

## EPA Report TP 119 (1976) as tabled in the Parliament of Western Australia

A search of Hansard records where debate on the possibility of transferring the land known as Whitford Nodes, debate that occurred over a number of years, shows that The Minister for Town Planning sought and received for the EPA.

That advice was tabled in Parliament as TP 119 (1976) a copy was retrieved from the archives and is attached for your reference and information.

The community was made well aware that the Whitford Nodes were being purchased and to be retained for conservation as a Regional Parkland, and

For various State Government agencies and the Land Manager, the City of Joondalup, to avoid this foundation document is like looking at an arch and ignoring the keystone, and this error cannot and should not be brushed aside, simply as a 'learning experience'.

Report by EPA of Whitford Nodes to Hon Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, File reference 61/73, Dated 02 March 76, received by Legislative Assembly on 01 April 76.

The EPA Report states amongst other things

*Public ownership and with appropriate management be used for public recreation.*

*...the EPA, suggests that priorities be set based on both the recreational potential and environmental fragility of the land in question.*

*In considering the single problem of the Whitford Nodes the EPA was especially aware of the need to "set an example" for future beach management, particularly in view of the recognised importance of the Metropolitan beaches to the residents of Perth*

*The fragility of the Whitford Nodes area from both sea and wind erosion is well shown in evidence considered by the EPA.*

From TP 119 Attachment 1: Report of Whitford Nodes Soil Erosion Potential, Department of Agriculture, File ref 148/73, dated 25 Nov 75.

In 1976, in returning Whitford Nodes to public ownership, appropriate management was deemed a requirement and that priorities be set based on both recreational potential and the well-known environmental fragility of the Quindalup dune system between Sorrento and Mullaloo.

Up to 50 m of beachline had recessed between 1942 and 1975, with the vulnerability of Pinnaroo Point was especially noted. Aerial photography indicated that even with limited public use, this small usage had contributed to the erosion.

Due to the foreseen population growth in Perth's NW, the EPA confirmed the need for more intensive beach management practices described by Attachment 1. The EPA considered these management practices would be needed to set an example for future management in the area.

The DOA confirmed to the EPA that the common effect from human activity in the dunes is damage to the vegetation that holds the sand from drifting. The most effective way to prevent such damage was to eliminate human activity in the dunes.

The major potential forms of development, four of them, that could take place at Whitford Nodes were ranked in order of their likelihood to counter erosion. The first two of these developments demanded rehabilitation and rebuilding of the dunes for a Nature/Scientific/Conservation Reserve, or Passive Recreation and were those least likely to cause erosion because they excluded people from the dunes.

The third development (Other Forms of Coastal Recreation) was intimately tied to the prior acceptance and ongoing implementation of six simple coastal management precautions. These practices included restricting humans to defined beach accessways, protecting the dune vegetation, siting carparks and amenities in protected hollows, electing to position barbecue and picnic areas in protected locations, provision for continuous monitoring and the carrying out of maintenance work as and when necessary, recognition at the planning stage of the importance of the effect of wind in the design of individual items e.g., in the orientation of beach access paths, changing rooms or launching ramps.

The fourth type of development, that for Residential or Commercial purposes, was identified to massively increase coastal erosion unless all the prior six coastal management precautions were followed AND life cycle procedures adopted to prevent erosion during and after construction.

The EPA concluded that if the erosion seen elsewhere was wilfully allowed to occur in the Whitford area, this would be both costly and irresponsible.

The Report by the EPA TP 119 (1976) is resubmitted to Parliament of Western Australia.