

15. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

15.1 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TRAILL

Date and Time Received: Monday 25 November 2024 at 4.00 pm (Amended on 13 December 2024)

**15.1: NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TRAILL
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

THAT Council:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of Water Corporation in exploring alternative water resources to meet increasing demand.
- 2. SUPPORTS** Water Corporation’s initiative to investigate desalination as one option for future water supply;
- 3. CALLS** on Water Corporation to eliminate consideration of all, or any of, Albany’s enclosed or semi-enclosed waterways (i.e. Oyster Harbour, Princess Royal Harbour, and King George Sound) with respect to deployment of desalination infrastructure, inclusive of inflow, outflow and shore-based desalination plant, on the basis of:
 - (a)** the precautionary principle (“First, do no harm”);
 - (b)** the existing high-quality seawater conditions of King George Sound, and the recovering healthy waterways of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour;
 - (c)** the need of certain species of flora and fauna for ecologically healthy water bodies;
 - (d)** the reliance on these water bodies for significant commercial, recreational, community and scientific activities; and
 - (e)** compelling evidence that deployment of desalination infrastructure in similar environments has generated harmful effects and influences on the environment.
- 4. FURTHER CALLS** on Water Corporation to:
 - (a)** focus its research activities and investigations on the open coastline to the east and west of Albany;
 - (b)** engage effectively and comprehensively with Council, the community and all stakeholders to ensure that all sectors of the community have genuine opportunities to provide submissions on any desalination proposal/s, including brine disposal;
 - (c)** provide open and transparent communication (including the data collected) with the City of Albany and its residents throughout the planning, consultation and implementation phases;
 - (d)** investigate alternative water sources, including aquifer recharge, wastewater (including stormwater) treatment and expansion of existing water catchment areas within the region; and
 - (e)** implement effective water-saving strategies and public education campaigns.
- 5. DIRECTS** the CEO to liaise with Water Corporation to ensure that Council’s concerns and suggestions are adequately represented and addressed in a timely manner.

Reason:

The City of Albany recognises the importance of securing sustainable water sources to meet future demands. While the City does not have significant influence over the Water Corporation's plans, it is crucial that our input reflects the community's concerns and supports thorough and responsible planning.

This motion aims to ensure that the Water Corporation's desalination plans are comprehensive, environmentally and socially sound, and considerate of all stakeholders involved.

The Albany Aquaculture Development Zone represents a significant investment by the WA State government into identifying and establishing aquaculture development zones along the south coast of Western Australia.

The Great Southern region has some of the cleanest and most pristine waters in the world, which adds a significant premium to fish and shellfish products harvested from the Albany Aquaculture Zone. The local aquaculture industry is committed to identifying, managing and mitigating any risks that may be associated with aquaculture to safeguard our environment.

In addition to traditional aquaculture which produces shellfish and fish, the South Coast is an attractive location for the introduction of seaweed aquaculture, which is recognised as a sustainable way to produce high-value nutrient dense foods and marine bioproducts. The development and growth of aquaculture industries in Albany will provide employment and investment opportunities.

It is of vital importance that a desalination proposal prioritises the importance of not only the local aquaculture industry and its future growth, but also the South Coast's reputation for clean and pristine waterways.

The brine discharge process may affect the balance of marine ecosystems, and seawater desalination plants must take appropriate measure to reduce the impact of brine discharge on the environment.

The Frenchman Bay / Goode Beach area is home to many Albany residents and a prime tourism destination with an international reputation. This motion also aims to protect the amenity of residents and visitors, with no adverse effects on liveability and tourism.

Officer Comment:

City of Albany officers acknowledge the purpose of this motion and are supportive of the motion.