



CONCERNS REMAIN

AS the councillor who re-introduced the Wanliss Street (Port Rockingham) jetty project to council in 1998 it is encouraging to read that it has environmental approval to proceed to the development stage.

In saying this I have some concerns and one of them is the attempt by the developer to turn the Rockingham bowling and tennis clubs into a car park for the marina.

The land occupied by these clubs is leased from council and questions such as the cost of relocation of the clubs and who will bear those costs, where would these clubs be re-located, do the members agree, will the land be sold to the developer or will the car park be council-owned have to be answered.

On May 29, 2007, Barry Samuels, in his capacity as mayor, convened a meeting with the bowling and tennis clubs attend-

ed by key stakeholders.

Even though there was no planning application for the project before council at the time, it could have been perceived by the meeting participants that the mayor was acting on council's behalf.

In fact, it was not until July that council or its planning committee was briefed on this meeting, the officers putting a report to council's planning committee.

Any negotiations with respect to this development have to be in the best interests of the ratepayers of Rockingham.

As such all associations and interests held by councillors should be declared, all meetings open and any proposed meetings with stakeholders, such as the one described above, should be endorsed by full council.

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