

# Partners caught in zone row

By **ANDREA MAYES**

**THE WA Planning Commission is under fire for an alleged conflict of interest over a controversial resort planned for Roleystone.**

The development of the 160-unit resort at Lot 62 Croyden Rd — part of the Araluen Golf Course Estate — hinges on the land being rezoned, a matter which will shortly come before the commission.

City of Armadale development services director Ian MacRae, who was heavily involved in drawing up the rezoning proposal, is married to WAPC member Corinne MacRae, who will help frame the commission's recommendation on the rezoning.

Upper Canning Valley Progress Association founder Paul Mutton said it was unacceptable that Ms MacRae would effectively be voting on her husband's work.

"It goes against all concepts of fairness and transparency and open government," Mr Mutton said.

Ms MacRae said she was aware of the Lot 62 issue but had not decided whether to exclude herself from working on it. "I will look at that carefully ... but it's not something I've given much thought to because we haven't had the matter before us," she said.

As a Town of Cambridge councillor, Ms MacRae said she often had to deal with potential conflicts of interest involving her WAPC position, but had never yet ruled herself out of cases because of it.

A WAPC spokeswoman said its members were expected to abide by its standard of conduct.

She said the issue was still being assessed by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and was not expected to be handed to the commission until the end of the month.

The proposed resort has been plagued with controversy since its inception and has aroused strong community opposition.

Roleystone residents believe it will spoil the tranquillity of the area and create serious environmental problems for the Canning River.

They say the site is too steep and unstable to be built on and that the original agreement between developers and the council preserved the land as public open space.

The council disagrees. Mayor Linton Reynolds said restrictions had been imposed on the development by the council to meet residents' concerns. He said the original agreement proposed that about 10 per cent of the lot become crown land, but this was never enacted.