

Peel Preservation Group/Friends of Rivers, Peel

Point Grey Proposal

'Ignorance is bliss' may be a comforting sentiment but it is not appropriate to working with the natural environment. The application of well tried and tested, but alien, experience to the Australian countryside has too often produced disastrous results through ignorance, through not understanding how to work with nature in this ancient land of ours. And often there are no ready made guidelines to help us solve the problems we create. (Ernest Hodgkin, Excerpt from book by Keith Bradbury PEEL-HARVEY The Decline and Rescue of an Ecosystem 1997)

The Peel-Harvey system has faced many challenges created by well meaning but ill conceived schemes since European settlement. Too numerous but well documented to list here.

And now to add to the stress that this internationally listed RAMSAR wet land it is proposed to create a 2.5km long 100 metres wide and 3 metres deep channel from the Dawesville Cut to Pt Grey. In addition to the channel a 3 metre deep land based Marina to accommodate vessels up to 20 metres long.

The impact of this proposed channel on the marine life in this shallow estuarine system is immeasurable. The area of the proposed channel is recognised as a breeding/holding ground for blue swimmer crabs and fin fish. The proposed dredge site is a major gateway for estuarine animals which are utilising this region of the estuary to enter the system as a vital part of their breeding spawning cycles.

The ongoing maintenance dredging will result in hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of dredge spoil (estimated every 3 to 5 years) to be side cast back into the estuary (has to be done this way due to acid sulphate soils) smothering what are currently productive fishing and crabbing grounds that the community benefits from in many ways.

The proponent of this development claims that the cost of the ongoing maintenance of this channel will be met by the creation of a sinking fund established from a levy placed on the land sales of the PT Grey development. We believe that this is not possible and that your children, your grand children and future generations will be left with a costly legacy to fund either at state or local government level. (Example the Sth Yunderup canals entrance channel is 1.5kms long and at best 10 metres wide and the last time it was dredged approx 2 years ago it cost the ratepayers of the Shire of Murray \$750,000.00 and the WA taxpayer \$100,000.00 so you can guess what it may cost in the future to maintain a channel 2.5kms long and 100 metres wide.

If you would like to know more about this proposal visit www.epa.wa.gov.au

What can you do to express your concerns about this proposal?

Contact your local MLA and also WA Minister for the Environment Mr Bill Marmion bill.marmion@mp.wa.gov.au

Because the Peel-Harvey System is internationally listed as a site of significance then any development proposal within the waterway needs to be approved by the federal government so:-

Contact your Federal Member of Parliament and the Federal Minister for the Environment (see listed) and tell them that this is about preserving this precious natural resource for future generations not about the present.

The Hon Tony Burke Minister for the Environment email tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Julie Bishop member for Curtin email julie.bishop.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Tony Crook member for O'Connor email tony.crook.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Gary Gray member for Brand email gary.gray.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Barry Hasse member for Durack email barry.hasse.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Steve Irons member for Swan email steve.irons.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Dennis Jensen member for Tagney email dennis.jensen.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Michael Keenan member for Stirling email michael.keenan.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Nola Marino member for Forrest email nola.marino.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Judi Moylan member for Pearce email j.moylan.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Melissa Parke member for Fremantle email mparke.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Don Randall member for Canning email don.randall.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Luke Simpkins member for Cowan email luke.simpkins@aph.gov.au

The Hon Stephen Smith member for Perth email stephen.smith.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Mal Washer member for Moore email mal.washer.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Ken Wyatt member for Hasluck email ken.wyatt.mp@aph.gov.au