



Canal rates protest... Residents' association president John Randall (right) and past president Stephen Dean.

Picture: Daniel Wilkins

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## Port residents treated 'unjustly'

THE Port Mandurah Residents Association has renewed calls for Mandurah Council to modify its specified areas rate scheme to include only costs for the maintenance of the main canal and not major dredging works in the Fairbridge Bank.

At present, residents adjacent to canal waterways pay to cover dredging costs of the main river channel to provide safe entry to the canal next to the Anzac War Memorial.

Residents say recent developments in the area, particularly in the Dawesville Channel, have changed the demographics of the area so costs to maintain the estuary should be redistributed.

Port Mandurah Residents Association president John Randall said Port Mandurah residents were being treated unjustly by council.

"The development of the Dawesville Channel has subsequently changed the water flows and the way sand is carried around and deposited," he said.

"In addition, most of the boats using the canals are not owned by canal residents.

Mr Randall said the association had established in a 24-hour survey that fewer than 20 per cent of the boats entering the canals at the war memorial were owned by residents of Port Mandurah.

City of Mandurah acting chief executive

Allan Claydon said the council would not scrap the cost of dredging for Port Mandurah canal estate property owners.

"This rate has been in place for 15 years since the City of Mandurah was first appointed as the waterways manager for Port Mandurah canal estate by the State Government," he said.

"The council only accepted this role on the condition that management of the canal waterways would be undertaken on a user-pays basis."



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