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Ellen Cove Swimming Enclosure Information Session

City of Albany staff welcomed about 35 key stakeholders to find out more about the installation of the Ellen Cove Swimming Enclosure at Middleton Beach last week.

The Information Session was supported by stakeholders including the Middleton Beach Group, Friends of Emu Point, Department of Transport, Department of Fisheries, Southern Ports Authority, Landcorp, and Albany Surf Life Saving Club who hosted the lunchtime session.

City of Albany Executive Director of Works and Services Matthew Thomson explained the background of the project, from the initial State Government offer of funding to a feasibility study, engagement of community, survey, adoption by Council, awarding of a tender and embarking on the trial.

The State Government has contributed \$200,000 along with \$30,000 from Council to start the trial with the community offered support and assistance to monitor the swimming enclosure.

Mr Thomson said the project had been well supported and the trial was a great way to gauge how the community embrace it.

“The enclosure is about safety and giving people confidence they can swim in safety, especially young children, families and the elderly. We have received positive feedback so far,” Mr Thomson said.

Global Marine Enclosures provided an overview on the enclosure’s main features and emphasised their concern for the environment by highlighting their mission to “preserve life”.

A similar enclosure was used at Coogee Beach for four months and demonstrated no impact to marine life with no environmental damage.



Left: Angus Whoithe, Friends of Emu Point; Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany; Sharon Khoury, Global Marine Enclosures; Jane Mouritz, Middleton Beach Group; Greg Stocks, City of Albany; Edward Khoury, Global Marine Enclosures; Graeme Poole, Southern Ports Authority Albany; and Matthew Thomson, City of Albany.



Edward Khoury, lead consultant from Global Marine Enclosures, said the enclosure was strong and versatile having been developed over time.

“We have been through a long and rigorous process to gain approvals since the trial at Coogee Beach,” Mr Khoury said.

“We are confident through testing and the trial that the enclosure will withstand a very harsh environment,” he said.

The enclosure is set to be installed in late February-March this year to be completed in time for Easter.

As a result of community feedback, the City will also rationalise signage and incorporate new information into existing boards.

The City also liked the idea from the community to investigate the possibility of installing an underwater camera to monitor the wildlife, the barrier, and the seabed during the trial.

The City intends to continue to work closely with stakeholders to install the barrier and signage over the next few months and would like to acknowledge the support of Albany Surf Life Saving Club who hosted the session.

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Images are available by contacting:

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This project is supported by:

