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General News

# Public kept in loop over port

By YVONNE THOMPSON

THE public meeting to discuss the Environmental Protection Authority's Public Environmental Review (PER) of the Port Rockingham proposal on Sunday drew a large crowd to the Cruising Yacht Club to learn more about how the project could affect the local environment.

The proposal by Rosewood Grove (Dev X Pty Ltd) is planned to attract local residents, tourists and day trippers.

It features a 475-berth marina, cafés, restaurants, tourist shopping, service outlets and boat sales, a pier, and a breakwater wall enclosing the boat pens. The PER is out for public comment until May 17

A presentation by specialist environment and engineering consultants outlined the impact the project would have on terrestrial vegetation, birds and marine fauna, fisheries, noise and vibration, marine, and water quality.

These all received a tick in the PER as they came within development guidelines conditions. Negotiations on issues related to traffic management and parking are ongoing.

Sea levels rising has been addressed in the breakwater's design and there would be some sand movement because of the breakwater.

Residents were told that their swimming beach would be more protected from the elements and jet skis would not be allowed in the space between the swimming beach and the marina berth area.

Questions from the floor included how the

amenity of nearby residents would be affected as well as questions on the proposal. It was stressed that planning, approval and design details would be the next stage following the PER consultation period.

Rockingham Beach Road resident David Winter's property would be opposite the proposal if it were to go ahead.

He said it would be a great development, but was concerned about property damage during construction, light spill, noise and loss of amenity, in particular because of night activities at an entertainment facility.

Benchmark Projects Australasia company representative Chris Carman said security was an issue that would go through the approval process with Rockingham City Council.

Insurance issues would be addressed during the building process and any damage was covered by insurance.

Chairman of the Rockingham Environment Centre James Mumme wanted to know why a boat ramp had not been included. Mr Carman said that would have led to parking problems.

Rockingham councillor Leigh Liley asked about long-term maintenance and was told that would not be a cost to the council as it was a private development.



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