



# Peel Preservation Group Inc.

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**PPG is a non-profit organisation devoted to the conservation of the natural environment in the Peel Region of Western Australia**

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23 March 2019

RE: PROPOSED STAGE ONE EARTHWORKS, POINT GREY MARINA

REF: PO23/2019

Peel Preservation Group is very concerned about the Proposed Stage One Earthworks at Point Grey, as our group sees this as an insidious step towards developing the marina itself, to which our group is vehemently opposed.

Some of our members have also raised concerns about the very small size of the Public Notice, with miniscule print that was published in our two local papers over the holiday period, in regard to the Proposed Stage One Earthworks. Many local newspaper readers could easily have missed seeing this Public Notice. It is important that local residents get to have their say, especially given that a poll conducted by the Mandurah Mail last year found that more than two thirds of respondents were against the Point Grey Marina development.

Moreover, some of our members have noted that the Proposed Stage One Earthworks seem to involve doing the bare minimum amount of works to satisfy the development permits for substantial commencement before the permit expires. The concern among PPG members is that the Stage One Earthworks involve the smallest possible environmental target (simply scraping the surface with no disturbance of ground water, no opening of the earthworks site to the estuary, no large number of trees being cleared, and all soil from the works being stored on site), which seems innocuous on the surface, but also looks somewhat like proceeding to a full scale marina development by stealth, involving a series of small, subtle steps.

As stated at the outset, PPG is vehemently opposed to the development of a marina at Point Grey and the dredging of a 2.5 kilometre deep water channel connecting the marina to the Dawesville Cut. Our group has previously written two submissions to the State Minister for the

The following is a summary of some of the pertinent points articulated in these submissions:

Of extremely great concern, after Stage One Earthworks are complete, is the potential of future dredging operations to release an unpredictable and dangerous mix of chemicals imbedded in the estuary floor, such as stored phosphorus and heavy metals, according to several key environmental scientists reporting to the Conservation Council of W.A. Moreover, the increase in released nutrients is likely to affect oxygenation levels of the water and lead to increased algae blooms, which can have devastating effects on fish stocks. Anecdotal and historical evidence from professional fisherman on the Peel-Harvey estuary also raises some serious concerns about the deleterious effects of major works and dredging on the estuary.

In regard to the Proposed Stage One Earthworks, clearing a few hectares of land on the eastern side of the estuary may seem like a fairly innocuous or harmless exercise, but in the context of being a subtle step towards a future major disturbance of our precious Peel-Harvey estuary system it is ringing some rather loud alarm bells.

Yours sincerely

Melvyn J. Tuckey

Committee Member

Peel Preservation Group Inc.

Cc Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for the Environment  
Hon David Templeman MLA, Member for Mandurah  
Ms Robyn Clarke MLA, Member for Murray/ Wellington  
Mr Zak Kirkup MLA, Member for Dawesville  
Shire of Murray, Elected Councillors