

Proposed marina divides council

By **ROSLYN HUIZENGA**

AN item of discussion debated in camera at the meeting of Rockingham Council on March 24 has come under fire, with claims some councillors used the debate as an attempt to voice their objections to the proposed Cape Peron Marina.

Council moved behind closed doors to vote on an officer recommendation to endorse six key focus areas for CEO Andrew Hammond to progress in 2009.

One councillor put forward an alternative motion to the recommendation, which offered comprehensive detail on exactly how the council should progress one of the six key focus areas – the marina at Mangles Bay.

The alternative recommendation, which was lost 4-5, stated that the council should explore alternative development options to the current marina proposal and prepare a detailed report of council expenditure to date.

The original recommendation, which read 'to progress the Cape Peron Marina to the next stage', was carried.

Rockingham Chamber of Commerce member Rick Palmer said he was pleased the alternative motion was lost, but was concerned that some councillors appeared to be against the marina development.

"My interpretation was that it was an attempt to undermine the council's stand on the marina the night the Premier was here and the first meeting after Phil Edman's resignation from council," Mr Palmer said.

However, Mayor Barry Sammels said the aim of the agenda item was not to vote for or against the proposed marina at Mangles Bay, but rather to approve key focus areas for the City's new chief executive officer to work on throughout the year.

"If councillors want to look at other options (for the marina) they can, but this was not about supporting the marina or not," Cr Sammels said.

He added he had been a long-term supporter of both the marina and Port Rockingham jetty and marina development and felt there was room to accommodate both.

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