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KIC Cautious on Port Plans

The new State Government's plans for the Port of Fremantle have received cautious backing from Kwinana Industries Council with one major proviso: no livestock for Kwinana.

In principle KIC supports the proposal, apart from reservations over the inclusion of livestock handling, effects on the marine environment, and the effect on existing public utility support infrastructure.

"KIC is jealous of the industrial zone and does not consider placing stock yards in one of the few areas of the state available for heavy industry is the best use of that limited amount of land," said KIC spokesman Alan Gale.

"The storage of imported cars and containers also requires large tracts of land.

"The outside fringes of the buffer zone are already under threat from encroaching urban development. This is a major issue which so far has not been addressed in detail and we look forward to being briefed by the relevant minister."

Mr Gale said the proposal also prompts discussion about upgrading heavy vehicle and rail transport corridors. Two northern major access corridors would be required: utilising Anketell Road and Rowley Road.

"Noise from significant numbers of heavy vehicles braking and accelerating between future residential areas may give rise to complaints," Mr Gale said.

"Adequate buffers to the transport corridors must be provided as experience tells us transport noise is rightly of major community concern."

Mr Gale said KIC's support depended entirely on satisfactory environmental impact reports.

"The continuing improvement of Cockburn Sound's water quality must not be compromised – if possible it should be improved," he said.

"It is imperative that detailed studies associated with the necessary environmental approvals are taken into account.

"Perhaps the proposed port development provides an opportunity to provide further improvement to the quality of Cockburn Sound by increasing the water flow of Garden Island Causeway."

KIC has no comment on the proposed James Point development at this stage.

"James Point has made an application to become a KIC associate member and it would not be appropriate to make comment until the application process has been completed," Mr Gale said.