



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 30 December 2016
For immediate release

Swan River Marine Park at Alfred Cove Under Threat

The superb natural values of Alfred Cove are under threat from a proposal by Wave Park Group Pty Ltd (WPG) to construct an artificial surfing facility on the Swan River foreshore at Tompkins Park.

On Monday night the City of Melville gave the go-ahead to a business plan that could see a massive surf sports, recreation and leisure facility built for private profit on one of the most important areas of public open space remaining along the River.

Not only will the structure occupy the current Melville Bowling Club site, but it will also extend into existing Tompkins Park playing fields and over a ribbon of Crown Land along the River's margin, identified as an important conservation corridor.

The River at this point is a sanctuary for a wonderfully rich diversity of native flora and fauna and therefore declared a Marine Park.

For millennia, shore-birds have arrived from Siberia each year, the shallows and mud-flats providing a rich food-source for their return journey. The Cove also provides vital habitat for local and nomadic birds such as Egrets, Pied Oyster-catchers, Black-winged Stilts, Osprey and Musk Ducks; and if one is *really* fortunate, the shy 'native water-mouse with golden belly' and quenda may be spotted hiding in the sedges and shrubs.

Already under enormous urban pressure, additional disturbance inevitably caused by the proposed wave-park will jeopardise these fragile jewels of our much-loved Swan River.

The profitability of the wave-park does not rely on its being built at Alfred Cove, as is evidenced by WPG's earlier application (rejected) to the City of Subiaco to use Subiaco Oval, and the facility currently being constructed next to Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne. However, to degrade a place of such outstanding natural beauty and importance by doing so will be an unconscionable mistake in our history of river management.

In the words of local visionary George Seddon, *'The Swan Estuary is too valuable for us to take any more chances'*.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

If you would like an interview with a representative from SERAG, please contact:
Catherine O'Neill (Secretary)

Phone: (08)93392439 Email: swanestuaryreserves@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.swanestuaryreserves.org.au>