

# GPA wants answers

GIDGEGANNUP Progress Association chairwoman Sally Block has called for an urgent meeting with Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan and Swan City Council over the Port Bouvard development.

Mrs Block said the proposed creation of more than 2000 residential lots between Toodyay and Bunning roads in three years was "very important for Gidgegannup and for the Hills".

The association had serious concerns about the effect on infrastructure.

In announcing the plans to the Australian Stock Exchange this week, Port Bouvard managing director, Ross Neumann, said the company would provide scheme water and deep sewage to the developments.

"Where is the deep sewage going to go and do we need a treatment plant?" Mrs Block asked.

"We'd like to know whether the State and Local Governments have it in their budgets to provide the infrastructure which will be needed immediately.

"Development in the Hills is enormously different to development on the coastal plain – the terrain and topography is very different and there are an awful lot of environmental factors to take into consideration.

"It's not so easy to develop on a grid pattern and the blocks they're developing also have substantial areas of wetland. We'd like to know what kind of public open space there will be.

"The primary school is full and Eastern Hills Senior High School is also at capacity so they'd need to provide for that.

"Our electricity supply isn't adequate to deal with the population we have now, which Western Power has admitted.

"There's no transport system up here and Toodyay Road is already overcrowded without an extra 20,000 traffic movements a day."

Despite the list of concerns, Mrs Block said Gidgegannup people were not necessarily against development.

"We want to see development as outlined at the public meeting in October 2006, which was attended by 300 people including councillors from the City of Swan," she said.