

Swannie Marina Plus 8 Storeys?

<http://www.postnewspapers.com.au/20070217/news/005.shtml>

A Hillarys-style marina and eight-storey housing at Swanbourne is being talked about by Nedlands councillors.

Some of them want to see houses, flats or retirement homes and a marina with restaurants and shops on council land between the surf club and Campbell Barracks, says councillor John Bell.

Councillor Robert van Straalen said he had a vision for the city and he and Mr Bell had talked to an official from the Department of Planning about the idea of development along the coastline at Swanbourne.

Mr Van Straalen said: "There is a lot of dud land up there; Swanbourne oval used to be a rubbish tip. There is huge potential."

Mayor Laurie Taylor said councillors had not told him they had talked to anyone at the DPI about their ideas.

"They would need to do all the background work to ensure what they put up is possible, otherwise they are going to look bloody silly," he said.

"An eight-storey development would overlook the training areas of the SAS and I don't think the Army would be too happy about that."

Mr van Straalen said he had suggested the eight-storey housing and marina development during meetings about introducing variety to housing in Nedlands.

"We have discussed it as part of the housing diversity program, but it was a bit too topical for some councillors," he said.

Mr van Straalen said the land could be accessed through the Army's Seaward Village.

Mr Bell said development on the council's freehold land would solve the problem of anti-social behaviour in the dunes.

It could also make money for Nedlands council, he said.

On Tuesday, he told the council he wanted staff to investigate the possibility of developing the oceanside land.

"It is something that has been discussed casually among councillors," he said afterwards. "There is no firm idea.

"There is a tremendous shortage of pens for boats in the area. Financing is something a feasibility study would look at. It would certainly not be financed by ratepayers."

Mr Taylor was not enthusiastic.

"I know a couple of councillors might be dreaming about it," he said.

He doubted residents in the area would be keen.

"They would be looking at extra traffic and noise in what is a relatively quiet area," he said.

"Over my time on the council, various councillors have raised ideas which you might say are practical or harebrain.

"I would suggest people classify this as somewhere in that range."