

QUINNS ROCKS

Tide turns on area closure after works

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS have welcomed the beach reopening in Quinns Rocks following completion of emergency coastal protection works.

The Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach Facebook group campaigned for immediate action to save Frederick Stubbs Park and the foreshore following severe erosion late last year.

Co-founder Natalie Sangalli said the entire community had embraced the return of the park and access to the beach.

"The sandbag revetment and limestone wall turned out better than we could have ever imagined," she said.

"Fred Stubbs park is already seeing a high number of visitors and, as the weather heats up, so will the beach."

Mrs Sangalli said that would not have happened without the support of the 6030 community, Butler MLA John Quigley, City of Wanneroo staff and contractors Curnow Group.

The City last week issued a statement that the beach was again open to the public, although there was still work to be done to provide access.

"Thinking back to the condition of the beach this time last year after a series of se-



Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts stepped out on to Quinns Beach after it reopened to the public last week.

vere storms and constant erosion, it is wonderful to see this project come full circle," Mayor Tracey Roberts said.

"Until now, our priority has been to protect the beach and park, which we have done, and now our community can enjoy the beach, park and playground ahead of summer.

"Our next priority will be looking at ways that we can improve access to the beach."

Mrs Roberts said the City was also investigating long-term options to protect the foreshore from erosion, with a community reference group due to meet for the fourth time in early 2015.

Works done so far have included matting and vegetation in the sand dunes, with more planting planned next winter.

Mrs Sangalli said the group was still collecting signatures on a petition for State funding for the long-term coastal protection works.

The Quinns Rocks resident also urged residents to provide feedback on how they used the beaches when the City seeks community feedback.

In September, the council accepted a \$114,516 tender from Cardno WA to provide consultancy services for the long-term coastal management in Quinns Rocks.

Mrs Sangalli said the consultants were looking for old photos of the beach between the Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club and Jindalee, which people could share in the Facebook group or email to sangallifamily@iinet.net.au.

2 September 2014



Carolyn Stubbs, Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts and Nat Sangalli and other local residents at Fred Stubbs Park's reopening. Picture: Marcus Whisson

www.communitypix.com.au d425102

Storm a fitting backdrop at park

WET weather did not dampen the spirits of residents celebrating the reopening of Fred Stubbs Park in Quinns Rocks last Friday.

'Save our foreshore Quinns Beach' Facebook group co-founder Nat Sangalli said those attending included Fred Stubbs' daughter Carolyn.

Revisiting the park during finer weather on Sunday, Mrs Sangalli said children loved the upgraded park.

"Sunday was the best reward, sitting there and watching the kids play," she said.

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts highlighted the partnership established between the community and the City, and the work by contractor Curnow Group.

"It seems so appropriate that we lost the park in a

storm and we are reopening it in a storm," she said.

"It was a low key opening but lots of emotion because everyone was so thankful that the park was there."

Mrs Sangalli said she was grateful to all those who had supported the campaign started almost a year ago by herself, Kelly Keogh and Sarah Hombsch when storms caused severe erosion at the park.

"It's not over and people can sign a petition for long-term erosion funding," she said.

The petition is at Salty's Café opposite the park.

Eric Coates made a miniature bulldozer mounted on a plaque for Curnow Group to show residents' appreciation for their work, done with waves often lapping their machinery.

Lucy Jarvis

QUINNS ROCKS

Beachside park set to reopen

FRED Stubbs Park, and its new playground overlooking Quinns Beach, is due to reopen this Friday.

The City of Wanneroo closed the park last September after severe coastal erosion, prompting an online community campaign, Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach.

Residents including Nat Sangalli, Kelly Keogh, Sarah Hombach and Stephen Faulkner lobbied the council to rebuild the park, and it decided to do so last March



The playground at Fred Stubbs Park.

as part of emergency coastal protection works.

A statement from the City last

week said contractor Curnow Group would finish the coastal protection work in September.

"Sand nourishment works north of the groyne at Quinns are now complete, with 26,000 tonnes of sand in place," it said.

"The limestone retaining wall, including conservation fencing on top of the wall, is also complete.

"The sandbag revetment wall now extends beyond the newly constructed limestone retaining wall and native vegetation is

being planted between the limestone retaining wall and sandbag revetment."

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said the Quinns coastline was being regularly monitored as part of the short and long-term coastal management.

"Monthly beach surveys are being undertaken by the City's coastal engineering consultant and will continue until November, while monthly photographic monitoring of the Quinns Rocks coastline will continue until the

end of the year," she said.

"A hydrographic survey is scheduled for September, and collection of wave, water level and current data is also being undertaken as part of the long-term metocean data collection."

A community reference group met for the first time in July to review the consultancy brief for the long-term coastal management study and the next meeting should be in October, following the appointment of the long-term coastal management consultant.

QUINNS ROCKS



Restoration in full swing

Lucy Jarvis

TRUCKS have delivered more than half the sand required to replenish the Quinns Rocks beach, while a limestone wall is almost half-complete.

Seven months after residents started a community campaign to Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach, the beachfront has been full of construction activity to restore Frederick Stubbs Park and protect the foreshore from future storm erosion.

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said about 15 people were working on the Curnow building site, with clearing and major earthworks near completion.

"More than 82m (40 per cent) of the limestone wall has been constructed and about 30 to 40m (15 per cent) of sand bag revetment wall has been constructed," she said. "With regard to beach renourishment north of the groyne, approximately 15,000 tonnes have been brought to site so far."

Mrs Roberts said they had filled 620 sand bags with 1550 cubic metres of sand, with about 220 placed on the revetment slope.

She said about 12,000 tonnes of sand was due to arrive on site through May and June for the beach renourishment works.

"About 60 per cent of the limestone wall and 250m of the sandbag revetment are still to be constructed," Mrs Roberts said. "All work is scheduled for completion by end June or early July."



Mayor Tracey Roberts and coastal project manager Rory Ellyard at the Quinns Beach coastal restoration works.
Picture: Emma Reeves

d417820



Quinns Rocks residents, from left, Stephen Faulkner, Nat Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale with Teya White, and Caroline and Ailee White.
Picture: Emma Reeves

www.communitypix.com.au d416455

People power a winner

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS who have campaigned to save the Quinns Rocks foreshore since last September's storms are celebrating a council decision to build a wall.

Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach Facebook group founders Nat Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale and Sarah Hombach welcomed Wanneroo City councillors' decision last Tuesday to build a limestone wall at Frederick Stubbs Park.

CITY VOTES TO BUILD FORESHORE WALL

Mrs Sangalli posted the news last week, congratulating the community on its campaign.

"Thanks to the community of Quinns and surrounding suburbs we will be able to keep our iconic and much-loved Fred Stubbs Park," she said.

"On Tuesday night the council passed an amendment to proceed with building the limestone wall

without delaying another 12 months.

"It has been a huge six months for our beach and foreshore and Sarah Hombach, Kelly Lonsdale and I could not have done it without the massive support of residents and visitors of 6030."

Mrs Sangalli said Stephen Faulkner and Caroline White had given "invaluable" input and "tremendous support".

Ms Lonsdale said they were "extremely happy" with the March 4 decision.

"The City's decision has sent a clear message to our community, telling us we have been heard and our strong desire for the park to remain for generations to come will be honoured," she said.

"We are grateful to the City for its proactive approach and for understanding what an integral part of the foreshore the park plays with in the community."

Councillors back wall

THE majority of Wanneroo councillors agreed to build a limestone retaining wall to preserve Frederick Stubbs Park on the Quinns Rocks foreshore last week.

Community consultation showed 86.4 per cent of respondents supported having the wall.

A council report at the March 4 meeting recommended the proposal be deferred for 12 months.

Coastal ward Cr Sabine Winton moved an alternative recommendation, seconded by Cr Russell Driver, that construction of the wall along the western edge of the park begin.

Cr Winton said she was confident of the community sentiment and building the wall would reclaim as much land as possible for the park, where storms caused severe erosion last September.

"They want this wall, they want Fred Stubbs Park back," she said.

Before the meeting, Quinns Rocks resident Natalie Sangalli gave a deputation, saying the Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach Facebook group was founded as a direct reaction to the latest loss of sand dunes.

"Never did I think the membership of the group would reach over 200, never mind over 2000," she said.

"The community of Quinns has come together and they have told the City that they want to keep Fred Stubbs Park."

More, page 3

QUINNS ROCKS

Welcome wall a winning decision

From Page 1

Mrs Sangalli said the park had been a meeting place for residents and nearby businesses relied on those community interactions.

Another resident Caroline White said the foreshore had been eroding for years and delaying the wall could have negative impacts on the park.

"Although nature can be unpredictable, in this case it wasn't - we knew it was eroding," Mrs White said, adding the community campaign started when there was significant erosion of the park.

"It didn't start because 10 metres of beach was lost - it was the park."

"If the coastal protection and revetment wall had been constructed a year ago, then the limestone wall wouldn't be needed."

Cr Winton said the City would save money by not delaying the wall, and could proceed with its construction as it no longer needed development approval.

Wanneroo planning and sustainability director Len Kosova told the *Times* it received development approval advice from the Department of Planning on February 28.

"The department is satisfied that the works can be considered as a 'public work', and as such is exempt from the need to obtain approval," he said.

According to the council report, the tender price for building the sand bag revetments was lower than budgeted, so there would only be a \$180,000 shortfall in funds for the \$541,000 wall, which could be sourced from the City's strategic projects reserve.

Crs Linda Aitken and Glynis Parker voted against the alternative, saying they preferred to wait for wave data before approving the wall. Councillors also resolved to establish the Quinns Beach long-term coastal protection community reference group.

Mrs Sangalli wrote to Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts and councillors following the meeting to thank them for deciding to build the wall and open the reference group to residents outside Quinns Rocks.

"For the first time in a very long time I feel Quinns does have a definite future and it is thanks to you for supporting the amendment that it will happen," the mother-of-three said.

Lucy Jarvis

QUINNS ROCKS

Foreshore work to start soon

A FORESHORE park in Quinns Rocks has been closed again as coastal protection work starts this week.

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said the City awarded a \$2.495 million tender to Curnow Group, which started building the sandbag and rock revetment and sand replenishment yesterday.

"We are pleased that these essential protection works can start so quickly," Mrs Roberts said.

"The City understands the concerns of local residents and they can be reassured with the knowledge that further safeguards will now be in place to combat the effects of severe erosion."

Work should be complete in May. The City closed Frederick Stubbs Park again last week, removing its swings and benches.

The City included construction of a limestone retaining wall as a separate item in the scope of works. The council is expected to consider whether it should be built based on community consultation, development approval and funding.

QUINNS ROCKS

Extent of clearing 'shocks'

FORESHORE CONCERNS RAISED

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS and environmentalists have raised concerns about the extent of clearing proposed on the Quinns Rocks foreshore, but engineers say it is necessary to prevent future erosion.

About 50 people attended an information session about the planned foreshore protection works last month.

Most people gathered at Gumblossom Community Centre at the start of the three-hour question-and-answer session run by the City of Wanneroo.

Among them was Ocean Drive resident Vicki Jenkins, who expressed concerns about the extent of clearing required south of Frederick Stubbs Park.

"It was a shock for myself and other residents to see how extensive the works are going to be," she told the *Times*.

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group spokesman David Wake said the group recognised the need to tackle the erosion, but was also concerned at the extent of clearing of coastal dune vegetation proposed.

"The vegetation stabilises the sand dune and provides habitat, as well as contributing to the character of the town," Mr Wake said.

"A relatively large area is proposed for clearing – this is the largest patch of vegetation in the narrow foreshore reserve here.

"We urge the City to minimise disturbance to the dune

and coastal habitat for the short-term coastal protection works, including a review of the southern extent of the revetments work and the proposed slope of the dune."

Mr Wake said it was important to address the risk of sand drift during construction works and use local plant species to rehabilitate areas affected.

The QREG spokesman said that any works should contribute to retaining habitat for flora and fauna, maintaining usable recreation space and protecting homes and infrastructure along Ocean Drive.

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said the clearing was necessary above the proposed reshaped batters to build the sandbag embankment which was designed to prevent further erosion.

"The southern extent of the embankment is in accordance with the design prepared by the City's coastal engineering consultants following consideration of historical shoreline movement," Mrs Robert said.

"It has been positioned in a low-risk area of the coastline due to the wider buffer provided by the dune system.

"The southern extent and tie-in to the dune lies outside of the area of influence from the existing rock headland to the south of the project area and therefore minimises the risk of significant shoreline movement and erosion at the southern end."



Izaak (10) and Jasmyn (8) Chilman, with concerned resident Vicki Jenkins in the background. Picture: Emma Reeves

www.communitypic.com.au d414721

QUINNS ROCKS

Taking hands-on approach to issue

Lucy Jarvis

MAYOR GETS ON THE FRONT FOOT

WANNEROO MLA Paul Miles has ventured west of his electorate to support a campaign for State funding for coastal protection works in Quinns Rocks.

The Liberal MP arranged for State Treasurer and Transport Minister Troy Buswell to visit the foreshore on Ocean Drive on December 11 to see the severe erosion damage on dunes and Frederick Stubbs Park.

"With a firm commitment from the City of Wanneroo, of \$3.24 million I am confident that the State Government is now in a position to assess the proposal and determine the most appropriate funding source," Mr Miles said.

"I will continue to lobby

the State Government for a favourable outcome for our community, which I am confident can be secured.

"The City of Wanneroo has made a decision to allocate funds towards their preferred option of building 4.5m high geo-synthetic sand bags which are 2.5m long and 1m wide and weigh a staggering 4 tonnes each."

Mr Miles arranged for Wanneroo's Mayor Tracey Roberts, chief executive Daniel Simms and infrastructure maintenance manager Harminder Singh to meet the minister at the site and explain the City's short and long term solutions to erosion.

Butler MLA John Quigley wrote to the minister on December 16, saying he was disappointed Mr Buswell visited the beach "secretly" so residents did not have an opportunity to meet him.

The visit preceded the Wanneroo Business Association's Christmas luncheon at Mindarie Marina, where Mr Buswell was guest speaker.

Describing the mayor as "effervescent", Mr Buswell said she "burst out of the bushes" at the beach and described the situation to him.

"I've got to go and find some money for grumpy pants over here – the City has found money and we will help as well," he said.

All clear for go ahead

THE Department of Environment Regulation has approved a clearing permit for the Quinns Rocks coastal protection works.

The department published a notice on December 16 that it had granted the permit for the City of Wanneroo to undertake works on 1.21ha in reserves on Ocean Drive between January 11, 2014 and January 2016.



Wanneroo MLA Paul Miles, Minister Troy Buswell, WBA president Vesna Sampson and City of Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts at the Wanneroo Business Association Christmas Lunch. Picture: Emma Reeves

d410833

Sandbags offer salvation

Lucy Jarvis

A 280-METRE long, 4.5m high sloping wall of sandbags will protect the foreshore along Quinns Beach from further erosion, Wanneroo City Council decided last week.

The council endorsed a \$2.813 million short-term solution using the geotextile sand-filled container revetment. It also agreed at its December 10 meeting to consult the community about adding a limestone wall for up to \$3.246 million.

Mayor Tracey Roberts pro-

SLOPING WALL TO HELP PROTECT FORESHORE

posed the combination of the two options outlined in a council report after deputations from residents who wanted as much of Frederick Stubbs Park preserved as possible.

Founders of the Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach Facebook campaign - Natalie Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale and Sarah Hombsch - spoke before the council meeting.

Ms Lonsdale said they asked members of their online group which option they preferred, and

the majority chose the second option, which included a limestone retaining wall behind the sandbags.

"The almost total loss of this park has been a terrible and sad loss for all of us," the Merriwa resident said. "Keep the 12m of what once was 100m of foreshore."

Mrs Hombsch said they wanted the City to incorporate a battered slope covered in vegetation between the wall and sand bags, giving the area "another line of

defence should the waves over-top the sandbags".

"We have watched as bit by bit of the foreshore has been taken away," she said.

"The residents of Quinns deserve to be considered in all of this voting."

A resident of Quinns Rocks for 30 years, Mrs Sangalli said she had been devastated by the erosion.

"The foreshore reserve has always been a community hub," she said. "From the early days of

beach shacks on the beach to present day, it has shaped our beachside suburb.

"It has been the meeting place and local hangout for many children, including myself, who were fortunate enough to grow up there.

"It has been host to weddings, birthday parties, Australia Day celebrations, carols by candlelight, Christmas Day gatherings and much more."

Mrs Sangalli said it was unfair to assume residents would agree to the recommended

More page 3



“The almost total loss of this park has been a terrible and sad loss for all of us

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
www.facebook.com/NorthCoastTimes



From left: Kelly Lonsdale, Natalie Sangalli and Sarah Hombsch want to save the Quinns Beach foreshore.

Picture: Emma Reeves
www.communitypk.com.au
d412719

Critical to act quickly: Mayor

From page 1

option one when they did not have the full details.

Mrs Roberts said the council was mindful of the community's concerns but it was also critical they acted quickly to prevent further erosion.

"Our priority is to protect the road and to protect the properties," she said.

"We are at risk if a summer storm hits.

"By implementing this option it provides urgent protection from the coastal erosion while also allowing flexibility to adapt the long-term coastal management in future."

She amended the recommendation to pursue option one, adding actions for the City to undertake community consultation on the need for a limestone retaining wall and seek planning approval for it.

Cr Sabine Winton said the City was expected to protect the existing road and houses, but also had a responsibility to protect other infrastructure on the site, including the carpark.

The mayor's amendment and the amended substantive motion received unanimous support from the full cohort of elected members.

Quinns Rocks resident Eric Coates gave a deputation prior to the meeting, saying Frederick Stubbs Park was a "unique feature of Quinns Rocks" with "drop dead gorgeous views of the sunset".

"Even the sound of children and bigger people laughing is a tonic to all," he said.

Erosion solutions sought

Lucy Jarvis

STAFF provided a technical explanation and artistic impressions of proposed solutions to the Quinns Beach erosion problems before last week's Wanneroo City Council meeting.

The City's infrastructure maintenance manager Harinder Singh gave a dozen people who attended the briefing artist's impressions of the foreshore works based on sum-

RETAINING WALL, SANDBAGS POSSIBLE

mer and winter conditions.

"Both options are similar in nature from a coastal protection point of view," he said.

"The revetment is identical – the difference being the retaining wall."

Acting City businesses director Ian Hamilton said he had worked on similar coastal projects in the eastern states and showed examples of

the various solutions.

He said as an example a sand bag reef installed at Narrowneck Beach on the Gold Coast in 1999 and 2000 cost about \$2.5 million.

However, Wanneroo would assess the best long-term solution for Quinns Beach once it had all the information from coastal engineers.

Under the short-term proposals,

option one would have sandbags with a 3.6m crest, then a revegetated batter slope, and 7m of grass at the northern end of Frederick Stubbs Park. Option two had a 7m crest with vegetation to the base of the wall, and 12m of grassed park at the northern end.

Residents suggested the western face of the 9m-high, 180m-long wall could be buried by a revegetated slope, eliminating the drop off and providing an extra line of defence.

QUINNS ROCKS

Erosion protection in the bag, at cost

Lucy Jarvis

AT LEAST \$2.8 MILLION REQUIRED

WANNEROO City Council will consider spending at least \$2.8 million to protect the Quinns Beach foreshore from erosion at tonight's council meeting.

City infrastructure maintenance manager Harminder Singh outlined the two short-term options for coastal protection works on about 280m of the beach at last week's council briefing session.

The first, which administration recommended, would involve building a 4.5m high, sloping revetment of sand bags and cost \$2.813 million.

Above the sand bags, there would be a batter slope, stabilised with fibre matting and revegetation, and it would make Frederick Stubbs Park 7m wide at the northern end, expanding to 15m to the south.

The second option would also require a revetment in the same location with the same dimensions, with the addition of a 9.2m limestone retaining wall between the sand bags and the park.

That option would make the park about 12m wide at the northern end and 26m wide at the southern end.

Mr Singh said the first option was about \$600,000 cheaper than the second and gave more flexibility in the future.

"Any work that we do here now should be adaptable to the ultimate option," he said. "To construct this (limestone) wall we will have to pretty much dig up the whole park."

"If the revetments have to be changed (for future works) the wall will have to remain,

with no value to the erosion problem."

As there would not be much playground space in the park under option one, Mr Singh said the City could investigate creating a playground area in the grassed area north of the car park access road using funds allocated to an access path to Quinns Beach.

He said each geo-synthetic sand bag was 2.5m long and 1m wide, weighed 4 tonnes, and designed to withstand wave action.

According to Mr Singh, the sand bag revetment was designed to last five years, but similar structures in other sites had already been in place for 12 years, with the potential to last another five.

QUINNS ROCKS

People flock back to reopened park

RESIDENTS quickly made use of swings and benches when Frederick Stubbs park reopened last week.

The City of Wanneroo closed the park and removed playground equipment in September after severe storms caused erosion on the Quinns Rocks foreshore.

Last week, the City repositioned the 1.8m security fence closer to the drop-off from the park to the beach, replaced the playground soft-fall with a sand pit and installed a double-swing set.

Mayor Tracey Roberts said the City was also putting three benches in the park and the actions were part of its commitment to give residents access to Quinns Beach.

"It is just a fabulous location and it is a really nice beach as well," Mrs Roberts said.

"This is a wonderful place that is enjoyed by our residents so we will do everything we can to speed up this process."

Mrs Roberts said the council expected a report would go to the December council meeting.

"We have repeatedly called on the State Government for vital funding to fix the erosion problem at Quinns beach," she said.



Mindarie's Shane and Jordyn (3) Smith and Emily Clinton (4), from Clarkson, use swings installed at Frederick Stubbs Park last week.

Eroding beach support

**STATE GOVERNMENT
RULES OUT FUNDING
FOR SANDBAG WALL**

Lucy Jarvis

TRANSPORT Minister Troy Buswell says the State Government will not fund solutions to foreshore erosion in Quinns Rocks, while Wanneroo's Mayor says the City does not have enough to cover the full cost.

Mayor Tracey Roberts told the *Times* building a sandbag wall as a short-term measure to protect the foreshore could cost millions of dollars.

In a letter to Mr Buswell last month, Mrs Roberts said she understood the City could apply for a coastal adaptation grant of up to \$300,000 in the 2014-15 financial year, but the short-term option was likely to cost between \$2.8 million and \$3.5 million.

"Our initial advice is this is going to be in the millions, \$300,000 is not going to cut

it. I'm very disappointed that the minister has not visited the beach and had a look for himself," she said.

"The City has got money allocated but we can't withstand the whole amount - it is a shared responsibility.

"We need commitment, we need the minister to make a decision with regards to the works and funding."

Mr Buswell said his staff and the Department of Transport met Mrs Roberts and Wanneroo chief executive Daniel Simms at short notice on October 28.

"A letter from the City of Wanneroo was received on October 29 regarding Quinns Beach erosion and I will respond in due course," Mr Buswell said.

"I am aware of the issues raised by the City and while I appreciate those concerns, other coastal communities are also experiencing erosion and coastal degradation problems."

Mr Buswell said the State Government

had already given the City \$100,000 to investigate coastal erosion at the beach.

"It is the government's understanding that the council has adequate funding reserves to address this issue, if they deemed it to be a priority," he said.

"On that basis, we will not be providing the funding the City has requested."

"However, the State Government has a demonstrated history of working with the City of Wanneroo on this issue."

"We will continue this work to develop suitable short-term measures to manage this issue while a sustainable long-term management option is identified."

Last week in Parliament, Butler MLA John Quigley asked Mr Buswell if he would commit 50 per cent of emergency funding to sandbagging, but Mr Buswell said he did not know what funding he meant and was not prepared to guarantee any funding.

More, page 3



Opposition leader Mark McGowan and Butler MLA John Quigley look at the foreshore erosion in Quinns Rocks.
Picture: Matt Jelonek
d411367

Pay half, Buswell: McGowan

From page 1

Mr Quigley told the *Times* the Department of Transport had a coastal protection policy, which included measures for emergency coastal protection works.

It said such works were necessary to protect coastal assets at immediate risk of damage from coastal erosion.

The policy said: "The State Government, through the Department of Transport, will provide ... funding for up to 50 per cent of the cost of planning, investigation, design and construction of emergency coastal protection works - subject to funds being available and the local coastal manager accepting responsibility for providing the remaining 50 per cent."

Opposition Leader Mark McGowan and other members of the Labor Party visited the beach last Friday to push for State Government action.

"The beach erosion has created an extremely unsafe environment for local residents," Mr McGowan said.

"Emergency coastal protection works are needed immediately - State Government policy clearly states 50 per cent of the cost of these works will be met by the State, but Mr Buswell is refusing to act."

Mrs Roberts said the foreshore and Ocean Drive were under threat, and erosion issues needed to be resolved urgently.

"There is a significant amount of community concern, understandably so," Mrs Roberts said.

"Ocean Drive has all of our services underneath."

QUINNS ROCKS

Mayor urges you to write

WANNEROO Mayor Tracey Roberts has called for residents to write to state politicians about foreshore erosion at Quinns Rocks.

Mrs Roberts said the community needed to ensure the State Government gave the matter urgent priority and sourced funds for solutions.

"I welcome Transport Minister and Treasurer Troy Buswell's declaration that the State Government shares the responsibility to protect homes, assets and infrastructure that the erosion is threatening," she said.

"We agree with Mr Buswell that this problem needs a combined approach and are highlighting the urgency of the situation.

"The City needs the community's backing – I strongly urge people to write to their local MPs and to the Premier to ensure their voices are heard.

"We need immediate and substantial financial support from the State Government to deliver medium and long-term solutions."

Mrs Roberts said the City was undertaking interim earthworks to address existing damage and conducted daily inspections, monitoring weather patterns.

Residents started an online campaign after severe erosion in September, sharing photos and memories of the beach and foreshore park in the Facebook group 'Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach'.



Erosion at Quinns Rocks.

Wave of public concern

PUBLIC, AUTHORITIES CONSIDER PLAN OF ACTION FOR EROSION PROBLEM

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS filled two meeting rooms and spilled out the doors at an information session about erosion in Quinns Rocks last week.

Concerned by severe erosion and storm damage to the foreshore on Ocean Drive, residents have been campaigning for local and state governments to take urgent action to protect it.

Natalie Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale and Sarah Hombsch started a Facebook group, 'Save our Foreshore Quinns Rocks', for residents to share their fears and memories of the disappearing coastal infrastructure and potential threats to the road and nearby homes and businesses.

More than 100 people attended the October 23 meeting at Gumblossom Community Centre, organised by Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts, where the city's infrastructure director, a coastal engineer from consultancy Cardno and Department of Transport representatives spoke.

Infrastructure director Dennis Blair said Quinns Beach had been eroding for a long time, and the city had started sand renourishment there in 1999.

Between 2002 and 2006, they built three groynes

along the beach using \$2.1 million in municipal and \$1 million in state funds.

They have also put 17,000 tonnes of limestone and 280,000 tonnes of sand on to the beach since 2002.

"This renourishment had been widely criticised, people said we threw money into the sea," transport's coastal infrastructure acting manager Fangjun Li said.

"But it has been so far the most popular coastal engineering measure to save our beaches."

Dr Li said three storm events in September, including a three-day one late in the month, caused huge sand dune loss.

Cardno coastal engineer Paul Branson said they were collecting data to use to model wave patterns so they could determine the best long-term solutions.

"We need to collect some wave data in proximity of the beach within the reef systems as well as outside in summer and winter."

Mr Branson said as a short-term solution they were looking at geo-textile sand bags, similar to those used on Watermans Bay.

The wall of sand bags would be built at an angle of about 50-degrees and about 5.5m high, using machines to fill and place the bags.



Above: A sand bag wall, like this one at Watermans Bay, is among the erosion prevention options for Quinns Rocks. Picture: Kaity Malley
Below: Residents Sarah Hombsch, Natalie Sangalli and Kelly Lonsdale.

To build it on a gentler slope, Mr Branson said it would end up below the water level and become a costly and difficult exercise.

"If we try to move it further offshore, it means we will have to be trying to construct it in the breaker zone," he said.

Mr Blair said the city's staff would present a report to the council on the short-term solutions before the end of this year so work could be done this summer.

Mrs Roberts said the city was likely to hold another public meeting in January or February.

Residents' views, page 9



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
www.facebook.com/northcoasttimes

Foreshore erosion: Funding queried

THE State Government has a responsibility to protect homes, but Butler MLA John Quigley has questioned why it can't promise funds for solutions to foreshore erosion.

Mr Quigley presented a petition with more than 2400 signatures to State Parliament last week, calling for urgent action on the Quinns Rocks foreshore.

After attending the public meeting last Wednesday, he raised a grievance about the issue in Parliament the next day.

"Earlier this week, I tabled a petition with 2400 signatures highlighting community concern," he said.

"The money has got to be found by the Minister for Transport, who is the Treasurer as well, but it must be found urgently."

"The beach now has rented fencing along the footpath so that people cannot fall over and get injured."

"What would happen in Cottesloe if they had put a rented fence up along Marine Parade to stop people falling off the footpath into danger? The money would be found to fix it."

"I am asking the Treasurer to send a message to my community that money will not be an issue now – it will be found so that these works will be undertaken urgently."

Transport Minister and Treasurer Troy Buswell said he was "incredibly sympathetic" to residents.

"I can't say to the people of Quinns 'money is no object' because there is a whole bunch of communities that have been impacted," he said.

"We have a responsibility to protect those homes and the assets and infrastructure that support that – state has a responsibility and local government have a responsibility."

"What I can commit to doing is seeking advice from the Department of Transport as to where that process is at."

QUINNS ROCKS

Residents flock to hear about erosion

RESIDENTS filled two rooms at the Gumblossom Community Centre for an information session on the Quinns Rocks erosion and storm damage.

Questions ranged from those about whether climate change caused the storms to asking governments to protect million-dollar beachfront homes.

One woman asked if rising sea temperatures or construction of Mindarie Marina were possible causes, but was told there was no evidence for either.

Another asked what the temporary works would cost compared to permanent solutions, but Wanneroo's infrastructure director Dennis Blair said they had not yet costed the possible solutions.

"The problem we do have is if we don't do something soon, and we have another few storms, the rest of Frederick Stubbs Park will be at great risk and possibly also



Residents at the meeting.

the road," Mr Blair said.

A man raised concerns about "band-aid" treatments and asked if residents would be "back here in 20 years time talking about it again".

Another man said he did not want to see his \$1.5 million

property "wash away". Options of a seawall were discussed, which coastal engineers said would mean there would not be a sandy beach, but one woman said she would prefer a seawall if it meant the park would be restored.

QUINNS ROCKS

Info night on storm damage

MAYOR TO CHAIR PUBLIC MEETING

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS can learn more about storm damage and erosion in Quinns Rocks at a public meeting tomorrow night.

The City of Wanneroo will hold the October 23 meeting following a groundswell of concern from residents about damage to the foreshore along Ocean Drive in recent weeks.

Following questions by a resident at last week's council meeting, Mayor Tracy Roberts said she would chair the meeting.

Mrs Roberts said the meeting would include presentations by the City, with Department of Transport representatives and coastal engineering consultants present too.

She said the meeting would be recorded, with a report available afterwards for those who do not attend, and that the City intended to hold more public meetings to the address the issues.

The transport department announced last week that it had started remediation works with several local governments following September's storms.

Transport services managing director Nina Lyhne said strong north-westerly winds and high waves during three consecutive storms in September damaged infrastructure, and eroded dunes and beaches along 800km of coastline, including in Quinns Rock.

The department received reports of more than 10m of shoreline erosion there, where a playground nearly collapsed into the sea.

"During one of the storms, high waves persistently attacked

WA's beaches for more than three days, coinciding with high tides and a peak storm surge," Ms Lyhne said.

The department's coastal infrastructure executive director Steve Jenkins said it provided specialist coastal advice to ensure local governments understood and adapted to coastal hazards.

"DoT is working closely with the City of Wanneroo to implement suitable short-term measures while investigation work continues for a sustainable long-term management option," he said.

"The complexity of the variable wave climate and the sediment interaction with existing groynes at Quinns Rocks beach makes the selection of management options a difficult process."

Mr Jenkins said the department had given the City two \$50,000 coastal adaptation and protection grants to investigate coastal processes at Quinns Beach, in 2012-13 and 2014-15.

Two coastal engineers from the department will attend tomorrow's event to answer technical questions.

The City's infrastructure director Dennis Blair said they appointed coastal engineering consultants to investigate and prepare a construction design for revetments south of the groyne.

"Consultants are investigating the use of sand filled geo-textile bags for the construction of revetments, which will involve the bags being placed along the embankment," he said.

"The design will be reviewed by the City in consultation with



Quinns Rocks foreshore on September 23, when erosion and storm damage prompted the closure of the playground and car park.

PUBLIC MEETING

WHAT: Quinns Rocks foreshore erosion
WHO: City of Wanneroo
WHERE: Gumblossom Community Centre, Tapping Way, Quinns Rocks
WHEN: Wednesday, October 23 from 6pm

the Department of Transport, and subject to council approval the tender process is likely to begin mid-November."

Mr Blair said they were also reviewing a proposal to collect further coastal data and evaluate long-term options.

He said they had to close the car park again on October 11 after boulders settled, causing minor damage to the access road.

"Like any other beach, Quinns Beach is subject to complex coastal processes and use is dependent on such natural factors," he said.

"All efforts are being made to ensure that Quinns Beach, north



Beach closed in Quinns Rocks until remediation work can be done.

of groyne 1, is available to beachgoers during the forthcoming summer.

"Use of the beach south of groyne 1 will be subject to ongoing monitoring and construction of revetments."

Butler MLA John Quigley will present a petition calling for urgent action, with more than 2000 signatures, to State Parliament this week, as well as giving a grievance and presenting photos of Quinns Rocks foreshore.

Campaign to save coastline

OLD PICS NEEDED TO SHOW CHANGES

Lucy Jarvis

RESIDENTS campaigning to save the foreshore in Quinns Rocks have been pooling their old photos of the coastline to show how much the area has changed.

Since Quinns Rocks residents Natalie Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale and Sarah Hombsch established a Facebook group – Save Our Foreshore Quinns Beach – a fortnight ago, almost 1900 people have joined.

The trio have asked residents to post old photos of the area around the old surf lifesaving club site, car park and Frederick Stubbs Park which they will collate to show the changes to the coastline over the past few decades.

"We are getting a timeline of all the photos over the years, a timeline of just how it has changed," Ms Lonsdale said.

Mrs Sangalli said they particularly wanted photos of the old barbecue area, which people who had moved into the area more recently may have missed seeing.

They have also been circulating a petition calling for urgent implementation of a long-term strategy to stop the erosion before Ocean Drive and properties on it are affected.

Wanneroo Mayor Tracey Roberts said the City had sent a consultant's report commissioned last November to the Department of Transport for specialist advice, and had not yet heard back, although City staff planned to meet with the department's coastal engineers this week.

"The City fully understands



Mayor Tracey Roberts, Kelly Lonsdale and Natalie Sangalli have growing concerns for the foreshore erosion at Quinns Rocks. Left inset shows the area after the removal of the playground and closure of the park later. Inset right shows the playground in Frederick Stubbs Park in September. Below right: An aerial view of the park, car park and Ocean Drive taken in June this year.

Main picture: Emma Reeves

www.communitypix.com.au d409008

the extent of the erosion and over the years has received expert advice on how to address the problem," she said.

"The City has appointed coastal engineering consultants to identify short-term options in addition to long-term options.

"We've been working on it for years and years and years but we've experienced severe weather conditions in recent months. The coastline has been battered."

Mrs Roberts said 10 to 12 metres of dunes in a 300m section of the groyne had been eroded by high tides, swell and storms this year. The City reopened the car

park last week, but the Frederick Stubbs Park will remain closed.

Ms Lonsdale said they were expecting more stormy weather this year, and wanted solutions urgently.

"We do have another weather front coming so we are concerned about what could happen in the next week or two," she said.

"There have been all kinds of suggestions (of ways to solve the problem) – I really wish I knew the answer."



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK AT
www.facebook.com/north-coasttimes

No immediate threat – City

THE City of Wanneroo's acting chief executive Len Kosova put frequently asked questions and answers on its website last Friday.

Mr Kosova said the City had spent \$3 million of its funds and \$1 million in state funding to protect the coastline since the 1990s, and a study in 2002 recommended three groynes be built, which cost about \$3.5 million.

"Nearly 17,000 tonnes of limestone boulders and rocks was used to construct the groynes and low seawall along the edge of the car park," he said.

"During the summers of 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07, nearly 280,000 tonnes of sand was also placed along Quinns Beach.

"Over the past decade, approximately 1000 tonnes of limestone and 10,000 tonnes of sand have been placed along the beach in response to localised erosion caused by occasional storms."

Mr Kosova said although Ocean Drive and nearby houses are closer to the water's edge than normally allowed, there is no evidence to suggest they are under immediate threat.

"The road and houses are higher than the beach, which affords them some protection," he said.

"However, the City is not the expert on modelling coastal conditions and therefore cannot comment on whether this situation might ever change in future, as a result of climate change, severe weather events or natural disasters."

The website said the City applied for state funding through the coastal adaptation protection program earlier this year to carry out protection works, and received \$50,000 this year, but no future funding commitment.

The Department of Transport was contacted for comment but did not respond before the *Times* went to print.



Quinns washing away

THE Quinns Rocks community is calling for urgent action on the coastline along Ocean Drive after erosion prompted the closure of a car park and park. Residents told the *Times* almost 5m of beachfront dunes have eroded in the past few weeks, following years of gradual foreshore degradation. The City of Wanneroo closed a car park on September 13 and removed playground equipment in Frederick Stubbs Park last week. A petition and Facebook group started last week is calling for the State Government to find long-term solutions to coastal degradation. **Full story page 3**



Above and main picture: Beach erosion along Ocean Drive, Quinns Rocks, and, at top: John Quigley talks to residents about a petition calling for urgent action. Pictures: Emma Reeves d408506



QUINNS ROCKS

Residents crusade to save foreshore

EROSION NEEDS TO BE STOPPED

Lucy Jarvis

A PETITION circulating in the north coast suburbs calls for the State Government to implement a long-term strategy to stop coastal erosion in Quinns Rocks as a matter of urgency.

Prompted by the closure of an Ocean Drive carpark and removal of the playground in Frederick Stubbs Park last month, residents are calling for action to protect the foreshore.

Concerned about cliffs washed away this winter, Natalie Sangalli, Kelly Lonsdale and Sarah Hombusch started a Facebook group, 'Save our Foreshore Quinns Beach', last week.

"It is absolutely what has happened to it," Ms Lonsdale said. "We grew up on this beach – we've been here since we were 12 years old."

"The change is just horrific –



Gareth Jones is the owner of Salty's Cafe and is concerned for his business because of beach erosion along Ocean Drive. Picture: Emma Reeves

www.communitypix.com.au d408506

we've lost at least 10 to 15m.

"It has been gradual over the last 25 to 30 years (but) we have lost nearly five metres in a matter of weeks (this year). "The water is almost up to the carpark now."

The petition said "the ongoing degradation of the coastline at Quinns Rocks is serious and dangerous".

"A long-term strategy needs to be implemented as a matter of ur-

gency to stop the erosion before the road and residences are seriously affected," it said.

"We ask that the Legislative Assembly provide for proper oceanographic research for a long-term solution and the results of the research be implemented urgently."

Ms Lonsdale said families were "devastated" after the playground equipment had to be removed.

"We just want the government to come out and fix it and find a permanent solution," she said.

"We need 1500 signatures on our petition for (Butler MLA) John Quigley to send it to Parliament."

Resident and business owner Gareth Jones said he bought a beachfront cafe, Salty's, about four months ago and was concerned he was losing customers.

"Normally you get a lot of people going down to that park (but) I've got no parking, no mums coming with their children," he said.

"Our coffee trade has dropped

off hugely.

"This issue has been going for about 13 years (and) it is advancing at a rapid rate."

Mr Quigley said the beach was a "disaster" and he wanted the State Government to take action.

"In the last month, the shoreline has eroded to halfway back to the road," he said.

"It appears the southern most groyne is way too small to be effective."

"There has to be a State Government response – if this was in Cottesloe, the Premier would come up with some proposals (this) week."

Mr Quigley plans to present the petition to Parliament in mid-October, and readers can see copies at his electorate office in Clarkson or at local businesses.

See editorial page 6

f TELL US WHAT YOU THINK
www.facebook.com/
NorthCoastTimes

QUINNS ROCKS

Carpark, playground closed due to concerns for public safety

A CONCERN for public safety prompted the City of Wanneroo to close a beachside carpark on Ocean Drive last month, a director said.

Infrastructure director Dennis Blair said they closed the carpark on September 13 because storms and aggressive coastal conditions had caused severe erosion.

"Access to Fred Stubbs Park and the

playground were also closed due to the erosion, with playground equipment removed on September 24 to prevent it subsiding into the ocean," he said.

"Quinns Beach has experienced severe erosion during September in a 300m section south of groyne 1. "During recent storms, 10m to 12m of sand dunes in this section have been eroded."

Mr Blair said they appointed coastal engineering consultants last week to undertake a beach survey and develop a proposal with short term options for emergency coastal protection works.

"A meeting has also been arranged with the Department of Transport's coastal engineers in October to discuss long term coastal management options," he said

"We are aware of the community's concern with the closures but would like to ensure all our residents and visitors to the area are safe at all times."

He said the City would continue to monitor the sites, and both the carpark and Fred Stubbs Park would remain closed until it was safe to reopen.

Lucy Jarvis