

Port Mandurah Residents' Association

Flyer-September October 2007
www.portmandurah.com.au



PO Box 1339
Mandurah WA 6210

Be Careful before you Vote in Council Elections!

Local Government elections will be held on 20 October 2007. The PMRA means different things to its members, but it is first and foremost a "Ratepayers' Association" that exists to obtain the best results from our Council Rates. Canal residents pay a disproportionate share of the residential rates collected by the City of Mandurah (being about 10% of the residents, contributing in excess of 20% of the rates income).

The history of canal development in Mandurah is varied, often misquoted and frequently ideologically misrepresented. However, all the misgivings about negative environmental outcomes are completely unfounded and the water quality and marine environment of the Port Mandurah Canals are some of the best in the world. The environmental offsets created at Leeward and Mariners Cove are recognised internationally. It must be remembered that the Rockingham area was identified as having potential for canal development some 20 years ago, but the anti-canal lobby and other knockers won the day and the disastrous social results of their land developments are there for all to see! The entire City of Mandurah and many visitors to Mandurah have clearly benefited from quality canal developments like Port Mandurah!

Despite this, there is still a block of Councillors who have consistently voted against the interests of canal residents. This group of Councillors, supported by some council officers, are ideologically opposed to the genuine regard most canal residents have for sustained waterside living. The voting record of these Councillors has consistently discouraged expenditure on canal estates and have actively supported unpopular intrusions stemming back as far as the siting of the Skate Park, rock concerts on Hall Park on Boxing Day, bridges over canal entrances, etc. The most recent example is the overturning of planning permission for Eastport based on misleading evidence that the area would not be developed at all if the canals were not approved. DEC, EPA and DPI (Marine) have approved this!

PMRA urges you to consider the implications of having a Council that is dominated by people who are ideologically opposed to canals and whose voting record has led to the Council being in its current poor financial state. So please, before you vote, we ask that you try and identify candidates

who will represent your interests, and who are independent of political domination. To achieve the best Council to represent canal residents PMRA recommends that you vote as follows, bearing in mind that you must number each box:

Coastal Ward (2 to be elected) White 4 Pember 1 Williams 2 or 3 Blay 2 or 3	East Ward (1 to be elected) Gregson 1 Sullivan 2 Jones 3
North Ward (2 to be elected) Wilson 3 Richards 4 Wortley 1 Dunning 2	Town Ward (1 to be elected) Cavanagh 3 Goff 1 Gregory 2

Water Quality Improvement Plan. (WQIP)

The Draft Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Rivers and Estuary of The Peel-Harvey System was launched in Mandurah at the Peel Waterways Centre by the Minister of Environment on the 19 September 2007. There is an eight week review period, and comments are sought from the public.

Since the construction of the Dawesville Channel the water quality of the Peel system has improved dramatically. However, some 145 tonnes of phosphorus is still entering the system annually. The target is to halve this!

Although most of the phosphorus is coming from rural sources, a significant and increasing amount is coming from urban run-off and groundwater. The plan addresses issues such as infill sewerage and directions for research and community involvement into reducing the main cause of potential degradation of our waterways.

PMRA has a clear policy of encouraging members to reduce the use of highly soluble phosphorus and nitrogen garden fertilisers and restrict watering to minimise leaching into our canal system. Members can obtain copies of the WQIP from the Peel Waterways Centre, 12 Scholl St. or by calling Ruth Clark on (08) 6467 5523. We encourage you to comment.

POTENTIALLY TOXIC ALGAE IN THE ESTUARY

The Department of Health has warned people not to eat wild shellfish from the Peel Estuary after tests confirmed the presence of potentially toxic algae induced by recent heavy rain. The algae is not visible to the naked eye and shellfish such as mussels, oysters and scallops could be contaminated. People who eat contaminated shellfish could suffer from diarrhoea or vomiting. Cooking does not destroy the algae.

It is however, safe to continue water based recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing. Commercially available shellfish are safe for human consumption.

CORMORANTS!

Some of our members (and the ferry operators) have voiced their disapproval of the large shag population that last year moved (or were moved) from the marina entrance to the southern entrance to Port Mandurah. Shags are a natural part of the system but those who live downwind of their nest site just wish they would find somewhere else to sit!

PMRA consulted all the authorities, who despite being sympathetic, were very happy for it to be our problem. We have investigated several deterrents and may even try and establish an Osprey nest on the groyne. So unless anyone has any better ideas we will try a few different approaches and keep you posted!