

Marina bid plan hold up

By **YVONNE THOMPSON**

ROCKINGHAM City Council has yet to receive an application for planning approval for the Wanliss Street Marina, a proposal that is providing the impetus for investigations into the relocation of the Rockingham Tennis Club and Rockingham Bowling Club.

It is understood that marina plans include car park facilities on the bowling club and tennis club sites. At this week's Rockingham City Council planning services committee meeting, it was agreed to forward an officer recommendation to the full council meeting next Tuesday.

The recommendation was that until an application was received for the marina, it was inappropriate to seriously entertain any proposed relocation of the clubs.

In a report to council, city director of planning, Bob Jeans, said it was acknowledged – in the proponent's referral to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on the marina – that the matter which remained unresolved was car parking for the marina.

The proponent, Rosewood Grove, as Trustee for the Rockingham Beach Unit Trust, raised the possibility of developing a multi-level car park on land leased by the

two clubs.

On May 29, 2007, Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels convened a meeting attended by the proponent, representatives from the clubs, project managers of the Waterfront Village project LandCorp, and council officers. At the meeting, the proponent outlined how the concept for the multi-level car park could proceed and asked the clubs for their views.

Club representatives said they were open to possible relocation, providing certain conditions were met, but their respective committees had not been canvassed on the matter.

In the report, Mr Jeans said that many years of planning and consultation had arrived at an approved indicative development plan for the Waterfront Village that included a favourable mix of residential, commercial and community uses.

"The sporting clubs were seen as an integral part of the mix," he said.

"To remove both clubs from the Waterfront Village would affect the fabric that is being created and would be contrary to the original objective of the Waterfront Village objective."