



Marina threat 'can be managed'

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A planned 500-pen marina at Rockingham will disturb the onshore and marine habitats in environmentally sensitive Cockburn Sound but can be managed adequately, according to the proponent's public environmental review.

Former Rockingham City councillor Paul Ogilvie's company, Rosewood Grove Pty Ltd, is behind the \$40 million Port Rockingham Marina project for the northern end of Rockingham Beach near Wanliss Street.

The mainly offshore marina features a 4000sqm retail and restaurant precinct, commercial jetty and space for 500 floating boat pens connected by a boardwalk and jetties.

The company's environmental review was released yesterday for public comment, with submissions to be made to the Environmental Protection Authority. It said the project would remove about 0.2ha of dune vegetation and 3.8ha of seabed with a further 5.3ha of seabed to be in shade.

The company said potential effects would be

minimised through construction and foreshore management plans and there were no active seagrass communities within the site.

But a turbidity plume up to 500m was expected during construction and the loss of 1.3 per cent of seabed fauna such as sponges and sea cucumbers was predicted. Shoreline erosion in some areas would need to be managed.

The review said the breakwater and pilings would also create a new habitat.

Project spokesman David Christison said the marina would benefit Rockingham and be an iconic destination for tourists, day-trip visitors and local residents.

Cockburn Sound Management Council chairwoman Kateryna Longley said it was good that no seagrass would be lost but it was important to have plans to ensure good flushing and sand movement and to cope with possible oil spills and other pollutants entering the water.

Rockingham mayor Barry Sammels said the council supported the project but was keen to see progress on the council-backed planned Cape Peron Marina, 2.5km west at Mangles Bay.



SOURCE: PORTROCKINGHAM.COM.AU