

# Removal of sand dunes approved'

■ Tim Slater



The owner of a property on the outskirts of Esperance has rejected claims sand dunes have been removed without approval.

Mining and Pastoral Region Greens MLC Robin Chapple raised the issue in Parliament on Wednesday and said he was concerned the dunes had been removed.

"The dune system, on the corner of Harbour Road and South Coast Highway, was removed, leaving local residents wondering if an appropriate environmental assessment of the ecosystem had been undertaken," he said.

"It is simply unacceptable that an ecosystem has been removed without an environmental assessment."

However, property owner Andy Burns said there was absolutely nothing wrong with what he had done in the approvals process.

"There was an entire flora and fauna study and plant species study done and the processes were all checked off," he said.

"It was a quite arduous process to go through and took about two years to complete."

He said sand removal had been taking place from the site for the past four and a half years, with the sand

being used for renourishment on the foreshore.

Eyre MLA Graham Jacobs said the site was in the Shire of Esperance town planning scheme.

"A requirement of the scheme requires an outline development plan to be approved prior to subdivision."

"Both the shire and WA Planning Commission approved the ODP in 2008, and subdivision approval was given in 2009," he said.

"According to the ODP (approved by WAPC) no specific environmental significance was identified within the development area or this specific site."

Shire of Esperance chief executive officer Matthew Scott said the WAPC and the State Administration Tribunal approved a subdivision application for the lot on the corner of Harbour Road and the South Coast Highway.

"Sand removal from the property was approved as part of the subdivision," he said.

Mr Burns said it was unfortunate the Environment Minister had to waste his time on this issue in Parliament when the records could have easily been checked with the WAPC.

"It is comical that this has been brought up in Parliament," he said.

A spokesperson for Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the Department of Environment Regulation was investigating the issue.



In the playground: Reg Lantzke, Mirannda Swann, Bernadette Saunders and Callum Winn, with kindergarden students Micheal Curran and Maliha Khanzawar. Photo: MARY MILLS

## Play area a community effort

■ Michael Dulaney

Community generosity has helped St Joseph's Primary School set up a new play area without cost to the school.

Materials for the natural play area at the kindergarden, complete with a 1.5-tonne rock, cut up tree and stepping stones, were donated by mining companies and community businesses.

With "plenty available" at the site, Norton Gold Fields' Paddington mine provided the rock and tree, while Monadelphous provided the

crane hire. There were also contributions from Whitbread Excavations and Burgie's Soils.

The donations mean children now have a "Giant's Causeway" bike path and musical garden to play in. It has helped transform the area from a standard manufactured plastic playground to one where children can use their imagination, according to St Joseph's principal Miranda Swann.

"Certainly the research shows more and more schools and playgroups are moving towards a natural, play-based garden area," she said.

"The impact we've seen is an increase in the children's creativity and imagination in terms of their play."

"They're more centred, interested and on-task in their play and more imaginative in what they do."

"So far the rock has been Pride Rock, it has been a pirate ship, it has been all kinds of things."

"The kids use their imagination to make of it what they will, there's limited imaginative use from that kind of manufactured playground, so it has made an incredible difference to the way they play."

## Awards recognise nursing prowess

The search is on to find and honour the country's top nursing professionals in the 2014 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Colleagues, patients and employers in Western Australia can now nominate a nurse believed to be worthy of an award.

HESTA chief executive Anne-Marie Corboy said the Awards highlight the incredibly important performed by those in nursing and showcase innovations in practice which lead to improved patient care. "Nurses are an important lynchpin of the national health system," she

said. "Yet, often the high standard of care they provide to patients - day-in, day-out - goes unnoticed outside their individual workplaces."

Nominees will be in the running for part of the \$30,000 prize pool provided by ME Bank to be shared among the winners in the three award categories.

Nominations can be made until February 28, 2014 through the website [www.hestaawards.com.au](http://www.hestaawards.com.au).

HESTA is one of the leading superannuation funds for health and community services with more than 760,000 members.

## Fashionable fundraising

Fashion and fundraising will go hand in hand this weekend as local models put on a show for the Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre.

The fashion parade/Christmas party will be held at the Hannan's Club tomorrow evening, with proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle going to the centre.

Fifteen local models, rang-

ing in age from five to 30, will be modelling clothes provided by nine local retailers.

The centre will also be launching their calendar at the event. Tickets are \$15 for centre members and \$25 for non-members.

Phone Eshe Christie on 0447744874 or the Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre on 9021 8266.

## Jetty set for reconnection to mainland

The tanker jetty is set to be reconnected to the mainland next week.

Work on six jetty piles, that was needed before the jetty could be re-opened, has finished, according to a Shire of Esperance spokesperson.

"The placement of the bridge that will connect the

headland to the jetty is expected to be put into position next week," she said.

"We are working with Sime Building and Construction to restore access as quickly as possible."

She said a re-opening date for the jetty will be advised as soon as it can be confirmed.

## Water conservation initiatives recognised

The Shire of Esperance has received State recognition for its water conservation initiatives in the 2013 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program.

The recognition follows the shire winning the Great Southern and South Coast Region category of the program in October after reducing its water consumption by 869,600 litres, compared to last year. Water consumption has decreased significantly at the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre following the introduction of sight windows in the backwashing system that is now operated when needed, rather than routinely.

A new floor-cleaning machine has also contributed to savings.

The shire has also modified landscape designs to feature native plants that require little water.

"A priority list ensures the irrigation systems in poorest condition are first to receive upgrades," a spokesperson said.

"The new systems feature efficiency measures and energy consumption reducing designs."

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is proud to announce this years

## SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

DATE: Wednesday 11 December 2013

TIME: 12:00noon to 3:00pm

VENUE: Graduates Hall, 50 MacDonald Street Kalgoorlie

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED

This is a SENIOR CITIZEN function and is provided by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder FREE OF CHARGE

For further enquiries contact Sue or Tricia at the Eastern Goldfields Community Centre on 9021 9800

