

Regarding aged care facilities and rezoning

Dear Echo,

I refer to the letter from Iris Jones regarding the need for additional aged care facilities in the Shire of Kalamunda and a proposal for rezoning in Wattle Grove (September 3).

As I have advised previously, the Wattle Grove proposal is a significant urban development in an area that is currently zoned rural - some want this to change, others don't.

The particular proposal involves much more than providing high and low care beds in a nursing home, which in itself I believe would be much less contentious.

There has been no moving of the goalposts, as stated by Ms Jones.

In fact, if I had accepted the recommendation of the W.A. Planning Commission 18 months ago, the proposal would have been refused then.

Following representations from the Shire of Kalamunda, I agreed to the proposal being further considered, to allow further examination of a number of issues.

For example, this rezoning proposal needs

Thought for the day

"If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman."

Margaret Thatcher

to be considered in the context of the Shire's Local Planning Strategy to ensure that planning decisions which have irreversible and substantial effects on surrounding areas are well thought through and justified.

The Shire's draft Local Planning Strategy was open for public comments until August 11.

It is now up to the Shire to analyse the submissions received and prepare a report which will then be considered by the W.A.P.C.

The role of Planning Minister might not always be a popular one and there are plenty of examples where decisions are made where some are opposed.

What is essential is that there is a fair and proper process and I do not intend to subvert this in an improper way.

There are also other proposals for aged care facilities in the Kalamunda district and I will continue to work with the Shire and others to facilitate these in appropriate areas.

Yours sincerely

John Day
State Minister for Planning & Member for Kalamunda

We don't really have a choice

Dear Echo,

Bassendean council invited residents to give feedback about the proposed Steel Blue Oval redevelopment.

When we went to the website, we found they were giving us two choices.

One 'choice' will give us 130 new three to four story dwellings opposite our house at the oval.

"Choice" two offers us 90 dwellings, both proposals involve our quiet street (Surrey Street) being reconfigured to become part of a straight, main road between West and North roads.

We lose the island that protects us from oncoming traffic now and we lose much of our existing verge.

As if this weren't bad enough, the plans show the road that curved around the oval now ending in a T-junction, with our house and our neighbours at the end.

We chose to buy this house for the safe and quiet environment it offers our family, including our children and

pets.

Bassendean council is offering us no choice, how would they feel if their daughter's room was suddenly at the end of a T-junction on a busy road?

We urge Bassendean residents to consider this proposal and talk to the council.

The council might be offering you no choice next.

Sarah & Bryn Beveridge-Pearce
Bassendean

Keep an eye out on the roads

Dear Echo,

Late Sunday afternoon on Hawtin Road, near Lillian Road, two primary school aged boys riding scooters, were busy placing large chunks of glass and on standby to witness the disaster of a punctured tyre that required replacement or worse.

Fortunately I was with a competent driver who was able to manage the situation, but these boys could easily be hit by a car as they were circling in the middle of Hawtin Road.

I would like to be able to understand what these boys were thinking.

Drivers beware.

Sandy McDougall
Maida Vale

ABC program cutbacks

Dear Echo,

One of Australia's parliamentarians once said "Australia could not compete with other countries because of our high wages for manufacturing.

We need to be a clever country."

ABC's The New Inventors was the only program to show everyday people we are still a clever country.

Some of these inventions made millions, produced exports and employed 10's of staff.

On the other hand, we have TV musical trivia shows and people who collect junk and trinkets still on ABC.

These are not creating employment opportunities.

Why was The New Inventors axed?

We need the Australian public to know we are a "clever country."

Please bring the show back.

Rob Uitdenbogerd
Beechboro

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