

# COCKBURN CITY HERALD



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• Runners at last weekend's Harbour Master Classic wouldn't have had this much fun if they'd been dodging cars, says Fremantle Ports. Photo by Roel Loopers

## Mole re-opens, but cars out

by KATHERINE  
KRAAYVANGER

CARS will be banned when South Mole is partially reopened again this week, following a two-month closure triggered by illegal camper vans and a destructive backpacker rave.

Fremantle Ports announced the mole would be opened to pedestrians

and cyclists from yesterday (Friday, May 10).

Problems with illegal campers had been mounting before the Mole was shut, including rubbish dumping, graffiti, and overuse of the public toilet.

Fremantle Ports communications manager Neil Stanbury says the partial opening of the Mole - which is privately owned by Fremantle Ports - allows the public to utilise South Mole while preventing camping

vehicles from parking illegally on the site.

"As South Mole's got busier, we're concerned it's not safe for vehicles and pedestrians to interact," Mr Stanbury said.

"People will be able to stroll out on South Mole, walk their dog, ride their bike, all without having to interact with vehicles.

"Only last weekend we saw nearly 1000 runners on the mole for the Harbour Master Classic run event.

"That was an example of the community enjoying South Mole in a way that couldn't occur with cars."

Mr Stanbury says the closure of the mole was justified, as some of the backpackers "ignored" warnings and infringements from the Ports before it was shut off completely.

"Monitoring campers and issuing parking tickets hasn't proven to be a viable solution," he said.

"It's not as simple as

calling the police, who have other more pressing duties.

"We had a problem that we could not tolerate, and we've responded in a responsible manner.

"We understand West Australians love the port and appreciate the beauty of South Mole. "We're saying keep on doing that; but without driving out there."

Fremantle Ports will seek community feedback for the closure until June 6 on its website.

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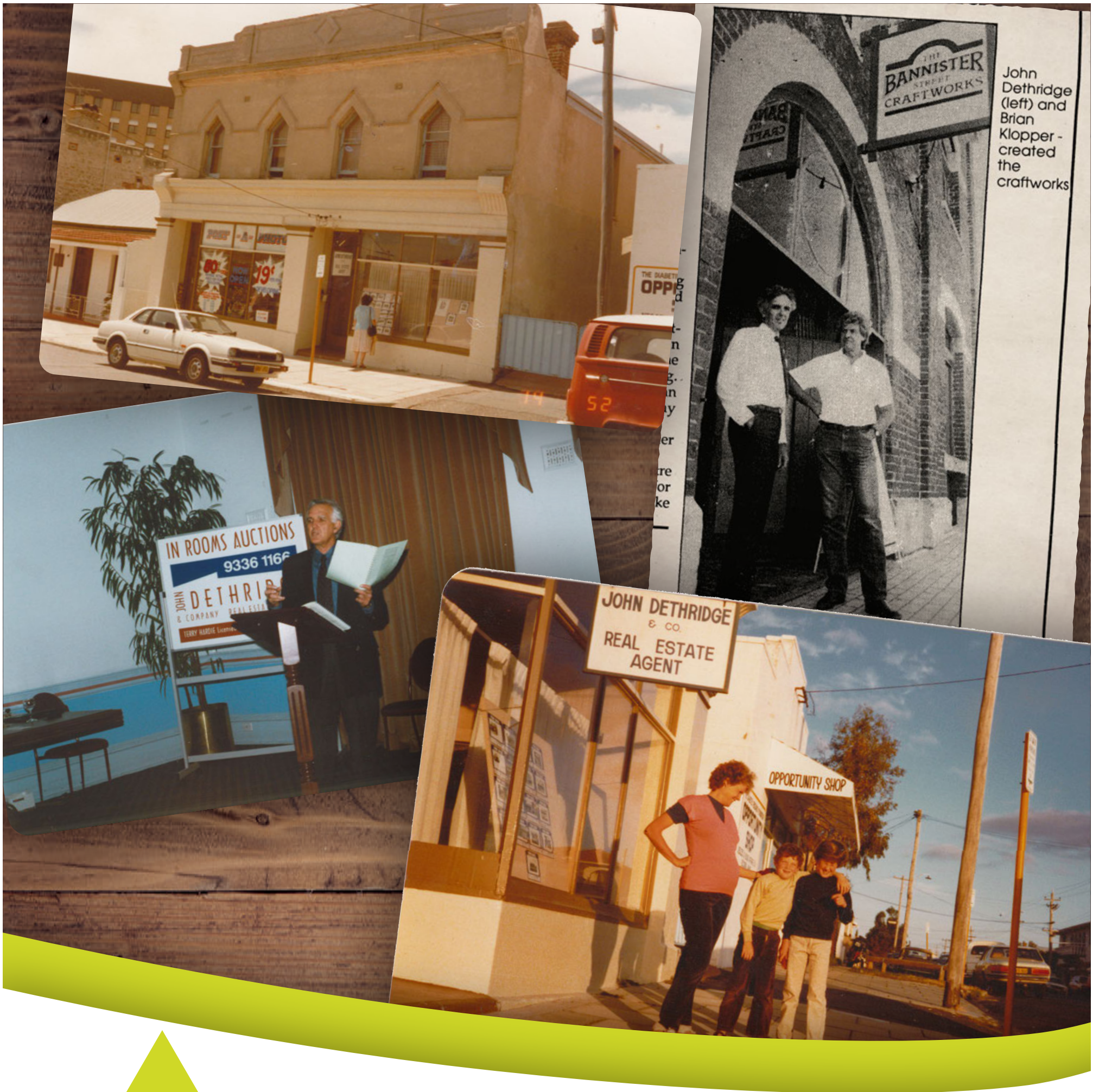
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John Dethridge (left) and Brian Klopper - created the craftworks



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# Notre Dame fee under scrutiny

by GRACE BARLOW

UNIVERSITY of Notre Dame students say they've been blindsided by a new "amenities" fee which is being investigated for a possible breach of higher education guidelines.

Students were notified about the "student services and amenities fee" last week, which brings Notre Dame in line with other WA universities.

NDA Pro vice chancellor Selma Allix said in an email to students it was chosen for implementation after an "in-depth period of consultation" and meeting with "current student associations and student societies".

While the Notre Dame Student Association told the Herald it had been consulted, mostly in 2022, the current committees of LGBT+ club Stripes, and Indigenous, journalism, film and performing arts societies said it was before their time and they were fielding inquiries from upset members.

"The NDSA released marketing on our socials, campus signs and at our on-campus event asking for student feedback on SSAF," student association president Eric De Sousa said.

"Quite literally just up until the release on the website we realistically didn't know if it was going to officially be put through or not."

One of the society representatives, who asked not to be named, said they were in a bind as they were being asked about a fee they'd had no input into.

"Fellow students have reached out to us regarding our involvement in the consultation process, or lack thereof," they said.

"This has put a strain on all of us who have been made answerable for the implementation of the fee when we are also just working students and volunteers."

The \$351 yearly fee, halved due to the mid-year introduction, is payable on the July 1 for the uni's second semester and will fund "new opportunities and services to improve the experience of all Notre Dame students across all campuses" according to Ms Allix's email.

However, with much



• Notre Dame students say the new fee is "tone deaf" to cost-of-living pressures they're facing. Photo by Steve Grant

of the university amenities unavailable until September due to construction and facility upgrades, students are unsure why they are being asked for funds now.

Frustrated students started a petition to postpone the fee until facilities are ready, which has amassed more than 500 signatures.

"As students, we understand the importance of contributing to the university community, but we believe it is unfair to burden us with additional fees while essential facilities are still under construction," the petition reads.

## Punch

Secondary education student Maddy voiced her concerns on social media, attracting over 100 comments from fellow disgruntled students, and she says the fee introduction felt like a "punch in the gut".

"The email felt like a total blindside. Especially considering the continual struggle with the cost of living crisis and no access to St Teresa's [library, under construction]," she said.

"Students experiencing financial hardship such as supporting children, renting or working multiple jobs are naturally less likely to join student associations as they have limited time and energy to participate in extracurriculars.

"I'd be very interested to find out more about the consultation process because I think those voices were left unheard."

With the July 1 deadline to pay, Notre Dame Law students have questioned whether the

university had breached a requirement to notify students within statutory time frames.

According to Higher Education Support Administration Guidelines, the university is required to publish a notice containing the particulars of the SSAF by April 1 for a fee payable in the second semester of that year.

Responding to students, the university said a "website was launched on March 28 which is prior to the April 1 deadline."

Students received direct notice of the SSAF nearly a month later.

One student said they'd missed the quiet launch of the website and had "no idea about the amenities fee until after" the email.

The matter has been referred to the Department of Education, which confirmed it is looking into whether the guidelines were followed.

Behavioural science student Kat feels the announcement demonstrates the university's lack of insight into the current student cohort and social climate.

"The timing was so tone deaf," Kat said.

"They're doing so much for future students, at the complete neglect and cost of current ones.

"I should be focusing on my classes, not picking up extra shifts to make an additional surprise \$400.

"Maybe introduce a facilities fee when we have facilities."

Notre Dame was contacted for comment.

• Disclaimer: Grace Barlow is a journalism student at Notre Dame. Students were anonymised by request.

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## Bushwhacked

HERE we go again!

Bushland that has been here forever is "in the way" of a new library and apartment buildings around the Booragoon shopping centre in the Melville council area ("Fire risk spells doom for bush," Herald, May 4, 2024).

How is it that the planners, who have no doubt been paid millions for their part of the deal, couldn't foresee that the buildings would be too close to the bushland.

Are they that incompetent?

If this bushland is considered too close to the proposed buildings it is due to extremely poor planning in the first place.

Council representatives say that "...there were no threatened species or ecological communities in the bushland".

Well, at this stage the whole natural environment is threatened by constant intrusion into the small amounts of remaining bushland along the Swan Coastal Plain.

Now it is even worse, with the introduction of the shot-hole borer and human induced changes of climate where we are already seeing huge areas of trees and bushland succumbing to the long, hot dry spells which will be ever increasing.

What is even more unbelievable is the fact that this area abuts, and in all intents and purposes, forms part of the Wireless Hill Reserve.

That the councillors believe the area is not worth saving goes beyond belief.

It is basically part of the Wireless Hill Reserve.

What is next?

More of the iconic Wireless Hill Reserve being deemed as not being worth preserving?



Council officers suggest bushland management "...will also provide greater public access and use of the area".

Well, the more you clear the less there is to use.

The mayor, Katy Mair "... will consider greater public consultation once the spring survey is completed".

So by then will the planning and building process have got to the point of no return and it is declared too late to save the bushland?

According to the article in the Herald, "there have been no fauna assessments conducted on the site which the council say is "... unlikely to play a functional ecosystem role" as they have not recorded the presence of animal species such as quenda (bandicoots).

Well, what about birds, lizards, insects and microfauna?

No doubt, before the introduction of cats, foxes and humans, the area would have had a vigorous population of indigenous fauna

With foresight this area, together with the remaining part of Wireless Hill Reserve, could perhaps be adequately protected enough to enable the quenda and other small creatures to be re-introduced.

Wouldn't that be absolutely marvellous!!

It is ironic that the planting by the council of thousands of trees on verges and other venues (at considerable cost) although very welcome does not compensate for the loss of existing complex communities of native plants and animals which are difficult or impossible to replicate.

Change the plans now so that it doesn't encroach on the bushland.

There is a huge bitumen car

park around the area.

Put the buildings there and incorporate car parks underneath.

What's more, there is a busy bus station complex nearby; what about encouraging workers and shoppers to utilise the excellent bus system we are fortunate to have.

We all need to take charge of our environmental impact.

In that way we can help stop the desecration of our bushland.

R Harper  
Palmyra

## A great time!

I AM writing to express my sincere gratitude to the Fremantle community and the University of Notre Dame Australia for the warm welcome and incredible experience during my recent visit.

It was an immense honour to be invited to speak on White House history to the university community.

Meeting with faculty, students, and esteemed community leaders, including the mayor of Fremantle, was truly inspiring.

A sincere appreciation for Australian culture and history flowed through each story shared and person encountered.

I was deeply moved by the hospitality extended to me and the opportunity to connect with such a diverse and engaged audience.

I must also express my profound appreciation for the traditional Welcome to Country by Alton Walley.

Learning about Aboriginal history and the significance of respecting their ancestral land

was a poignant reminder of the importance of cultural heritage and mutual respect.

The perspectives I gained from Alton and his father, Dr Richard Walley, underscore the necessity of honouring the power of place and the generations that precede us as we discuss and experience history today.

Fremantle, with its stunning Victorian and Georgian architecture set against a multicolored maritime backdrop, is indeed a gem.

A dynamic port city with access to river, sea, and the bustling metropolis of Perth, Fremantle is a guidepost in showcasing Western Australian culture to the world.

The town's charm and warmth create a unique and special environment, which undoubtedly enriches the experience of students, faculty, and staff at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

The University is fortunate to have the exemplary leadership of chancellor Chris Ellison and vice chancellor ambassador Francis Campbell.

Their dedication to fostering academic excellence and community engagement is evident and commendable.

My visit to Western Australia was truly unforgettable, and I look forward to returning in the future to experience more of this beautiful and historic region.

Heartfelt thanks to the Fremantle community and the University of Notre Dame Australia for an enriching and memorable experience.

Stewart D. McLaurin  
President  
White House Historical  
Association  
Washington

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## Will a Band-Aid help?



by Mark Douglas FCPA  
Managing Partner of Francis A Jones  
[www.faj.com.au](http://www.faj.com.au)

Students with HELP debts are feeling the sting as their outstanding balances increase significantly with rising inflation.

With an election in sight, the government is listening to their concerns, and has made a pre-budget announcement to ease their pain.

Inflation has been applied to outstanding HELP balances since 1989 and has averaged 2.8% over that time. It is calculated under a funny formula that adds up the last four quarterly Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers and divides them by four quarterly CPI numbers from the year prior. Confusing huh? For the 2023 year, this figure came to 7.1%, much to the horror of our scholars. Come 1 June 2024, the formula will add another 4.7%.

Let's say a typical student (Norm?) had an average HELP debt of \$26,000 two years ago. Come June 2024, his loan will have increased by more than \$3,000.

Ever helpful on the hustings, the government this week announced plans to limit indexation to the lower of CPI and the Wages Price Increase (WPI), both calculated using the same whacky formula. CPI measures inflation, whereas WPI measures changes in the price of labour.

There's a couple of snags in their plan. The first is that WPI is rarely lower than CPI. It has only been so four times in the last 25 years, and these periods tend to correlate with abnormal inflationary happenings like a GST introduction or a post-lockdown spending spree.

The second is that the WPI is released later than the CPI. We won't know the WPI for 2024 HELP purposes until 15 May, reducing the window where a student might then act to reduce their debt before indexation is applied.

The third is that this is not law. It's an announcement that needs to find its way through both houses of parliament. The Greens would like to see indexation totally scrapped and might dig in for a more ambitious outcome.

“...feels like a political band-aid – a bit of feel good before an election

The plan includes a beneficial back-date to 2023 because it was one of those rare years where WPI was lower than inflation (thanks overseas conflict). The 7.1% rate previously applied would reduce to 3.2%, and the 2024 rate might drop to 4% based on government estimates. This would drop Norm's debt down by \$1,200.

That's notable news for Norm, but to me feels like a political band-aid – a bit of feel good before an election with concessions that might go dormant for ten years.

Surely there's better solutions. More regular indexation, a rate cap, repayments applied before indexation, incentivised voluntary payments or perhaps combined maternity and indexation leave. Hopefully the government can rip off the band-aid at the upcoming federal budget and bring us something a little more HELPful.

This is general information that is not personal financial, investment or taxation advice, and does not take into account your personal circumstances. Do not act based on this information without first obtaining the advice of a suitably qualified professional.

# Rates power up

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

SOUTH FREO residents will have to foot a higher rates bill than usual this year after the council announced plans for underground power.

According to a statement released last week, Western Power is in "the early stages" of a scheme to replace South Freo's "aging" above-ground powerlines in 2026.

The project will be co-funded by the council and Western Power, with Freo contributing \$16.5 million.

The council says the wider Freo residents' differential rates for the 2024-25 period will not be affected by the bill.

Instead, property owners in the area directly affected by the project will be coughing up a service charge of an estimated minimum \$842.86 per property per year, according to the plan.

According to the council, the underground power installation will span seven years, meaning each property owner within the boundary will be charged at least \$5900 for the project, with higher costs charged according to each property's gross rental value.

Long time South Freo resident John Longley says community reaction to the charge "really depends" on each property owner's



• Poles will disappear when South Freo's power goes underground.

financial position, given the high cost of the total charge.

"If you were a pensioner you'd find the charge pretty onerous," Mr Longley said.

"It's a lot of money for anyone quite frankly.

"Personally, I would pay it and be happy to do so, but I understand clearly that for people who are finding it tough it'd be a large impost."

## Impost

The project area stretches from Norfolk Street down to the edge of South Beach – the map is available on the City of Fremantle website.

The general Freo differential rates were discussed at the council meeting on Wednesday, which city business director Matthew Hammond acknowledged were 4.5 per cent higher than last year.

"We are still carrying some increased costs through contracts that were entered into back in prior years where inflation was much higher, and costs were much higher," Mr Hammond said.

According to the council agenda, the 2024-25 residential and commercial minimum payment will be \$1738.

Fremantle mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge says the rate rise is "genuinely necessary" to deliver council development and infrastructure projects.

"Anyone who suggests that we can fix up everything and spend money on new ideas, and not put up rates, is living in a fantasy world," Ms Fitzhardinge said.

The council will advertise the rates from today, Saturday, May 11.

# Bridge, Burt make Budget

by STEVE GRANT

WORK to replace the Fremantle Traffic Bridge will gear up this year with the project scoring \$88 million in WA treasurer Rita Saffioti's first budget, which was delivered on Thursday.

There was also \$35m to get the stalled Burt Street apartment redevelopment up and running, while \$16m will get the police complex on South Terrace under way, with a further \$32m the following year.

The Westport project to send Fremantle's container traffic to the Outer Harbour continues, and while the Future of Fremantle project will be winding up, there's \$116m secured for various parts of the project, including \$1m set aside to prepare an environment policy for Cockburn Sound.

## Sound

"This update will leverage the government's investment into a comprehensive program of scientific studies undertaken through the Western Australian Marine Science Institution's Westport Marine Science Program, which provides a contemporary understanding of the Cockburn Sound environment," the Budget papers note.

An additional \$33m was announced for the project by prime minister Anthony Albanese, who was in WA this week.

"Western Australia is the economic engine room of Australia, and this port will be a critical hub," Mr Albanese said.

On the Fremantle port itself, there's \$5m to upgrade B Shed to go with \$7.5m million left over for Victoria Quay's redevelopment.

The first cash towards the revamp

of Fishing Boat Harbour has made it into the Budget, with \$6m to replace electrical infrastructure, and the transport department including a public amenities building in its infrastructure program, though it didn't specify the amount.

Fremantle Prison will get \$1.75m for conservation, a significant drop from last year's \$3.8m, while there'll be a new reception area built for Fremantle Cemetery.

Down in Cockburn, Woodman Point Jetty is set to be replaced in 2025/26, while there's \$2.5m for the "Fremantle Football Changerooms Project" at Cockburn Arc and \$690,000 for an artificial reef to be constructed at Cockburn Sound. The Thornlie-Cockburn rail link is due to be completed this financial year.

Melville Senior High School's sports hall and STEM laboratory will be finished off this year.

Fremantle Labor MLA Simone McGurk was keen to talk up the Budget's appeal to families, with power bill rebates and a boost in housing to target critical shortages.

"Fremantle families are better off under a WA Labor government, and this state Budget shows that, with massive investments in education and cost of living support," Ms McGurk said.

"I know that families will welcome the latest \$400 electricity credit, which will make a real difference in paying the power bills.

"A \$400 electricity credit is also available for eligible Fremantle small businesses.

"The Cook Labor government's additional \$1.1 billion in funding to boost housing supply, improve housing affordability and bolster support services will go a long way to addressing housing shortages, an issue I know many Fremantle constituents feel passionately about."

# Have your say



## FREMANTLE OVAL PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT

Your feedback will help develop a Masterplan and attract funding for this historic precinct.

The City, along with its Project Partners the South Fremantle Football Club, Fremantle Football Club, and Western Australian Football Commission, is working to prepare a masterplan for the Fremantle Oval precinct.

For many years now, facilities for the public, players and patrons at the oval have been poor. With the popularity and participation of women's sport growing, particularly women's football, works are needed to improve facilities and ensure the future of the oval as a major sporting facility and destination in WA.

Redevelopment will provide opportunities for new uses within the precinct that benefit the community, city centre activity and the precinct's key neighbours: the Fremantle Prison, Fremantle Hospital and Fremantle Markets.

The City and its project partners are looking for the community's support in developing the Masterplan. The community's input will help inform the Masterplan's vision, its guiding principles, and assist the City in developing partnerships and attracting funding.

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# All those faces need spaces

**PAULA SAMSON** is a founding member of Melville City Climate Action Network. In this week's **THINKING ALLOWED** she explains why they're fighting so hard for Melville council to create two new parks in the Canning Bridge precinct.

**A**S many people sell their family home and downsize to an apartment, there is an issue of providing adequate Public Open Space.

Single family home blocks are demolished to make way for high-rise, high-density apartments with the subsequent loss of open space in residential backyards.

There is a WA government Public Open Space Strategy Guide for Local Governments which formalises what local governments plan and what communities can expect.

This guide states that a local council contributes to the community's overall aspirations for public open space by:

- meeting the sport, recreation and nature needs of the community;
- enhancing community health and wellbeing;
- providing high quality, sustainable park landscaping and infrastructure;
- valuing and protecting cultural heritage;
- improving community

connectivity and equitable access to key destinations;

- providing valuable education resources;
- increasing biodiversity, protecting vulnerable wild spaces and conserving environmental resources;
- creating new and different opportunities for use and programming of space; and,
- providing a framework for long-term planning.

Council should also, "ensure the provision of equitable access to nature, sport and recreation opportunities throughout the local government area" and, "ensure that parks are developed to a minimum standard to enhance residential amenity and to ensure functions identified in planning are fulfilled; eg playgrounds, shade, shelter, drinking fountains, seating, footpaths/boardwalks".

Nature spaces provide settings where people can enjoy nearby nature and protect local biodiversity.

Recreation spaces provide a setting for informal play and physical activity and obviously sport spaces provide a setting for formal structured sporting activities.

POS can include river foreshore but the guide clearly states that a council needs to identify impediments that may

prevent such POS being used by the community and to do an analysis of its suitability.

In relation to high-rise, part of this equitable access includes the guideline that 6.5sqm of active open space per resident should be set aside and that anything significantly less than this figure would seem inadequate.

When density increases by thousands of people then this must be addressed.

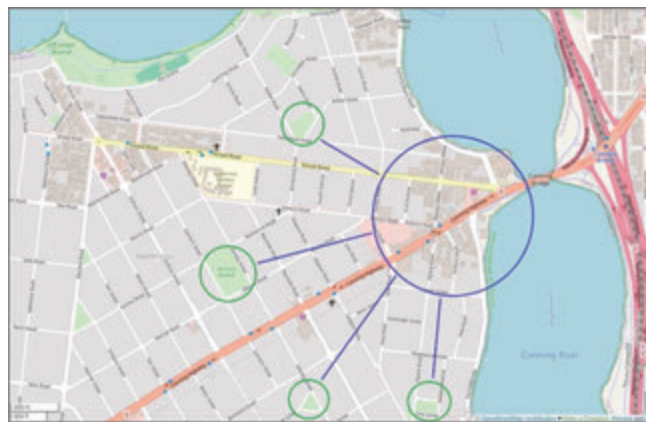
Most people accept that with an ever-increasing population in our metropolitan area it makes sense to build upward.

A good example of this is Singapore.

As Singapore's population and economy grew, so did its green cover: it was about 36 per cent in the 1980s and it now stands at 47 per cent with a tree canopy percentage of almost 30 per cent; one of the greenest cities in the world and with 300 kilometres of green corridors as part of its "Park Connector Network".

By comparison the City of Melville tree canopy in 2022 was only 13 per cent.

The high-rise, high density development occurring in the Canning Bridge Precinct under the direction of the City of Melville does not meet the POS guidelines.



**Figure 1: The blue circle marks the 400m radius of the high-rise development. With new high-rise development blocks being built, there are thousands of people moving into the area. However, there are no new green open spaces being developed within the 400m radius of these buildings.**

• Image by Agata Cabanek, researcher, lecturer, supervisor in landscape architecture and sustainable urbanism at UWA and Curtin University.

Although there is some river foreshore POS north of Canning Highway, the POS south of Canning Highway, named Apex Reserve, has "impediments" and lacks "suitability" to be used a POS.



**Figure 2. It begins being adjacent to the very busy**

**Canning Bridge, has rowing boat sheds, a car park, a pedestrian/bike pathway and the Rowing Pavilion.**

It should also be noted that many large boat trailers are obstacles and in winter this area is prone to flooding as can be seen in the following photos.



• Photo 1: Apex Reserve flooding, Mount Pleasant, and Photo 2: boat trailers that block public access and make it unsuitable for public open space.

It is predicted that close to 8000 people will be living in the Canning Bridge Precinct area.

Using the 6.5sqm per person guideline equates to 52,000sqm.

Currently, the City of Melville residents are advocating to have one park (3,500sqm) north of Canning Highway and one park (2,000sqm) south of Canning Highway.

This is only one-tenth of what is needed.

Therefore, as high-density living increases, we need to know, understand and be vigilant in ensuring public open space guidelines are followed by our local councils.

• If you've got something juicy to say, send it to [news@fremantleherald.com](mailto:news@fremantleherald.com)

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**For the better**

# Developer wants to ditch art over council pushing up costs

by KATHERINE KRAAYVANGER

THE developer of the Woolstores shopping centre wants a public art requirement dropped because Fremantle council demands have added \$250,000 to the cost.

Silverleaf Pty Ltd was granted approval for a \$14 million, three-storey, mixed-use complex on the block located opposite the Fremantle Railway station at the beginning of last year.

However, as part of the

approval, Silverleaf was required to assign 1 per cent of the total development cost towards a "public art contribution" totalling \$140,000.

In the formal request to delete the art and heritage condition, Silverleaf claims it was "forced to adopt a higher level of design" to replicate the brick podium design of the Woolstores which has added \$250,000 to the development cost.

The contribution is a requirement of the Council's Local Planning Policy 2.19, which demands "commercial and

multiple residential" developments allocate a percentage of the development towards public art or heritage works.

Silverleaf owner Gerard O'Brien said the request to delete the art and heritage condition from the approval was not "asking for an exemption from the art", citing the effort his company had gone to to incorporate the brick podium design in lieu of art.

"It's simply accepting the fact that it is a Woolstore, and we're spending a lot of money on that," Mr O'Brien said.

"We could quite easily remove that and put up your mosaic panels, but it's not what I really want to do."

Fremantle Society president John Dowson was critical of Silverleaf's request to not have to pay the heritage or art contribution, disagreeing with the developer's claim that a "pragmatic" approach to the build was necessary.

"Too many but not all of this developer's previous developments have not added a great deal of excellence [to

Fremantle]," Mr Dowson said. "There needs to be developer contribution to the amenity of the area, not just the profit of the development itself, and for the owners."

"Anything built in the centre of this historic town should have design excellence."

The item to delete the contribution from Silverleaf's agreement was deferred at the council meeting on Wednesday.

It will be addressed at the next meeting on May 22.

## Westport call for songline

by DANIELLE SMITH

THE discovery of an Indigenous songline along the route to the proposed Outer Harbour at Kwinana has prompted calls for it to be reflected in the design.

Curtin University professor of sustainability Peter Newman participated in a Westport workshop with Indigenous elders who revealed the songline along Stock Road and says he's an enthusiastic supporter of highlighting its cultural significance.

"You could take people on that journey through that cross-section of the coastal plain," Prof Newman said.

"I just think 'brilliant' when things like that get found and acted on instead of being pushed aside like we have in the past."

Prof Newman said it made sense that Stock Road had been a songline, as Indigenous workers were some of the state's best cattlemen and would have followed their traditional paths while moving the herds around.

Whadjuk elder Noel Nannup was part of the Main Roads-sponsored Aboriginal Journey Ways project which explored the cultural significance of Indigenous journey ways aligned with modern roads and bridges.

Dr Nannup told the Herald he'd been trying to alert people for 30 years to the fact most of the state's main roads followed ancient songlines.

### Journey

"A songline is a story associated with a journey made by a spiritual ancestor. During this journey landscapes and landmarks were formed, relationships were observed and established, mistakes were made, lessons were learnt, skills were developed, and the values of community were established," Dr Nannup wrote in the Aboriginal Journey Ways co-authored with Francesca Robertson.

Whadjuk Man Steven Jacobs said as Indigenous people followed the seasons, songlines provided important information such as where water could be found along the pathways.

Law and culture outlined a responsibility to look after the land to preserve and maintain healthy vegetation and animals to hunt.

"The songlines incorporate ceremonial places throughout the pathways they followed," Mr Jacobs said.

"Indigenous people had identity and pathways as far out as Rottnest when the land was joined together," Mr Jacobs said.

While Dr Nannup's book Aboriginal Journey Ways doesn't reference Stock Road, it does tell the story of the Spirit Woman Jindalee, whose songline stretches between Coombarnup (Bunbury) and Jambinbirri (Champion Bay at Geraldton).

"Spirit Man, Spirit Woman, wedj (emu) and yongka (kangaroo) are left discussing who will be the carers of everything," Dr Nannup tells the story.

• Continued page 8



Thousands gathered to Save Leighton in the first phase of the 25-year campaign. - Photo by Michael Wearne

## Open letter to Minister for Planning, JOHN CAREY, MLA

Dear Minister Carey,

You have a big zoning decision to make on behalf of all of us about Perth's beloved Port Beach – south Leighton.

Which direction will you favour?

Support the broad public good - space for people across the metropolitan area to have a swim, kick a footy and enjoy a picnic behind undulating, restored dunes that protect the coast from erosion. High-quality development would be set well back from the beach (aligned to Bracks Street) to allow this to happen.

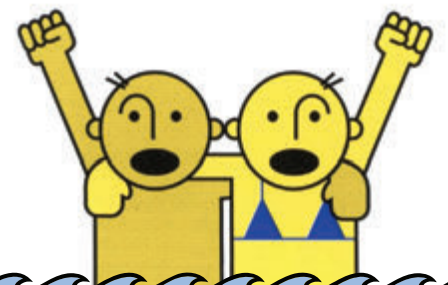
Or

Bow to developers' interests – overdevelopment and suffocating traffic constraining access for a growing population; the beach to be forever scarred by expensive groynes and seawalls.

It's your call now. The right decision, with the community standing alongside you would see this public asset become a tangible symbol of what the best of political leadership can deliver. To do the right thing by the people, for generations to come.

Yours in hope,

**Perth beach-loving community,  
now and in the future**



Find out more, visit [saveleighton.org](http://saveleighton.org)

**SAVE  
LEIGHTON**

# Songlines call

• From page 7

"Wedj thrashed around and left, yongka suggested that Spirit Man and Spirit Woman (Jindalee) should be carers of everything.

"Spirit Man and Jindalee stood up; they were tall, taller than the karri trees.

"They could feel the rhythm of the land."

The story follows Jindalee as she moves north collecting Spirit Children before reaching Jambinbirri and heading east.

As part of the Great Eastern Highway bypass interchanges project in



• Dr Noel Nannup

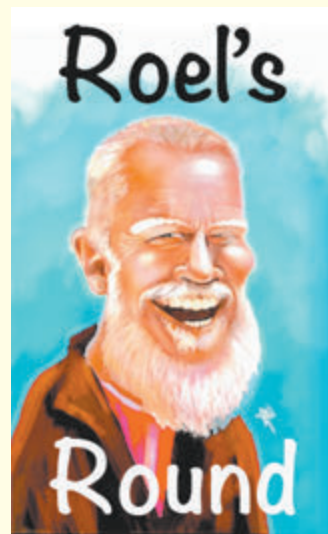
2021, Main Roads said: "Aboriginal heritage is dynamic. It includes tangible and intangible expressions of culture that link generations of Aboriginal people over time."

Mr Jacobs said law and culture, purpose and identity

had been affected by the loss of land which was not sold or given away but taken with force.

"We followed the culture and law to the letter," said Mr Jacobs, "it made us very strong-minded and good people for our community we lived in."

Mr Jacobs said there were promising changes taking place with reconciliation action plans, anti-discrimination policies, the inclusion of indigenous heritage in tourism, and cultural awareness programs filtering into schools.



# Minifesto?

I WAS disappointed with the Manifesto the Fremantle Society published here in the Fremantle Herald last week. I thought it was very light on and lacked innovative suggestions for the future of Fremantle.

It is really not good enough to say you don't want taller buildings in the West End, on Victoria Quay, and the old town, whatever the latter means, and that "The location of taller new development should go elsewhere in Fremantle".

But where? Why not specify it? That's what a big picture manifesto should be doing.

Which locations in Fremantle are suitable to taller buildings of 6-12 storeys?

Where can we create the necessary urban infill to build many more homes, and make serious inroads into the current housing and rental crisis?

Where are the boundaries of the "old town" does it stop at Parry Street, or Point Street, or even further east at James Street?

I absolutely agree that high-rise in the West End is not on, and would also not like to see that on Victoria Quay, but the Fremantle Society is on record of opposing in the past two six-storey bookmarks buildings at either side of Victoria Quay, so they do not even accept medium-rise at the port.

## Opposed

The Fremantle Society opposed the Little Lane eight-storey medium-rise apartment building next to Target, and have also expressed opposition to the eight-storey medium-rise residential plans for the Point Street carpark site.

The Society should really be clear what they mean when they say they oppose high-rise, when they also are against medium-rise in the inner city.

What does the Society believe is acceptable building height for our inner city?

There is little doubt in my mind that Hesperia will want to add at least two storeys when they develop the Elders woolstores opposite Clancy's.

The renders of the current Coles woolstores development by Silverleaf Investments also indicate they might want to construct a building, or buildings, higher than ten storeys behind the current development, so Fremantle will have to get used to taller buildings in the inner city.

I do agree with the Manifesto that the WA government should create a Fremantle Redevelopment Authority, because the huge port precinct development, when the working port moves to Kwinana, is so significant for our city that it demands cohesive, excellent and long-term planning, where housing diversity should be a priority.

The redevelopment authority (EPRA) worked very well in East Perth, where they created well designed buildings and streetscape and a real community lifestyle.

No one wants to see only tall concrete boxes.

For example the large Point Street residential development would for me ideally have a beautiful streetscape of two- to four-storey townhouses along Adelaide Street, and maybe duplicate that along Cantonment Street.

## Rise up

The eight-storey apartment building could rise up behind the terrace houses.

Ground level retail is not necessarily good, as shops close at 5pm and create dark streets.

What I was hoping to get from the Manifesto is ideas, instead of again only saying what the Fremantle Society opposes.

For example, the Manifesto states that housing is not good for the Fremantle Oval development, and I wonder why that is.

Why not, and what does the Fremantle Society suggests should be developed there?

We desperately need more people living in the inner city.

I would love to see Fremantle Oval become a real community space, a place where people can gather, even when there are no music or sports events on.

A kind of parkland, with some medium-rise apartment buildings, a modern gym, a nice cafe/bar, and a 24/7 activation.

Could Fremantle Oval also cater for other sports and accommodate athletics, by creating a running track around the oval, where there was a cycling track in the past?

Substantial development in the Fremantle CBD is not only inevitable, it is desirable, and we need to lose that fear of taller buildings.

What we have to continue to demand is excellence, innovation, and creativity in architecture.

We need new iconic buildings, that will become the heritage of the future.

Fremantle needs to start embracing substantial development in the inner city, not oppose all change. Our city needs to grow to prosper.

Roel Loopers/Freoview

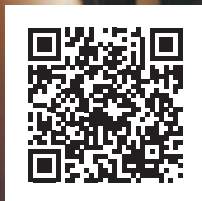
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# City to meet Turtle Trackers

by STEVE GRANT

COCKBURN council says recommendations submitted in a report by volunteer Turtle Trackers in January are "being considered".

Last week the volunteers said they were angry their recommendations had been ignored, following the discovery of nearly 100 turtles which had been killed by foxes in the last month ("Angry trackers 'ignored'," Herald, May 4, 2024).

Cockburn CEO Daniel Simms said the report had been shared with Murdoch University's Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtles program and a formal meeting with the trackers had been scheduled for "later this week".

## Conservation efforts

"The annual Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtle Report for 2023, authored by Murdoch University's Dr Anthony Santoro will be submitted to the City in coming weeks," Mr Simms said.

"The report's recommendations, together with feedback from turtle tracker volunteers, will inform future conservation efforts.:"

Mr Simms said there were ongoing discussions between local governments, the state's biodiversity, conservation and attractions department and scientific experts about turtle conservation with the City and across the greater Perth region.

"This requires a holistic approach with all stakeholders," he said.

The City of Cockburn has been a steadfast and leading supporter

of collaborative efforts to save the region's endemic Southwestern Snake-Necked Turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) for many years.

Mr Simms said Cockburn had supported turtle conservation by establishing the SOSNT program five years ago with Murdoch University.

It had also supported and coordinated the Turtle Trackers, collaborated with major landowners to co-ordinate feral animal control, built turtle habitat through weed management and revegetation, commissioned turtle

surveys and provided grants in rural zones for land restoration and feral animal control.

"The City is committed to the SOSNT partnership, which provides data and research on turtle conservation," Mr Simms said.

"The City has commissioned turtle population surveys for 11 wetlands in Cockburn.

"Originally planned for autumn, these surveys will now commence in spring due to the current lack of rainfall and resultant low water levels."

## herald letters

### The turtle and the hare

THE City is disappointed by editor Steve Grant's decision to print the resultant article ("Angry trackers 'ignored'," Herald, May 4, 2024) after providing the City with an hour to respond before close of business.

In a phone call, Mr Grant said he had received scathing criticism of the City but refused to delay his article, regardless of whether the City had enough time to respond. This is both unprofessional in terms of reporting fair and balanced news, and misleads readers.

The City's small but dedicated Sustainability and Environment team works in the field and is not always contactable or available to

respond immediately.

As with all levels of government, media responses must also be approved by an executive and/or elected officials, in our case the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor.

There would clearly not be enough time to achieve either within the hour, or even until the final 7pm deadline, with staff members unavailable in that short, last-minute timeframe.

This resulted in unbalanced coverage of an important local issue in the May 3 edition. This is not only unfair treatment of the City, but of your readers who have the right to read articles that are balanced, fair, accurate and properly researched.

We notice the article also neglected to include responses from the Save Our Snake-Necked Turtles program at Murdoch University or the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and



• Last week's discovery of nearly 100 dead turtles.

Attractions, despite the article levelling criticism at those bodies.

**Daniel Simms,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Cockburn

*The Herald responds: First off, the City might contemplate why the trackers felt unable to discuss these issues at the carefully-manicured press conference a day earlier and specifically requested a follow-up interview with the Herald. We asked the same questions as at the conference, but perhaps the phalanx of bureaucrats trying to massage the message to shift the blame onto climate change wasn't conducive to telling it like they felt.*

*That the City seems taken aback*

*by the trackers' feelings might also be seen as a bit of an indictment of its communication with them.*

*And lastly; we did contact Murdoch University (after the City), but instead of demanding emails (and follow-up emails) and whinging about how hard it would be to contact anyone, their media team gave us a call to make sure they understood the trackers' concerns, spoke to the researchers at SOSNT and came back with a pretty good account of the challenges the project faces and how that might have impacted the volunteers. Given that genuine effort, I reckon we gave them a pretty light touch in the story.*

**Steve Grant**  
Editor

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# Heads in the sand or just burying bad news?

**B**URIED in the agenda for May 8 Fremantle council meeting is an item with the seemingly-innocuous title: "Advertising of the Proposed Differential rate for the 2024/25 Financial Year".

This occupies only six pages of the agenda and three pages of the attachments – suggesting it is a relatively minor item.

Burying it on the second page of the Table of Contents and at the end of the agenda papers smacks of a "Yes, Minister" tactic of Sir Humphrey Appleby – if you wanted to be able to say the minister had been advised of something but didn't really want the minister to see it, you buried it at the bottom of the last 'red box' so they'd either not get to it or be so tired they wouldn't appreciate its importance.

There is also a two-page attachment setting out the "Objects and Reasons for Differential Rates for the 2024/25 financial year".

At page 134 of 137 of the agenda, there is a table that, perhaps inadvertently, tells us by exactly how much the City of Fremantle is proposing to increase the general residential rates, as well as the differential rate categories.

The proposed rates in the dollar can be exactly compared with the actual rates for the current financial year set out in the 2023-24 budget.

The proposed rate in the dollar for 2024-25 is a 5.4 per cent increase on 2023-24, which, in turn, was a 9 per cent increase on the



• IAN KER is a South Fremantle resident and former councillor at the City of Vincent. He's delved deep into Fremantle's finances and differential rates and sees some holes.

previous year.

Inflation in 2022-23 (March to March) was 3.6 per cent.

The Reserve Bank expects inflation to "decline to around 3.5 per cent by the end of 2024 and to reach a little below 3 per cent at the end of 2025".

Fremantle ratepayers will be slugged with a 14.9 per cent increase over two years – some much more due to the vagaries of the valuer general's revaluation of properties for last year.

If, for example, your rates increased 20 per cent in 2023-24, you'll be paying 26.4 per cent more in 2024-25 than you did in 2022-3.

Expected inflation over the two years 2022-3 and 2023-4 is about

7 per cent - less than half the rate increase proposed by the City of Fremantle.

And for those in South Fremantle and City South, the item proposes an additional "service charge" of at least \$842.86 a year (average \$970) for seven years for underground power.

## Buried

Why was this buried in an item on differential rates, without even a mention in the heading or the summary of the item?

And how is it that vacant residential land gets preferential treatment with a lower minimum rate?

**Normal practice, that is, unless you're a local government that has exhausted its capacity to raise loans**

Surely, the whole point of a higher rate for vacant land is to discourage land being left vacant, often to the detriment of local residents – the attachment on the item states: "The City considers the development of all vacant rateable land to be in the best interests of the community as it will improve increase the vibrancy of the city and neighbourhood centres".

Nearly half the 9 per cent increase in 2023-24 was due to the full construction cost of the South Beach toilets and changerooms (still not even started, by the way – the funds have been carried over to 2024-25) being charged to the ratepayers of that year instead of being spread over a number of years through borrowings, as would be normal practice.

Normal practice, that is, unless you're a local government that has exhausted its capacity to raise loans.

Now, if the South Beach facilities had been funded through loans, the combined rate increase 2023-25 would be 10.6 per cent - not 14.9 per cent. That's still a hefty slug, especially at a time when many families are doing it tough,

but still nearly one-third less than the City's current proposal of 14.9 per cent.

But it gets worse – if that's possible.

Total anticipated rate revenue is forecast to increase by 10 per cent (\$5.8m) over 2023-24 – the difference from 5.4 per cent presumably arising from an increase in the number of rateable properties (or, in some cases, increased rateable values due to property improvements).

Moreover, since the \$2.15m for the South Beach facilities was a one-off, the council effectively has \$8 million more in operational funds in 2024-25. That's an increase of 14.3 per cent in a single year during which inflation is expected to be around 3.5 per cent.

City of Fremantle gives the game away, however, in its plugging of the South Fremantle Underground Power Project, when it admits: "Construction is anticipated to start in 2026, but before then the City of Fremantle will need to build its reserves, to contribute to the project which is co-funded by Western Power."

Cost overruns on the Civic Centre and the sale of revenue-producing assets have so diminished the financial capacity of the City that rates have to be increased to "build its reserves".

Enough is enough!

It's Time (yes, I do have a long memory) for the Fremantle community to insist on a forensic examination of the City of Fremantle's finances and accounting practices, and to think seriously about a rates strike.

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# Wacky festival

 arts  
STEPHEN POLLOCK

**A**N inflatable God with green hair and skinny arms, an Australian barista who makes men from magic coffee beans, and a group therapy session where all the participants are dead.

These are just some of the wacky characters and plots in the 2024 Over the Fence film festival, which is dedicated to off-beat and subversive comedy shorts.

The theme for this year's festival is the "endings and beginnings of life in all of its facets, two inescapable paradigms that cannot exist without each other".

Or the *Circle of Life* as Elton John once said.

Festival director Greg Coffey has handpicked 14 of the best comedy shorts from across the globe with selections from the UK, US, Spain and New Zealand.

There's also a strong contingent of Australian flicks with Victoria well represented.

"What impresses me about this years selection is how generous and giving filmmakers seem to have become since covid," Coffey says.

"There is no right or wrong emphasised in these stories, rather how do we get along with what we have...it's wonderful."

If you like your comedy a little absurd with a divine twist, then *The Wavy Handed God* could be your salvation.

It's about a man who wakes up alone in a vast green wasteland, then sees God...

Well, it's actually one of those super tall inflatable tube men you see at the side of the road

# Revealing self-determination

**T**HE annual *Revealed* Indigenous art exhibition and market is back at the Fremantle Arts Centre, but with a new focus on self-determination, is being managed by the Aboriginal Arts Centre Hub of WA.

The 2024 exhibition showcases more than 150 artworks from nearly 70 artists, with 42 first-time participants and a range of mediums such as painting, textiles, and sculpture.

All proceeds from art sales will be returned to the artists and

their respective art centres, as part of AACHWA's support for Aboriginal art and fostering a sustainable industry.

In addition to the main exhibition, *Revealed 2024* features a spotlight exhibition by Esperance-based Darryl Dempster, an independent artist known for his raw and joyful style.

A non-verbal artist, Dempster expresses his thoughts through a range of mediums such as textiles and paintings.

The selection process for artists was rigorous, with a panel of industry experts, including

renowned Aboriginal artists and curators, carefully evaluating submissions to ensure the context and exhibition remains grounded in the cultural heritage of WA.

Fremantle council director Pete Stone said *Revealed* was a highlight in the arts calendar.

"*Revealed* is an opportunity for the community to immerse themselves in a rich and layered showcase of Indigenous art and listen to the many First Nations stories that shape Western Australia," Mr Stone said.

*Revealed 2024* opened on Thursday May 9.

advertising things.

A light-hearted film with a surreal bent, *The Wavy Handed God* was made in Victoria and has gone down well on the festival circuit, claiming top spot at the Paris Independent Film Festival, Tokyo Indie Shorts fest, and 2023 Vegas Shorts.

## Outcast

Some of the best comedy is rooted in man's worst fears.

In *Bald Future*, Peter believes that his worsening hair loss is the root cause of all his problems at work, where he is treated with disdain and has become an outcast.

Peter just wants to fit in, but things go from bad to worse when the company hires the good-looking Brad, who has a set of flowing locks.

With his job hanging by a thread, Peter hatches a desperate

scheme to get his career back on track. But will it succeed?

Co-directed by Reilly Archer-Whelan, this quirky Victorian movie is a hoot and manages to tackle some weighty social themes while still making you laugh.

The UK comedy short *Feirg* has a great concept - Hera finds herself at a grief therapy group where all the participants are dead. The only way out is to apply for reincarnation...

If the film is anything like *The Lobster*, we are in for a mind-bending treat.

The *Voice* won't reveal anymore of the plot - it's best to go along and see what unfolds.

Most folk love a *Rocky*-style yarn where the underdog overcomes all the odds to beat the favourite and emerge victorious.

Well, *Ultimate Frisbee* is a quirky and slightly dark take on that genre.

Cameron, who is on the verge of

taking his own life, is coerced into playing a game of ultimate frisbee against a champion-winning player.

What unfolds is a sweaty redemption of sorts that subverts the established sports movie genre into something funny and slightly unique.

If you like magic and dark fantasy, then the *Human Bean* will be right up your wizard's sleeve.

'Flynn, a Brunswick coffee lord, unknowingly births the Human Bean, and tries to use his bodily fluids to win the Brunswick Best Beans competition.'

I think we'll leave it at that.

**Over the Fence is at Luna Leederville on Friday May 17 and Luna SX Fremantle on Friday May 24. For screening times and tix see [lunapalace.com.au](http://lunapalace.com.au). Festival attendees can vote for their favourite short with the winner announced at the end of the Festival.**

## THAT WILD COLONIAL BOY DANCE

A solo exhibition by R Boulden/kvt... a descendant of those dancing boys



A provocative, perplexed response to that YES/NO referendum that intends to scrape the underbelly of the naysayers and apologists.

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# Wild ride

 food  
STEPHEN POLLOCK

IT was a middle-class humiliation of sorts. As cars idled at the traffic lights on the corner of Preston Point Road and the Canning Highway at rush-hour, personal trainers shamed flabby, middle-aged blokes into carrying medicine balls and doing burpees on the verge directly beside the road. It was the 21st century equivalent of being put in the stocks and pelted with rotten fruit – a subtle body shaming for the bourgeoisie. All this came flooding back to

me as I parked beside Wild Dining, a couple of doors down from May Street Larder and the gym in question.

A relative newcomer on the East Freo block, Wild Dining specialises in Thai street food with a fusion twist.

Their menu was divided into starters, mains, noodles and fried rice, curries, salads, sides and desserts. There was also a kids menu, cocktails and smoothies, and it was BYO with a corkage charge.

It was a decent menu with a fairly standard range of dishes and a few fusion twists.

Highlights included the Shark Bay Miang Scallop, Red Panang Chicken Curry Puff, Chu Chee Mussels with Roti, and slow-

cooked Massaman Beef Curry.

Duck isn't something I would normally eat at home, so when the opportunity arises I tend to get it in restaurants, so I ordered the Roasted Duck in Red Curry (\$31).

It was a wise decision, as it was the best quality duck I've ever had in a curry.

The thickish slices were unbelievably tender with a nice pink flush to the meat and a little smidgen of fat on the side.

There was plenty of it too and they hadn't skimped on the relatively expensive daffy.

The all important curry sauce was a hit – it had a nice subtle heat that didn't overpower the duck and just enough coconut cream to make it moreish and offset the spice.

I always find the lack of veg in Thai curry a bit of a let down.

This had some lovely-tasting

lychee and pineapple, but I would have liked some more green beans to bulk it out, but that's the nature of the beast.

Overall it was a superb red curry and the duck was fantastic.

My wife "Special K" opted to try one of the fusion meals – the intriguing Kee Mao Fettuccine (\$27)

Imagine Pavarotti liked 'drunken noodles' and you are getting close to the essence of this dish.

"The fettuccini has been well cooked and is coated in a subtle savoury sauce with a hint of basil and chilli," my wife noted.

"But for me it's a waste of the pork belly, as it's all gnarly and crispy and you are missing the juicy flesh bit.

"I think it's been well executed and the flavours are there, but it's not one I would re-order. File under

interesting experiment."

The meal ended on a high with the kids sharing the crispy and creamy lemon chicken (\$23) with steamed jasmine rice (\$5)

This dish is a crowd-pleaser and is basically lemon chicken with a creamy veneer.

It had a lovely crisp coating with the cream offsetting the piquant lemon.

The rice was spot on too – fluffy, fragrant and perfectly cooked.

The food is definitely high quality at Wild Dining – the duck was a standout – and the price of the dishes are about standard, but some of the portions were a bit on the small side. The swish venue is classy and the service was very good.

Overall, it's a great addition to the little group of cafes and shops just before East Freo town hall.

On the way back to the car I entertained passing motorists by doing star jumps on the verge, like some deranged version of Jane Fonda from the 1980s.

My kids were not amused...  
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# Historic stunner

**T**HIS heritage-listed East Fremantle home has an interesting provenance.

Situated in the Plympton Ward, it was built around 1910 as part of a row of terrace houses in the Federation Italianate style.

There's no denying this abode, named 'Daylesford', is a real beauty with gorgeous tuckpointing, white picket fence

and a classic black 'Number 10' frontdoor.

But there's a 21st century-twist to this vintage tale with Robeson Architects giving the house a reboot in 2017, transforming it into a three bedroom two bathroom classic with the best of old and new.

This is evident in the kitchen where the traditional jarrah

floors suddenly give way to large contemporary floor tiles, a stunning matte-black kitchen and a futuristic alfresco, accessed through bi-fold doors.

In lesser hands, the transition would be jarring, but under the watch of Robeson Architects it's seamless and stylish.

Elsewhere the home is almost an archetype of what a heritage

home in East Freo should be (it's got that long entrance hallway with rooms either side and beautiful period touches).

The lounge is particularly inviting and has a gorgeous vintage fireplace and lovely

artworks. It's sure to be a cosy favourite when the colder weather comes knocking.

The home has a great layout with a study/ additional living area at the rear of the home, giving a family space to spread out and do their own thing.

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Upstairs is the main bedroom – it's a cracker with massive built-in robes, swish ensuite and a large balcony for sundowner drinks. The others two bedrooms are a good size and also have built-in robes.

They share a family bathroom, which in many homes can look dated or is an afterthought, but this is a stunner with a big standalone bath and chic cabinetry.

Back to the kitchen – it's a beauty with a large island/breakfast bar, double sinks, top-end stainless steel appliances and sleek contemporary cupboards and drawers.

There's plenty of room for a large dining table, or open the bifold doors and step into the modern courtyard alfresco.

It's a fantastic addition to the home with a built-in BBQ and plenty of room for a lounge setting and market umbrella.

Come winter, close the bi-fold doors a little and you will get some nice heat via the sun hitting the glass.

The home includes air conditioning, high ceilings, separate rear entrance, enhanced security system, garden shed, no strata fees and a garage accessed from the rear laneway.

This architectural award-winning home has mixed-use zoning for commercial and residential, and there's potential to split the home in two with a one-bedroom townhouse at the rear.

It's in a superb spot and is literally around the corner from all the cafes, small bars and restaurants on George Street (no more Ubers required).

This is a beautiful family home in an historic suburb.

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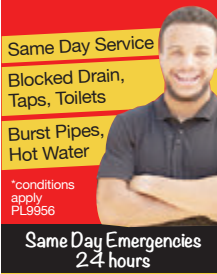


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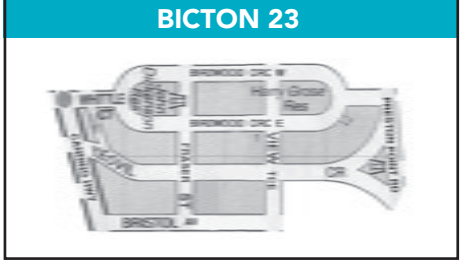
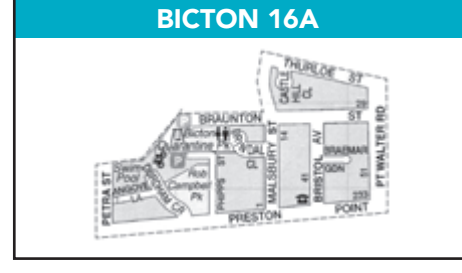
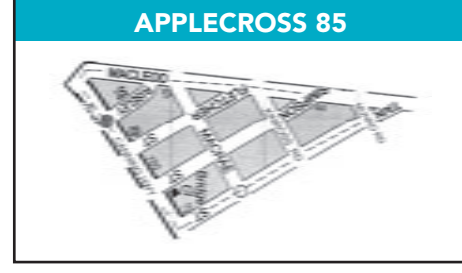
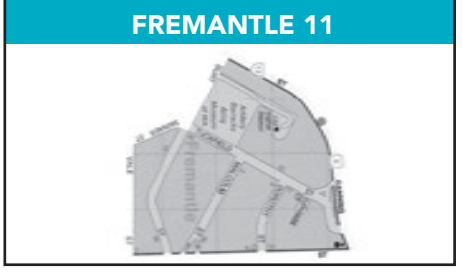
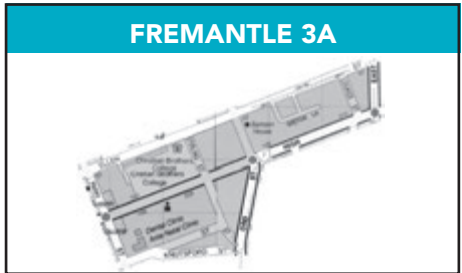
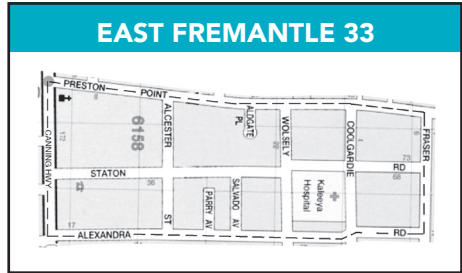
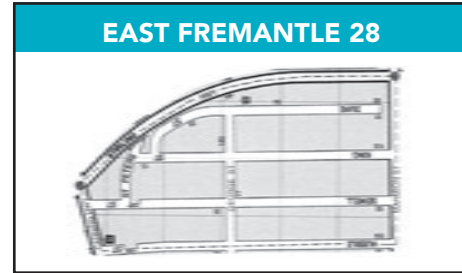
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# Amazing Amelia

**S**EVEN-YEAR-OLD Amelia Kim is starting to realise her 'normal' is different from everyone else's.

The Hammond Park youngster has cystic fibrosis and on a bad day has to take up to 40 pills and have two bouts of physio.

"When Amelia was younger cystic fibrosis made her feel special, however as she gets older, she is beginning to feel like it can be a burden," says Amelia's mum, Amanda.

"...the handfuls of pills she takes each day, the daily physiotherapy, the nebulised treatments, the frequent hospital appointments, the school absences or missed events due to illness.

"Her daily physiotherapy is often the biggest challenge as, understandably, she wants to be off playing like the other kids instead of sitting down doing her treatments."

Thankfully, Amelia is a plucky, up-beat soul and is naturally "optimistic and happy".

She lives life to the full and enjoys gymnastics, swimming, dancing and singing.

"We try to change up her physio routine when we can, reward her often, and make life as fun as possible in between all the medical stuff to keep her spirits high," Amanda says.

Children with cystic fibrosis cannot be in close contact with each other due to the high risk of cross infection, adding to their



feeling of isolation and loneliness.

Thankfully, Cystic Fibrosis WA recently setup CF Kids Connect, a safe online program for children with the condition to socialise and do group activities like lego, clay, craft, origami, potion making and even designing a fundraising tote bag for the CFWA Shop.

The sessions are for kids aged 5+ and facilitated by CFWA's child and family therapist.

"It always made us sad to think Amelia wouldn't ever be able to hang out with those who understand what she goes through best, so the CF Kids Connect program has been an invaluable initiative," Amanda says.

"The sessions are very relaxed, and the kids are welcome to chat and connect about anything they like - sharing the highs and lows of

living with cystic fibrosis amongst all the other 'kid stuff'.

"It was very cute hearing them all discussing how many enzymes they should take after their last baking session when it was taste testing time."

Having a child with chronic illness can put strain on the entire family, and often younger siblings don't understand what's happening and feel they are not getting enough attention.

Amelia has a five-year-old sister Scarlett, and Amanda says the sibling events organised by CFWA are invaluable.

"The CF Sibs Camp and CF Sibs Day Out are also great ways CFWA support the siblings of children with cystic fibrosis," she says.

"Growing up with a sibling who has a chronic illness isn't easy, and this allows them to also have some respite from the challenges."

It's been nearly four years since Amelia's last hospital admission and she is in "relatively good health".

She recently participated in a clinical trial of Trikafta, a new drug to treat cystic fibrosis, which she is still taking.

More than 400 sandgroppers have cystic fibrosis and it's the most common, life-limiting genetic condition affecting Aussies.

It causes an abnormal amount of sticky mucus within the lungs, airways and the digestive system, which can lead to irreversible damage. Amanda says the



• Amelia Kim has cystic fibrosis, but lives life to the full.

treatment model has shifted over the years.

"Cystic fibrosis treatments used to be about trying to treat the symptoms and reverse the damage already done, however now it's about preventative treatments and slowing down the progression of it," she says.

"New medications that treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis, such as Trikafta, mean our children will now not only live long lives, but also have an increased quality of life.

"We are still very optimistic

that a cure for cystic fibrosis will be found in Amelia's lifetime."

On May 24 CFWA are holding their annual fundraiser, 65 Roses Day, with people ordering red roses to raise money for the not-for-profit.

There's also a Virtual Rose Garden if you don't want to buy a physical bouquet and other options to donate.

**This year Amanda is selling roses on CFWA's stall at Bunnings Cockburn Central. To donate or find out more see [fundraise.cfwau.org.au/65-roses-day](http://fundraise.cfwau.org.au/65-roses-day).**

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This week here in Young Plumbing's office, the technician plumbers/gas fitters have been having a lively debate over their lunchtime sandwiches... 'when do you make the call to replace, versus trying to resurrect the dead'... a timeless question for all tradesmen of all trades... everyone had something to offer.

My word or wisdom to the masses was... a simple base formula for when to replace is... 'the unit is more than half the way through its 'expected' lifespan and the cost of the repair or service is greater than than half of the cost of a new unit' (unit only).

ie. A Bosch 10H \$1000 (unit only) at 6 years old (12 year designed life span ) cost \$350 for a major/ diaphragm service is worth the maintenance... at 9 years I would suggest that it may not be specifically I'll talk about hot water units... but these principle might as easily be applied to cars or washing machines or any mechanical appliance.

Factors to consider:

- What is the average (normal) lifespan of the unit normal = no malfunctions in lifetime and average consistent use (a hwu in household of 16 is working 4 times harder than in a 4 person household... therefore its life will be much less).
- What is the base cost of the equivalent replacement ie. are the newbies good value or on special atm ??
- What is the 'cost' of the repair or service... the labour cost of the service can be as much as the labour to install a new unit.



Tony Young

- What is history of the machine... the more intervention a machine has had... the shorter the overall lifespan. ie. attendance to fault ie damage sustained during the fault, human error... unseen condition.
- Has technology change... we are seeing a lot of efficiency innovations atm... does this factor in the equation of value for money.
- Has the unit had a major problem previously... especially early on... a lemon is always going to be a lemon.

I have often been asked to repair a unit, that I have advised the owner to replace... and my track record is pretty good.

A memorable one being a client who insisted on me only changing the element on an electric and not the thermostat also... back a week later to change the other with another labour charge, he was unhappy about the double labour charge... the moral of the story... get a second opinion/phone a friend ;)

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