

Colin Barnett's Residents' Newsletter

Member for Cottesloe

WINTER - 2003



Residential Development. How Much Is Too Much??

On my walks and visits around the electorate, it is impossible not to be aware of the rapid pace of residential developments taking place. There is barely a street without some building site or home renovation.

The extent of entirely new residential areas was confirmed by a recent study undertaken by my electorate office, which indicated that approximately 1800 new lots/dwellings would be created in the next 5 years, resulting in one of the biggest growth rates in the Western Suburbs since World War II.

With increasing land prices, large blocks are being carved up and pockets of underutilized land are attracting developers, both private and government.

From North Fremantle to Floreat Park, land that was used for industrial, educational or railway purposes has been or is in the process of being rezoned to urban/residential.

All of these changes have the potential to significantly impact on the changing face of the Western Suburbs.

If we are to retain the leafy, green suburbs, open space and essential character that have for so long been the drawcard for these areas then we must keep the balance between the old and the new, increased development and public open space.

Much of the development to date has centred on the Swan River in North Fremantle and Mosman Park with land releases at Northbank,

the Moorings, Cyprus Hill (Homeswest redevelopment), the Foundry Estate (old state engineering works) Minum Cove (CSBP site) and Mosman Waters (old Colonial Sugar Refinery site).

With the closure of Buckland Hill School in Mosman Park it is likely that this site will also be added to the list of residential redevelopments in the immediate area. A more generous outcome would be to see this facility made available to the neighbouring Rocky Bay group, which has expressed an interest in using it for conference and training facilities.

Closer to the ocean, guidelines for the Leighton marshalling yards allow for 4 hectares of land being set aside with the possibility of up to 500 dwelling units being built. I am disappointed with the Labor Government's decision no to re-open Leighton Station

More recently the focus has been on Claremont where plans are currently before the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal for consideration of an \$80 million commercial and residential development in the heart of the CBD.

Railway reserves have also been targeted for development, with government
(Continued on page 2)



Cottesloe Railway Reserve.

Editorial

Welcome to my newsletter and to my newly created website at www.mp.wa.gov.au/colinbarnett.

In this issue I draw attention to what is virtually a rebuilding of the western suburbs through a combination of infill, home renovations and new land subdivisions.

While the quality of new housing is of a high standard and reflects peoples' lifestyle choices, we do need to protect spaces of public use and retain the essential character of the area.

At the State Government level, I am sure you all share my anger at the massive increases in taxation, particularly in stamp duty, land tax and payroll tax.

Dr Gallop made a pre-election promise not to increase taxes. His last three budgets however have resulted in tax increases of \$138 million, \$110 million and \$162 million respectively! That is a tax hike equivalent to \$200 a year for every man, woman and child in Western Australia.

The latest increase in stamp duty alone will add around \$2,000 to the purchase price of typical western suburbs home.

Please take the time to think about legislation before Parliament on both cannabis and prostitution.

Closer examination reveals a danger to the health of young people with a virtual acceptance of possession and home cultivation of marijuana plants.

The prostitution legislation is not about decriminalising prostitution. Prostitution itself is not illegal now. What the legislation actually does is legalise brothels. That is hardly a good outcome for our families and neighbourhood.

For residents in Claremont, Cottesloe, Floreat, Karrakatta, Mosman Park, Mount Claremont, North Fremantle, Peppermint Grove, Shenton Park, South City Beach, Swanbourne.

Claremont Police Station - Time For A New Station

The Claremont Police Station is long overdue for a major upgrade, or better still a completely new station.

With its cramped space and lack of security and safety in design the existing building is far from suitable for the policing needs of today.

The location however has a number of advantages among them its close proximity to the CBD and Claremont Park and its high profile position on the highway.

An alternative site worth considering would be at the top end of Bay View Terrace, in close proximity to the railway station and CBD and perhaps incorporating the vacant railway station building in some heritage design plan.

With plans for significant increases in commercial and residential development in the business district it would make sense to keep the station close by.

No longer manned on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis, weekend and night rosters are now shared between Cottesloe and Claremont Stations, leaving the station unattended for a significant period over that time.

This is a far from satisfactory arrangement given the significant number of burglaries that occur in both the CBD and surrounding residential areas, and the number of people who are attracted to the restaurants, hotel and nightclub on weekends and some week nights.

Clearly any decision to reduce police services can only be seen as a backward step and is unacceptable to our community.

I strongly oppose any plans to close or move the Claremont Police Station out of

the area and will advocate for an upgrade of the facilities and service to ensure safety and security for local residents remains a high priority.

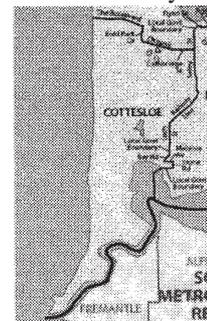
Electoral Boundary Re-Distribution. Does It Affect You?

As the Local Member I was interested to see the proposals for the recent electoral boundary redistribution, which is due for final publication on the August 4, 2003.

The Electoral Distribution Act 1947 requires that Western Australia's electoral boundaries be reviewed at regular intervals so that the sizes of the electorates remain within the established quotients. (The quotient determined for the metropolitan area is 26,454 electors).

When determining these boundaries the following factors are taken into consideration:
- community of interest, physical features, existing boundaries of regions and districts, existing local government boundaries and the trend of demographic changes.

The Cottesloe Electorate has the natural boundaries of the ocean and the river and stretches along the coast from North Fremantle to Floreat and City Beach.



Just what do the recent changes mean for the Electorate of Cottesloe?

In the east the boundary has been made to conform to Town of Claremont Local Government boundary, thus bringing all residents in Claremont back into the Electorate of Cottesloe rather than being split between the electorates of Cottesloe and Nedlands.

Further north in City Beach the boundary has been moved from Oceanic Drive to the Boulevard and east to Bold Park Drive, taking over an area that was part of the Churchlands Electorate.

These boundary changes will apply for the next State general election due in late 2004 or early 2005. Check to see if they will affect you at the next election.



Claremont Police Station

Residential Development (Continued from page 1)

policy encouraging higher density development around town centres and railway stations.

Plans are well advanced for the development of land to the east of the Claremont Railway Station. Given the working title "Claremont Junction", this one-hectare parcel of land will give rise to a mixed-use development (commercial and residential), with a 15% "affordable" housing component.

While the use of this railway reserve land will have some impact upon public open space in Claremont the potential negative impact is greater around areas such as Cottesloe and Swanbourne where public open space is at a premium.

With the building of Shenton College and the new Swanbourne Primary School, new residential lots are being planned for the old Swanbourne Primary and Swanbourne High School sites, while the nearby Lakeway Drive-in site has been given the go ahead for redevelopment following a recent referendum.

New estates such as Zamia Gardens (the last of the Mt Claremont subdivision), St Peter's Estate, North Street and Fortview Road have grown rapidly and there are few lots remaining.

Further north is the proposed controversial development of Perry Lakes Stadium, which has outlived its use and may be rezoned to urban to allow for residential development, parks and open space.

As the Local Member I am well aware of the significant impact these developments will have across the electorate and while I am pleased to see such growth it is important to keep a broad perspective and ensure proper planning and infrastructure are put in place to ensure the things we value in our environment are not lost in the process.

When it comes to development and urban infill the question of how much is too much is a vexing question but one that must be asked in the light of such rapid re-development.

I am particularly conscious of the longer-term need to preserve railway reserves as areas of public space and recreation.

I would be very interested to receive feedback from residents about their thoughts on these developments and invite comment via my web site which has just been launched www.mp.wa.gov.au/ colinbarnett

Cottesloe - Icon Beach In Need Of A Facelift

Cottesloe Beach is recognised as one of Perth's best and well known beaches – a place where we all love to spend time walking, swimming or just enjoying a coffee with friends.

It is on the priority list of places people want to see when they visit Western Australia from interstate or overseas.

As a regular walker on the beachfront it is not hard to see why Cottesloe Beach is such an attraction.

With its beautiful blue ocean, white sand, rocky outcrops and pine trees it can hold its own with any beach around Australia.

It is sadly let down however by the drab and unappealing frontages of many of the buildings along the eastern side of Marine Parade, particularly in the area from the Eric Street to the golf course. Lacking in interesting architecture and appealing

facades they contrast badly with the beauty of the beachfront opposite.

of Marine Parade.

An increase in vegetation would be a good starting point for providing a more inviting ambiance. Trees down the centre of Marine Parade and in front of the buildings and large shade trees wherever possible, water features, street art, colour and more places to sit outside and enjoy a meal or a



Marine Parade, Cottesloe

What an opportunity exists for improvement!

While there is an acceptance that development directly on the beachfront should be limited, there is no reason why this should be the case on the eastern side

snack with children are just a few things that come to mind.

Research shows that where quality environments are provided there are fewer problems with vandalism and general unruly behaviour.

Clearly the cost of improving and maintaining the beachfront is an expensive exercise for a small council such as Cottesloe and I believe the time has come to re-consider cost sharing between local and state governments.

I encourage Cottesloe Council to work with property owners in the area and as the Local Member I will support them in any initiatives or ideas to improve the streetscape.

Cottesloe is a beach that is enjoyed by all of us. It is the jewel in the crown and deserves to be treated as such.

Too Close To Home!

The Prostitution Control Bill 2003 is before Parliament and raises a number of important matters that relate to the decision-making powers of local government and the community in general.

The West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), is greatly concerned that the proposed legislation overrides local government's powers, while at the same time providing inadequate protection of the social environment, particularly in residential areas.

Local government will have no control and no right of veto when it comes to matters of prostitution within the local community.

Brothels will be legalised and treated as just another industry or commercial activity. In the case of sole operators working from their own residence, this will mean even fewer controls than those imposed on someone operating a bed and breakfast premise.

Prostitution is not a criminal offence in itself and while most people accept that prostitution is here to stay they do not want it in their neighbourhood.

This Bill legalises brothels but it does not contain their location to limited, selected areas within the metropolitan region.

People do not want a situation where prostitution is encouraged by an attitude of acceptance, operating side by side with public institutions such as schools, churches and other community based facilities. It is not an activity suited to a family environment.

It is important to note that this legislation is about the legalisation of brothels—not decriminalisation of prostitution per se – and is firmly based on a mix of Victorian and

Queensland legislation which has already proven to be a failure in achieving any positive outcomes in the area of prostitution in those two states.

It is time that we learnt from the experience of others and based legislation on positive social policy outcomes not proven legislative failures.

Thin Edge Of The Wedge – Cannabis Control Bill 2003

My previous newsletter highlighted the dangers of the Labor Government's "soft drugs" approach, which will give Western Australia the softest cannabis laws in the country.

On March 20 this year the Cannabis Control Bill 2003 was introduced into Parliament.

This legislation will decriminalise the possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and allow for the cultivation of up to two cannabis plants.

An offender will be issued with a cannabis infringement notice and be required to pay a small fine ranging from \$100 - \$200 or attend a Cannabis Education Session - nothing more than a parking ticket!

Evidence from South Australia, where a similar approach has been in practice for over 10 years, has shown the decriminalisation of cannabis, in particular its cultivation, to be disastrous. Criminal elements and the spread of hard drugs have resulted.

While there is room for minor and

experimental cannabis users to be diverted from the criminal justice system, this legislation is tantamount to turning a blind eye to the free and regular use and cultivation of cannabis.

Quite simply this legislation goes too far! The message to young people is wrong. It is one of acceptance of cannabis rather than saying no to drugs.

The most reasonable policy approach is not to decriminalise but to educate and discourage.

I will continue to campaign strongly against this proposed legislation and need your support in opposing this plan, which can only impact adversely on our children and our community.

I invite your comment on this very important topic.

Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant – Update

The \$22 million project to reduce odours from the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant is well underway.

Work is currently centred on two new aeration tanks and a chemical odour control system that will provide odour containment while the odour covers and ducting system are installed.

The project is on schedule with completion due by the end of December 2003.

To quantify the extent of the odour reduction following the current upgrade project, the Water Corporation has invested in some state of the art technology and a comprehensive research program.

Plans are also well advanced for a joint project between the Water Corporation, the University of WA and the Waters and Rivers Commission that will see treated wastewater from the plant recycled for use at the UWA Sports Park (McGillivray Ovals) from September 2003.

While I am optimistic that the odour reduction plans for the plant will be effective, and despite recent EPA approvals for development nearby, I am still not convinced that Underwood Ave bushland should have residential development in such close proximity to the treatment works.

There is already a history of adverse impact on local residents and I would not like to see this duplicated.

Ask Nina . . .



SENIORS' CARD

Have you recently turned 60?

If so you may be eligible for a Seniors' Card which entitles you to many discounts on government and other services. If you are 60 years of age and a permanent resident of Western Australia contact Nina at the Electorate Office (9383 1505) for more details.

WESTERN SUBURBS ACCESS AND FACILITIES GUIDE

This excellent publication is a guide for walking, cycling and using public transport in Swanbourne, Claremont and Cottesloe.

Its aim is to encourage people to use alternatives to their car when going about their daily activities.

A travel survey of residents in Perth found that 80% of trips were by car, and most were by the driver alone. There are many alternatives available in your local area and many good reasons to use them such as reducing local traffic, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improving your health through physical activity and reducing overall travel costs.

Copies are available from the Cottesloe Electorate Officer at 12/589 Stirling Highway, so catch a bus, walk, cycle or run down and Nina will give you a copy.

POINTS OF ORDER

Points of Order is a weekly newsletter covering the political headlines of the week together with economic indicators and other matters of interest.

If you would like to receive a weekly copy FREE of charge please send Nina an email at ncurtis@mp.wa.au or check the electorate office website www.mp.wa.gov.au/colinbarnett

Welcome To My Website

www.mp.wa.gov.au/colinbarnett

As the Member for Cottesloe I have always kept in contact with the people in my electorate through my Residents' Newsletter and local media.

However with more people using computers the time has come to accept that computers are a part of everyday life and move into the world of the internet.

I have created a website that will keep you informed about what is happening in the electorate, act a guide to community resources and facilities and provide you with the opportunity to contact me about any matters of interest to you.

On this site you will find a map and details of the electorate, information relating to local issues, a copy of my latest Residents' Newsletter, links to other relevant sites, as well as publications from my Opposition Leader Website covering day to day political issues from Parliament as well as broader policy statements.

As this an evolving website I would appreciate your comments on the site content and ways you feel it can be improved.

Contact Nina at ncurtis@mp.wa.gov.au or phone 9383-1505 / fax 9385 2352

Well Done!

MOSMAN PARK PLAYGROUP and ST HILDA'S SCHOOL for working together to provide a playgroup facility in the area.

LADY LAWLEY COTTAGE for their Centenary Celebration held on May 29 and the completion of the re-development project.

WATER CORPORATION for landscaping the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant frontage, giving a much better visual presentation to the treatment works.

Electorate Office

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