

CLOSED WATERS MOTORISED VESSELS AREA — SOUTH BEACH, FREMANTLE

Petition

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [12.04 pm]: My petition has been checked by the Clerks and is in conformity with the standing orders. It reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

Currently, the Department of Transport is undertaking a review of aquatic use for the South Metropolitan area involving a proposal which includes gazetting a Closed Waters Motorised Vessel area 100 m from the shore, from approx. 120 m south of the Fremantle Saving Club (FSC) groyne, to the second South Beach groyne. This proposal includes a 120 m boat landing area onto South Beach immediately adjacent to the FSC groyne and club facilities.

The proposal, supported by FSC and other boating organizations, would mean that vessels including motorised boats, sailing dinghies, ribs, tenders and jet skis will be able to moor or run ashore on the 120 m northern section of South Beach including 30 m of the main entrance to South Beach. This section of South Beach is used by swimmers, families and children and people with dogs every day of the year.

The pristine ocean environment of South Beach has been subject to numerous threats in recent years. Most recently, in around 2013, the FSC proposed building a 75 m universal access ramp off South Beach, which did not proceed. The FSC already has 28 ha of coastline and water.

We, the undersigned, say that South Beach is widely used and highly valued by the local and wider community. With the FSC, Fishing Boat Harbour and marine industries taking up most of the City of Fremantle coastline, South Beach and Bathers Beach are the only remaining swimming beaches south of the City of Fremantle.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to ensure the preservation of South Beach and its natural surrounds for the people of WA and we call on the State Government to resist further encroachment of development on or offshore from South Beach coastline and request that a **Groyne to Groyne Closed Waters Motorised Vessel area 200 m from shore** be gazetted in perpetuity. Precedents exist e.g. Cottesloe Beach.

There are 10 471 complying signatures to this petition, and 36 non-complying signatures, making a total of 10 507 signatures.

[See petition 340.]