

WATERFRONT PRECINCT

“We are committed to activating our fantastic waterfront and developing a precinct that everyone can enjoy.” - Mayor Kelly Howlett

Waterfront precinct – the heart of Port Hedland

The provision of high quality/state of the art marina and waterfront recreation facilities has been a long-held vision for our community and is often referred to as a game-changer for our region. Our coastal environment is one of our most important assets and the seven-kilometre long stretch of north-facing shore provides sweeping views of the ocean and a spectacular backdrop to enjoy watching sunrises and sunsets. It is ideally placed for activation with boardwalks, event spaces, swimming areas, playgrounds, fishing platforms, cafes, barbecues, exercise areas, and improved boating facilities.

The Town of Port Hedland has identified the Spoilbank Waterfront Development as our priority transformational project moving forward. We continue to work towards the successful delivery of this project as we know it will be a game changer for our community and truly activate our fantastic waterfront.

The Town of Port Hedland is continuing to build upon our extensive work to date and our engagement with the community and stakeholders. We want to make sure that we are creating a waterfront development that meets everyone's vision and aspirations for Port Hedland.

Steps toward waterfront development

The waterfront development is a project that has been supported for many years by our community and key stakeholders, including receiving significant funding from the State Government. In 2012 Premier Colin Barnett announced the project and a State Government funding commitment of \$112 million with \$40 million from the Town of Port Hedland. A \$152 million investment into our town is clearly significant and it is a project that we are committed to seeing come to fruition.

A number of studies have been undertaken to explore and test the location, scope and feasibility of a waterfront precinct. Two sites, Cooke Point and Spoilbank, were under investigation and compared objectively based on their advantages and risks. The final decision was made in May 2015 where Council endorsed Spoilbank West as its preferred location for the development and noted a number of bodies of work to still be undertaken. This included a risk assessment, economic analysis and business case which are being progressed.

Health risk assessment report

The Town of Port Hedland welcomes the final release of the Port Hedland Air Quality Health Risk Assessment for Particulate Matter report by the State Government.

The Town has been a member of the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce for many years and is represented by the Chief Executive Officer as discussions are of a technical nature.

It's worth noting that Port Hedland is a naturally dusty environment with high levels of background dust coming from significant weather events, fires and natural sources and the town has obviously been through a period of immense growth and development which has seen construction projects contributed to increased dust levels.

As a community Port Hedland has always supported industry and its growth and at no stage was the growth of industry or the Port contemplated to have a negative impact on the health of our community. We do acknowledge the significant improvements made by industry and the Port in reducing the levels of dust and we understand that as a community, we all need to continue to work together to manage pollutants and ensure Port Hedland is a healthy, vibrant and economically stable community. We look forward to hearing from the Port and industry as to what their commitments are to further reduce dust exposure from their operations in order to minimise any impact upon the community of Port Hedland.

We would welcome the support of key stakeholders in creating green-belts of vegetation around our community to assist in reducing dust levels and look forward to working with stakeholders to make this happen.

Town planning

As part of Council's consideration on the Spoilbank waterfront development in May last year, Council endorsed the investigation of a suitable Town Planning instrument to be applied across the West End to restrict future densification of residential development.

People want to live in the West End and we respect and support private property owner's rights and the property rights of people in the West End.

In April 2012 we introduced Amendment 22 to Town Planning Scheme No. 5 for the West End Residential Zone which discourages occupation by families with children and elderly persons and no dwelling shall have greater than 2 bedrooms or rooms capable of being used as bedrooms. It also requires building designs to incorporate design features such as filtration of incoming air into buildings, operable windows and doors on the western and southern facades only and protective screens and porticos at building entrances.

We are in the process of reviewing and preparing a New Local Planning Scheme and working with agencies such as Department of Health, Department of Planning, Department of State Development on what those instruments may be. Once we have a clear indication the State Government's position we will be better placed to understand what work is required to prepare a new Local Planning Scheme.

