



# free beaches australia inc.

Inc. No. IA 29529

*“nude beaches for every body”*

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13 January, 2009

Mr C Shepherd  
Senior Strategic Planning Officer  
City of Nedlands  
PO Box 9, Nedlands WA 6909

Dear Craig

Re: **Swanbourne Precinct Masterplan**

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on 17 December to discuss issues related to the “Swanbourne Precinct” and more particularly, Swanbourne Beach.

As you are aware, FBA is a national organisation that represents the interests of clothing-optional beach users, and lobbies for increased access to beaches designated as legal nude bathing areas. As such, FBA is one of two organisations that represent people who use and enjoy North Swanbourne Beach. Although Lot 357 (the current clothing-optional beach) is not administered by the City of Nedlands, those on the free beach [*beach where one is “free” to not wear clothes*] would be the major users of the public facilities at Swanbourne Beach during the summer months.

I thought that it would assist matters to provide some formal written feedback to you, in lieu of filling out one of your forms which we neglected to take away with us.

In summary, FBA has the following concerns:

1. **Provision of Adequate Enclosed Shower Facilities** – unlike most other beach users, the majority of those using the free beach do not live in the immediate Swanbourne area. The Free Beach attracts people from all over the metropolitan area, as well as tourists. These people particularly appreciate the opportunity to shower before travelling home, or making use of other facilities in the area such as restaurants and shopping centres. Free beach users cannot use open-air showers (no bathers) and the proposed café facilities are totally inadequate as they reduce the number of showers by 70%. This cannot be justified on any basis. Future development plans should include the provision of adequate facilities suitable for showering without clothes, whilst at the same time discouraging inappropriate use.
2. **Car Parking** – the removal of car parking bays to provide a grassed BBQ area, and the proposed café development, both reduce(d) the parking available to beach users. The amount of pre-existing car parking was wholly inadequate for the summer demand in any case. Council should undertake a study to ascertain the existing demand for car parking, and then allow for the extra demand predicted due both to the new café, and to increased use of the facilities due to population growth.
3. **Retain the Natural Beach Environment** - beach users are concerned that the beach environment be retained and a management plan put in place to conserve and rehabilitate the dune and bush areas, in particular within Lot 361 (dunes) and Lot 1 (triangular bush area), behind Swanbourne Beach. This should include steps to discourage access to the dunes behind the beach.

#### 4. Other Issues (Signage & Beach Access)

FBA would like to express its appreciation for the action that the City took some 12 months ago to place a signpost on the beach to identify the southern boundary of the free beach. Although the question of signage is possibly not part of the current process, FBA would encourage the City to consider a second sign near the beach access as a service to people on the beach. This would have the benefit of:

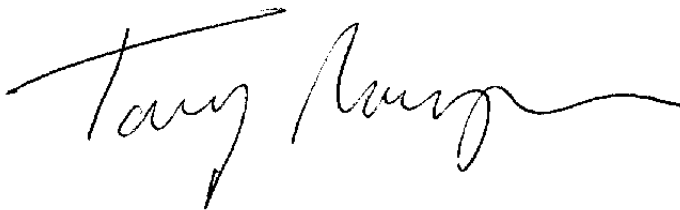
- a. alerting all beach users that they may encounter nude people further north on the beach, and
- b. ensuring free beach users are aware that Lot 328 is not part of the free beach.

Beach users have noted that the re-alignment of the northern beach access (part of the BBQ etc. development) to E-W, rather than the previous WNW orientation, has resulted in large amounts of sand being blown off the beach and on to the path and grassed area. It has been suggested that returning the access to a WNW alignment would reduce the problem of sand being blown off the beach by the prevailing southwesterly winds.

May I thank you once again for the rational and constructive discussion of some of the issues that impact users of the free beach. FBA welcomes the opportunity to work with the City as it seeks to implement its Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013, particularly in respect to its Community Wellbeing, Governance and Community Engagement objectives.

Yours Sincerely

**Free Beaches Australia Inc**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Morgan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Tony Morgan**

**State Representative - Western Australia**

cc Bruce Grieve, NSBUA.