

Marina plan floated

By **YVONNE THOMPSON**

GEOFF Simpson of Rockingham is one of many residents who will be closely watching the progress of Rosewood Grove's Port Rockingham proposal for a jetty and marina facility on the Rockingham foreshore.

Public consultation sessions are being held on Sunday at 10am and Tuesday at 6pm at The Cruising Yacht Club.

The meetings will inform people about the Public Environmental Review document that has been released and which Mr Simpson says contains some real surprises. (See letters page)

The site for the facility is at the northern end of Rockingham beach out from Wanliss Street and north of Bell Park.

It proposes access under a pier structure via an upper deck over the existing Wanliss Street car park, level with the pier that features cafes, restaurants, tourist shopping, and boat sales. A rock breakwater would be open at both ends and environmental and engineering studies are being carried out to help produce detailed plans. Mr Simpson said the project was so big that if the planned curved rock breakwater were to go the other way it would reach The Cruising Yacht Club jetty.

He asked who would occupy the retail space given properties already in place had problems attracting tenants and how many cafes and restaurants the area could support.

Mr Simpson is also concerned about the loss of 600m of pristine

north-facing beach from Wanliss through to Victoria streets, traffic and parking problems, noise and the loss of his 180-degree water views which are to be replaced by a two-storey building.

He is also worried about pollution from the 500-boat mooring at the marina.

Opposing Mr Simpson's views will be the many boat owners and business people in the area who are keen to see long-awaited boating facilities established.

There has been a lack of facilities for many years as infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the number of boat owners.



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An artist's impression of the marina proposal.