



Underground carpark tipped for marina

By ANITA McINNES

VISITORS to the planned Port Rockingham marina could possibly leave their cars off-site in a carpark built underneath the Rockingham Bowling and Tennis Club grounds.

A spokesman for the Port Rockingham marina developer said discussions were “commercial in confidence” but the suggestion of an off-site carpark possibly under the Rockingham Bowling Club and tennis courts “was close to the mark”.

However, the spokesman said Rosewood Grove was talking to interested parties and unable to make a statement yet.

He said building a carpark or a two-deck park on land the company owns

(or planned to buy) in the vicinity also remained an option.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the council was not for or against the club land being used for an underground carpark.

However, because it was crown land invested in the council, if the developer wanted to use the club sites the council would need to speak to both clubs to see if they were satisfied with the carpark being built underneath them.

Earlier this year the *Sound Telegraph* reported that Rockingham Bowling Club had written to the developer outlining its approval for a carpark underneath the entire bowls and tennis area with four bowling greens and six

tennis courts at ground level.

Cr Sammels said the council would also consider a proposal if the company wanted to build a two-deck carpark in the area.

“We would have no issue depending on where it was — we would not want a two-storey carpark above the ground right on the waterfront.”

The Environmental Protection Authority has released its advice and recommendations to Environment Minister Donna Faragher.

A two-week public appeal closes on October 13, after which Mrs Faragher will make a decision about the project.