



15 May 2024: *Leighton Action Coalition Inc. statement in response to Minister for Planning, John Carey MLA, accepting the advice of the WA Planning Commission to apply 'Urban Deferred' zoning to much of the land behind Port Beach - south Leighton in North Fremantle as originally advertised (a smaller, narrower area of land abutting Port Beach Road has been zoned Parks and Recreation). The amendment has now been tabled in parliament for 12 sitting days. See WAPC map below.*

The statement below can be attributed to Paul Gamblin, spokesperson, Leighton Action Coalition, Inc.

“The Port Beach – south Leighton coast has had another stay of execution. While earning our respect for resisting developer pressure to zone much of the area to urban immediately, Minister for Planning, John Carey, did however back in the WA Planning Commission’s intention to eventually move the bulk of this coastal land to urban, by applying the ‘Urban Deferred’ option. A sliver of land between the industrial area and Port Beach Road has now been zoned Parks and Recreation which is welcome and a win for common sense but is only the bare minimum starting point for a meaningful coastal park.”

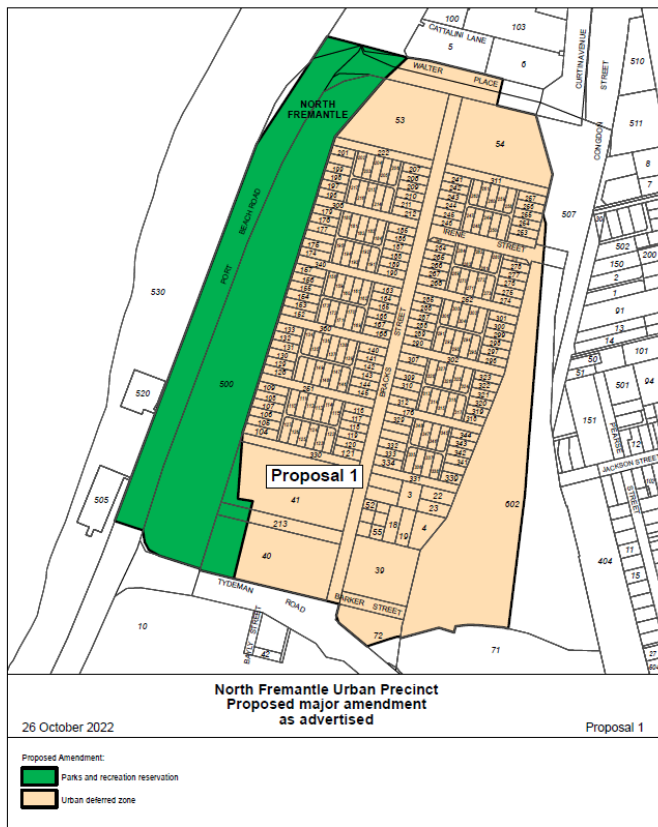
“So, it’s a mixed bag for tens of thousands of Port-Leighton beach lovers - we live to fight another day for a wide, natural beach and access for all, for generations to come. We have another chance to advocate for restored dunes and much-needed public open space over groynes and seawalls.”

“The rezoning, even deferred, is widely regarded as premature, but to their credit, the WAPC and the Minister also took on board sustained, credible advice from the City of Fremantle and the Leighton Action Coalition, among others, to defer the urban zoning until crucial analysis is done to determine additional coastal foreshore requirements.”

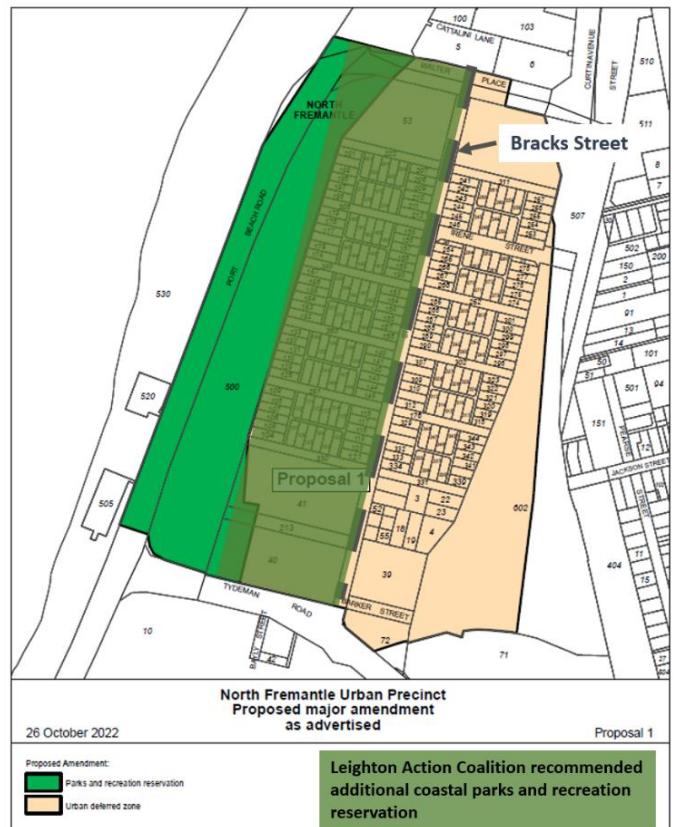
“The next step is vitally important and we call on Minister Carey to confirm his commitment to a transparent process with full community participation to determine the future needs for this ever-popular area, reflecting its vast and growing catchment that stretches from the coast to the hills. We only get one shot.”

“This decision also allows for the Future of Fremantle process to finish its important work, albeit its apparent predilection for groynes and heavy engineering, with a narrow foreshore, in its scenarios to date, has drawn deep concern from across the community. We expect the FoF process to strive to meet its potential to genuinely inspire the community, promote good planning, and not resort to BAU in the Port Beach section, when it delivers its final report shortly.”

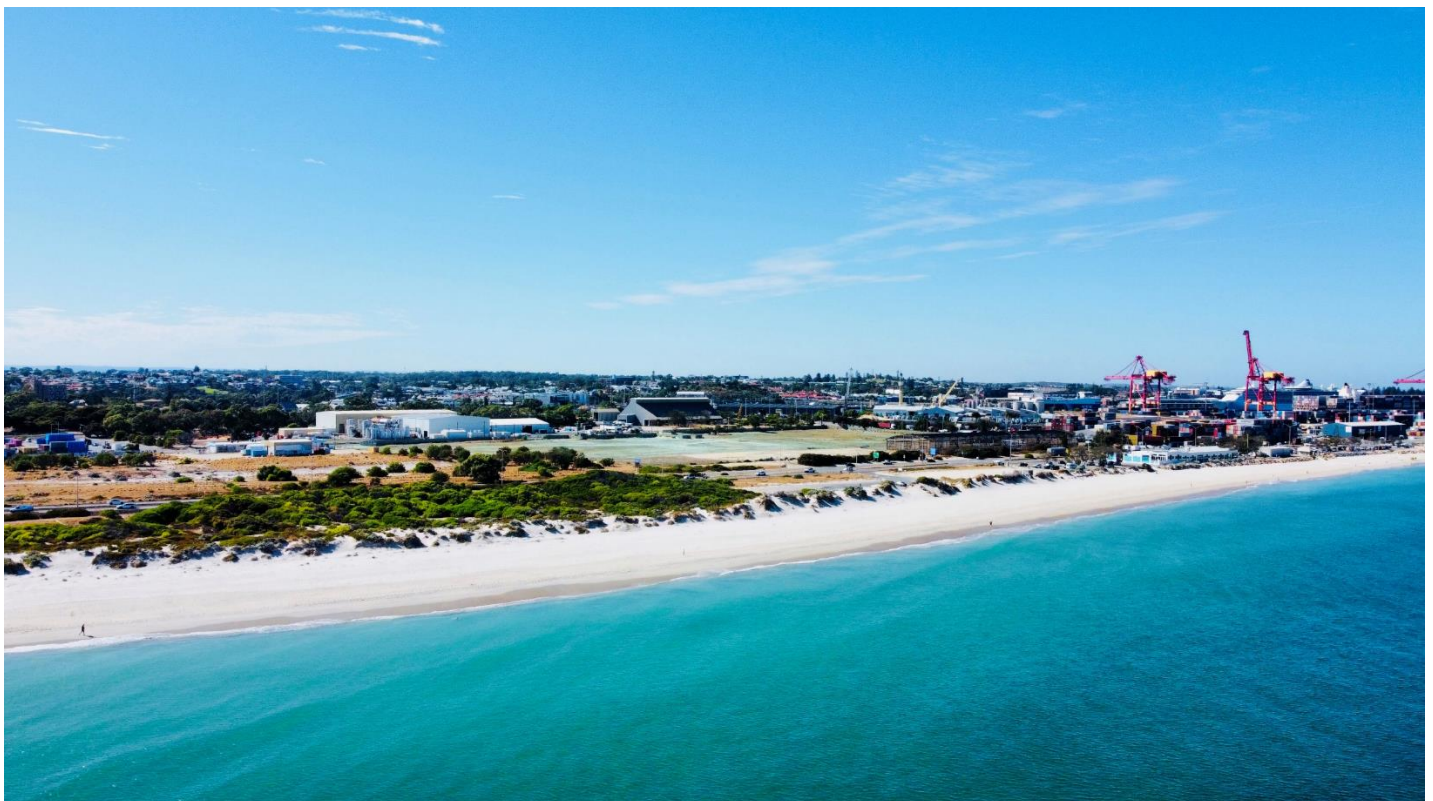
(See comparative maps below)



Government zoning decision



LAC recommendation



Port Beach © Michael Wearne