



# I'll front Parliament on Cott heights: Hammond

By **BONNIE CHRISTIAN**

**Keep Cott Low president John Hammond has offered to appear before Parliament to explain the group's position on high-rise along the Cottesloe foreshore.**

"I would be happy to appear before the standing committee to answer any questions in relation to what has been an eight-year battle to preserve Cottesloe beachfront," he said in a letter to Brian Ellis, chairman of the standing committee on environmental and public affairs.

The advertising period for Planning Minister John Day's proposal for eight storeys at the Ocean Beach Hotel and the Lido site and five storeys along the rest of the foreshore ends on May 27.

Cottesloe mayor Kevin Morgan urged the public to make separate submissions to Mr Day on the correct form, which is available on the council website.

He said joint submissions were counted as one and every

member of a household and friends and relatives should make individual submissions.

In his letter, Mr Hammond said Cottesloe had entered into an enquiry by design (EBD) process after the then state Labor government agreed to participate.

He said the current state government had declined to accept the findings of the EBD and had been dishonest in its manipulation of the planning process, particularly by ignoring the outcome of the EBD.

"The state government has caused a significant waste of public revenue both at local government and state government level by failing to abide by the outcome of the EBD," he said.

"Fourteen thousand signatories, the overwhelming majority of whom are not Cottesloe residents, oppose any further increases in height on the beachfront."

He said the only supporters of increased height limits were real estate agents, property developers and builders.

"I note that one of the first actions of the incoming government in New South Wales was to abolish the planning laws which now make high-rise possible at the Ocean Beach Hotel and Cottesloe Beach Hotel sites," he said.

"Cottesloe will irrevocably change for the worse – both in terms of its abundance, international status, tourist appeal and unique village character – if height limits in excess of those recommended by the EBD are permitted."

The EBD process permits a maximum of three storeys along the foreshore and five storeys at the Ocean Beach Hotel site.

SOS Cottesloe president Chris Wiggins said this week Trip Advisor, one of the world's largest online travel sites, named Perth as the fourth top travel destination in the South Pacific region.

It referred to "family-friendly Cottesloe brimming with swimmers, surfers and snorkellers".