

Keep some for the poor!

I REFER to your front page last week (*'Wide support for islands plan'*, Herald 14/6/08).

It comes as no surprise that a survey of 407 people, conducted on behalf of and paid for by interested parties of the North Quay Port project has come out in its favour.

I am however yet to be convinced a survey of 407 gives a true picture?

Nor does it come as any surprise [former WA Labor premier] Peter Dowding has thrown his support behind this development. His job will be to convince us, the voting public, that this development is in our best interest.

Perhaps before taking Mr Dowding's expert advice, we should remember the mess he left WA in.

Given the hefty WA parliamentary pension he still collects, he will probably be one of those able to afford a home there [on North Port Quay]. Most of us won't.

I am not sure if this development is a good one or not. What I am sure about is that only the very wealthy will be able to live on this 'Fantastic Island' and those who do will not be spending their money in Fremantle.

If you doubt this, take a look at the canal development in Mandurah. At one time everyone had access to the estuary, now only those wealthy enough to own homes or boats along the canals have access to the water. While Mandurah council might be better off with extra rates generated, the local shops and businesses haven't benefited at all.

In my opinion before any approval - state, federal, or local council - is granted, a cast iron agreement should be obtained from developers that at least 15 per cent of any new residential housing should be for low income families to buy or rent. That way at least Fremantle won't turn into the rich man's playground that Mandurah appears to have become. If the developers feel this would make this particular development uneconomic, perhaps they should look elsewhere for their next development and billion-dollar profit.

We should remember, it's not the very wealthy minority who puts and keeps [our government] in power. It's the struggling majority. Us!

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