



KIC cautious on port plan

By MONIQUE MANNILE

KWINANA Industries Council has thrown cautious support behind State Opposition plans for the future of Fremantle Port Outer Harbour — on the condition there is no livestock trade through the Kwinana industrial area.

Under the proposal, which has been strongly opposed by Kwinana Town Council, most of the cargo traffic from the existing port site would be moved to a big man-made island in Cockburn Sound.

Industries council director Chris Oughton said the group

had a number of reservations including livestock handling issues, imported car storage, effects on the marine environment and the effect on existing public utility support infrastructure.

“KIC is jealously protective of the industrial zone and does not feel having stock yards in a heavy industrial area is the best use of the limited amount of appropriately zoned land,” Mr Oughton said.

The amount of land required for storage of imported cars, livestock and containers, as well as encroaching urban development on the outside fringes of the industrial buffer

zone, also raised questions about whether this was the best use of available heavy industrial land.

Mr Oughton said it was a mistake to underestimate the importance of the industrial buffer zone.

“Noise from significant numbers of heavy vehicles braking and accelerating between future residential areas may give rise to future complaints,” he said.

“Adequate buffers to the transport corridors must be provided because experience tells us transport noise is a source of nuisance for the community.”

However, Mr Oughton said the plan was a catalyst to discuss upgrading the heavy vehicle and rail transport corridors.

“Two northern major access corridors are now required, using Anketell and Rowley roads.

“The Dangerous Goods Route, now along Thomas Road, should become one of these new routes, but early action should be taken to limit road noise to residential areas,” he said.

Mr Oughton said continued support for the proposal depended entirely on satisfactory environmental impact reports.