

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Underground power concerns

In response to numerous calls to my office over the past fortnight I have organised an urgent public meeting tomorrow night to discuss the Withers Underground Power Project.

Landowners from the affected suburbs, Withers, Glen Padden and Usher, are expressing many concerns about the project which will cost each of them an average \$3000. That is a one-off payment or \$270 over 20 years.

The biggest alarm for me, however, was the inadequacy of the public consultation for such a huge project which will have an immense financial impact on landowners.

I do not believe the four-page brochure containing a survey was enough to warrant the Council decision to go-ahead with the project on the proviso that that it has majority support.

Of the more than 1600 surveys, only 600 were returned and 210 of those were submitted from Homeswest, a State Government Department.

That response resulted 64% support for the project however, judging from the groundswell of anger from the community which I have witnessed in the past few weeks, I believe more consultation is required.

For this reason I have a petition in my office which will also be available at tomorrow's public meeting.

This petition is not in opposition to the project but asks that it be halted until adequate and more transparent public consultation can be undertaken.

At the meeting a record of those who support the project will also be taken.

Those who are unable to make it are urged to call my office on 9791 3636 to have their view on the issue recorded. Alternatively visit www.johncastrilli.com and email me through the 'Contact John' link.

•The public meeting will be held tomorrow night (May 29) at the Soccerdrome, Parade Road between 6pm and 7pm.

Choose Respect

The momentum for implementing the Choose Respect initiative in Bunbury is growing stronger by the day.

Tonight another group of community members will gather at Chamber House to devise implementation strategies for the initiative.

This will be the second in a series of workshops, which are in response to the groundswell of support shown at a community forum held in March.

I am very pleased to see such a passionate group of community representatives taking ownership of this initiative.

This support is imperative to the eventual success of Choose Respect if we are to be successful in creating and fostering a culture of respect in our community.

Any other groups, organisations, schools or community members wanting to get on board are urged to contact my office on 9791 3636.

This initiative will not have overnight results but if we can keep up the momentum, the future of our community will be brighter.

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