

Diversity backed for Hills

By **NICOLE HEINRICH**

MUNDARING Shire will support a WA Planning Commission request to lift building restrictions affecting Parkerville and Stoneville, paving the way for development of new town sites.

Councillors voted on the issue in front of a packed public gallery on Tuesday night after an alternative motion put forward by Cr Sharon Davies was lost three votes to eight.

Cr Davies called for an environmental assessment on the impact of various wastewater treatment options before the council considered lifting restrictions on the urban deferred zone.

Wastewater management concerns brought about the deferment in 2001.

"I really think we need to revisit the whole issue," Cr Davies told the meeting.

"This is the Hills. It's part of the fragile eco-system of the South West.

"We are running out of potable drinking water. We have got to make a decision - do we want to drink and breathe or go ahead with our development?"

The gallery applauded Cr Davies when she finished speaking. Cr John Daw and Cr Karen Harvey sup-

ported her motion.

But Cr Jenny Johnson disagreed, saying Cr Davies' motion was "off track" from the WAPC's request.

"There seems to be a bit of scare-mongering in the community," she said.

Cr Johnson said the site had not been chosen for a sewerage plant and it had not been designed or costed. "We're purely talking about technical processes. Nothing has been designed or planned or located," she said. "It's all going to be looked at again and there will be consultation. This is not a public consultation period at this stage."

Cr Alan Pilgrim said there was a demand for diversity in the Hills.

"There is no one Hills lifestyle. There is demand for smaller blocks," he said.

The council's decision included advising landowners that support for lifting the deferment was on the basis that subdivision and infrastructure plans for both town sites would be reviewed before development started. It will also tell the Water Corporation it wants to be involved in making a decision on the wastewater treatment solution.

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