and on other Bush Forever sites.

Please see www.naragebup.org.au Preserve Point Peron for more detail.

Preserve Point Peron (Inc) personnel recently undertook a biodiversity study of the area under the guidance of Doctor Elizabeth Rippey and colleagues. The resulting herbarium has been included as part of the Regional Herbarium located at Naragebup located on Safety Bay Road Peron.

Enclosed documents:

- Department of the Interior 1964-67 re sale of land from the Commonwealth to the State.
- Professor David Treloar scientific report.
- Preserve Point Peron Activity information.
- The Naturalists' News Jan/Feb 1987.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Goodale
Chairperson
0413 824 101

Dawn Carter-Rogers
Partnership Development
Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre (Inc)
PO Box 5375 Rockingham Beach WA 6969
Tel 08 9591 3077 Fax 08 9591 3066 www.naragebup.org.au

**LETTER FROM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF WA**

16 January 2006

Conservation Commission
of Western Australia

Mr Bob Goodale
Chairperson
Preserve Point Peron (Inc)
26 Safety Bay Road
ROCKINGHAM WA 6169

Dear Mr Goodale

Thank you for your letter received in mid December 2005 concerning the proposed Cape Peron Tourism Precinct project.

The Conservation Commission considered the proposal at its meeting of 14 November 2005. It concluded that the following matters were of particular concern:

The excision of 42 - 51 ha from the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park;
the loss of 34 - 44ha of a Bush Forever site (Protection Area 355); and

the potential for salt water intrusion into Lake Richmond arising from canal construction.

Accordingly the Conservation Commission advised the Department of Conservation and Land Management that it had reservations about the project as described. A copy of our advice is enclosed.

I understand that the Cape Peron proposal is currently being considered by the Environmental Protection Authority.

Yours sincerely
Dr John Bailey
CHAIRMAN
16 January 2006
Cnr Hackett Drive & Australia 11 Drive Crawley
Western Australia 6009
Phone: (08) 9389 1766
Fax: (08) 9389 8603