

Dave Hilton - Rockingham Councils Candidate's post

October 5th at 6.27pm

Over the past several weeks, I have received many messages, phone calls, and face-to-face conversations asking to express my viewpoint on Point Peron.

My passion runs deep for this area, first being introduced to the area as a 5 year old, learning to swim off the Mangles Bay jetty, exploring the many caves, and bush tracks as a child. Over the past 37 years, there hasn't been a month go by where I haven't visited Point Peron.

Point Peron must be treated with respect, preserve the history that already exists and compliment further.

Two factors we must consider, when deciding on how Point Peron moves forward: how do we accommodate 5500 vehicles and increasing, travelling to Garden Island daily, and are we happy with a sewage outlet pumping waste in to the waters not far from the Shoalwater Marine Park.

Community and stakeholder consultations are paramount. During the next 4 years a well thought out master plan must occur.

Two subjects that I have been asked about are - Point Peron to be listed as a Class A Reserve, and the agreement made back in 1964 between the then Prime Minister and Premier of WA, as lobbied by Hands Off Point Peron.

I would seek further input from the relevant agencies and the community groups who are directly involved with this to ensure I am fully briefed, prior to making a decision to ensure an outcome that reflects everyone's concerns.

Class A Reserve – protects the proposed area from any further development, be that mining, residential development, resorts and clearing of existing bush.

I am all in favour of a Class A Reserve if:

- Definitive boundaries are established.
- Long-standing tenants of the existing land (MBFC, TCYC & RSL) are assured they will be afforded long term permanent tenancy, so they can improve their lease areas.
- Public boat ramps remain, with future planning in place to increase with the growing demand over the coming years.
- No-fish zones are not imposed as part of the Class A proposal. (Current use allows people to swim off the rocks to catch crayfish, abalone, and line fishing for the iconic salmon, herring and tailor)

If the above can fit into a Class A Reserve I will give my full support. Kings Park and Rottnest Island are both Class A Reserves, so the natural beauty of an area can be preserved whilst improving the usability.

The agreement made in 1964 was on the conditions that future use was restricted to the purposes of public recreation and/or parklands.

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It was also further agreed that when existing holiday-camp leases expired, the entire area would become a Class A Reserve.

As mentioned above, I would need reassurance that long term lease holders of the proposed area, were guaranteed long term lease agreements.

Possibilities for an improved Point Peron - My views

Walking/cycle paths extending from Arcadia Drive, in to Point Peron and back out to Palm Beach.

Open recreational spaces, botanical gardens, grassed areas, barbecues.

Visitor/information Centre

Suitable car parking, with a shuttle bus transporting day-trippers to the point.

Eco short stay caravan/camping grounds- located at already cleared areas where shacks originally stood.

Café/restaurant, pop up food vendors and suitable amenities

Promotion of tourism operators to provide: snorkelling/diving, stand up paddle boarding, glass bottom boat viewing, Segway tours, history/nature tours etc.

All of the above can happen without privatizing, and the State being the primary landlord.

I hope this clarifies my position on Point Peron. Due to my involvement with the Mangles Bay Fishing Club and RKCC, some groups and people believe there are several candidates wanting to privatise Point Peron. I am for sure not one wanting to privatise Point Peron, but if my views above purport to this, the definition "privatise" needs to be understood, before outlandish comments are made.