

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 concerns 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