

## **Address to City of Nedlands Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

### **Agenda Item 14.3: Seaward Village Development Project**

**Basis of Address:** The importance of Sayer Street as a safe and quiet pedestrian and cycle thoroughfare to the bush and the beach and the impact that any increase in traffic will have on Sayer Street and all the streets in the City of Nedlands that re north of North Street.

Your Worship and members of Nedlands Council - Good evening

Thank you for the opportunity to address council tonight.

My name is Denise Murray and I have lived in Sayer Street Swanbourne since January 1988. My husband and I raised our three daughters in Sayer Street and now our grandchildren come back to play there.

Where is Sayer Street?

There are many diverse and precious places throughout the City of Nedlands and item 14.3 on tonight's council agenda focuses on an area that you may not all be familiar with. The Allen Park precinct is the hub of that part of our city that runs west of West Coast Highway to the beach and north of North Street, embracing at its northern boundary Campbell Barracks and the defence residential area of Seaward Village. Someone has even described Allen Park as "the lungs of Swanbourne" with its coastal bushland, rare tuart trees - home to flocks of owls, endangered Carnaby cockatoos and providing habitat for the return of the white wren.

It is not just birds that flock to the Allen Park precinct. Every morning, evening, throughout the day and especially on weekends, people walk and cycle to Allen Park so they can enjoy the unique bushland trails, the quiet and safe cycling paths, places that are safe and quiet for small children, families, joggers, dog walkers and the elderly. The sense of community at such times is palpable.

Sayer Street is a small street within the Allen Park precinct. It is more of a pedestrian and cycle path than a street because it forms a link between the north-south coastal cycleway and the route that is used by cyclists and pedestrians to Swanbourne beach and beyond. Sayer Street leads to A class reserve and Melon Hill. It was once correctly, a cul de sac but has been used as a very secondary access to the defence residential Seaward village.

Any increase in traffic along Sayer Street from the proposed Seaward redevelopment project will not only create real dangers for the pedestrians and cyclists who use it but traffic will be forced out onto the surrounding streets, all currently quiet neighbourhood roads where children can play and the elderly can walk without threat. The streets I refer to include Swansea, Lynton, Wood, Walpole, Clement and Odern Crescent – all these streets will feel the impact of a serious increase in traffic movements along Sayer Street.

We have had a taste of this in years past: In the time before West Coast Highway was completed and before Seaward Avenue was created as the main ingress and egress to Seaward Village, we saw a marked increase in numbers and speed of traffic along Sayer Street and the effects were felt throughout the other streets I have just named.

If you have not already visited the Allen Park precinct, I invite you to come and walk the streets I have mentioned, enjoy the unique bushland trails that have been regenerated by the Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group with incredible material and practical assistance from the City of Nedlands.

Please be aware that council needs to take an active role in ensuring that this amenity is not destroyed because of a proposed private development that to this point has not included the essential broad community consultation nor local government input.

I urge you to support Councillor Horley's motion tonight.

Denise Murray

26<sup>th</sup> May 2015