



\$50m marina given the green light

JOSEPH CATANZARO

The long-awaited new public marina at Port Rockingham featuring 475 boat pens is one step closer after the State Government gave the plan environmental approval yesterday.

Slated to take three years to complete, with construction possibly beginning as early as August, the \$50 million project is planned to include a shopping precinct, a breakwater open to the public for fishing, "super yacht" berths and increased parking on Rockingham Road.

A spokesman for Rosewood Grove, the company behind the proposed development, said registrations from as far away as Warwick had already been received for about 200 of the 275 boat pens which would be built in the first stage of the project.

If the project goes ahead, he said it would be the first totally new marina to be built in the Perth metropolitan area since Hillary's Boat Harbour in 1988.

Another Rosewood spokesman and former Rockingham City councillor Paul Ogilvie said the environmental approvals process had been exhaustive and would guarantee the development went ahead correctly.

"This is an exciting and unique marina and jetty concept that will transform the Rockingham foreshore near Wanliss Street," he said.

"We can now proceed to formal building applications and we're hoping to be able to commence construction of the jetty and breakwater before the end of this year."

A spokesman for the Environment Minister Donna Faragher, who yesterday approved the proposed Port Rockingham Marina, said stringent environmental conditions had been imposed to protect marine life around Cockburn Sound and local beaches.

"The proponent will need to follow a strict management protocol to minimise impacts on cetaceans, particularly Cockburn Sound's resident dolphins," the spokesman said.

The conditions of approval also stipulate that Rosewood develop a marina waterways monitoring and management plan.

Mr Ogilvie said the project would be a vibrant addition to Rockingham and cater to the needs of a growing number of boat owners.

"It will offer much needed facilities for Rockingham's boat owners," he said.