

## PLANNING FOR CHAMPION LAKES MOVES FORWARD

30/1/03

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan has released for public comment a public environmental review (PER) in regards to the creation of a 120ha water-based recreation facility near Armadale.

"The Champion Lakes concept includes an international rowing course, white water facility with rapids for canoeists, short-stay accommodation and associated commercial facilities adjacent to the planned extension of the Tonkin Highway," Ms MacTiernan said.

"The development proposal also includes a lake-side residential area and an interpretive centre recording the site's Aboriginal heritage significance."

The public will have four weeks to comment on the PER for the Champion Lakes project when it is released in February.

"While there has been no final approval for the development, we are working very hard to demonstrate its environmental and economic feasibility," Ms MacTiernan said.

"It is a joint State/local government initiative, being directed by the Armadale Redevelopment Authority and involving many areas of government such as planning, transport, environment, education and sport. There has also been extensive community input.

"Champion Lakes could be a major part of the revitalisation of Armadale and the south-east corridor that will redress years of neglect and provide the base for a future of growth - socially, economically and environmentally.

"Extensive conservation areas within the site, which is mostly vacant land, will be retained and rehabilitated."

Ms MacTiernan said cost efficiencies had also been identified, with Main Roads WA to excavate the rowing course and use the material as fill for the adjacent Tonkin Highway extension.

All the land, except for a small holding to be acquired by the Western Australian Planning Commission, is owned by the WAPC and the City of Armadale.

Armadale Mayor Linton Reynolds said he was excited that the project was moving ahead.

"Release of the PER marks an important step towards a facility that will provide Armadale residents with a new level of quality recreation, as well as attracting elite athletes into the area for training and competition," Mr Reynolds said.

"It will provide spin-offs for the local economy."

Minister's Office - 9213 6400