



Ellis asks minister over windsurf snub

AGRICULTURAL Region MP Brian Ellis raised calls for a replacement windsurfing reef for Geraldton in parliament last week.

Mr Ellis pressed Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan about the concerns of Geraldton Windsurfing Club, which is pushing for compensation should the proposed Oakajee port get the go-ahead.

The windsurfers are upset they will lose their popular Spot-X site but Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister Adele Farina said the department had spoken to the club but had refused their request.

In a letter to the windsurfers, Ms MacTiernan said an artificial



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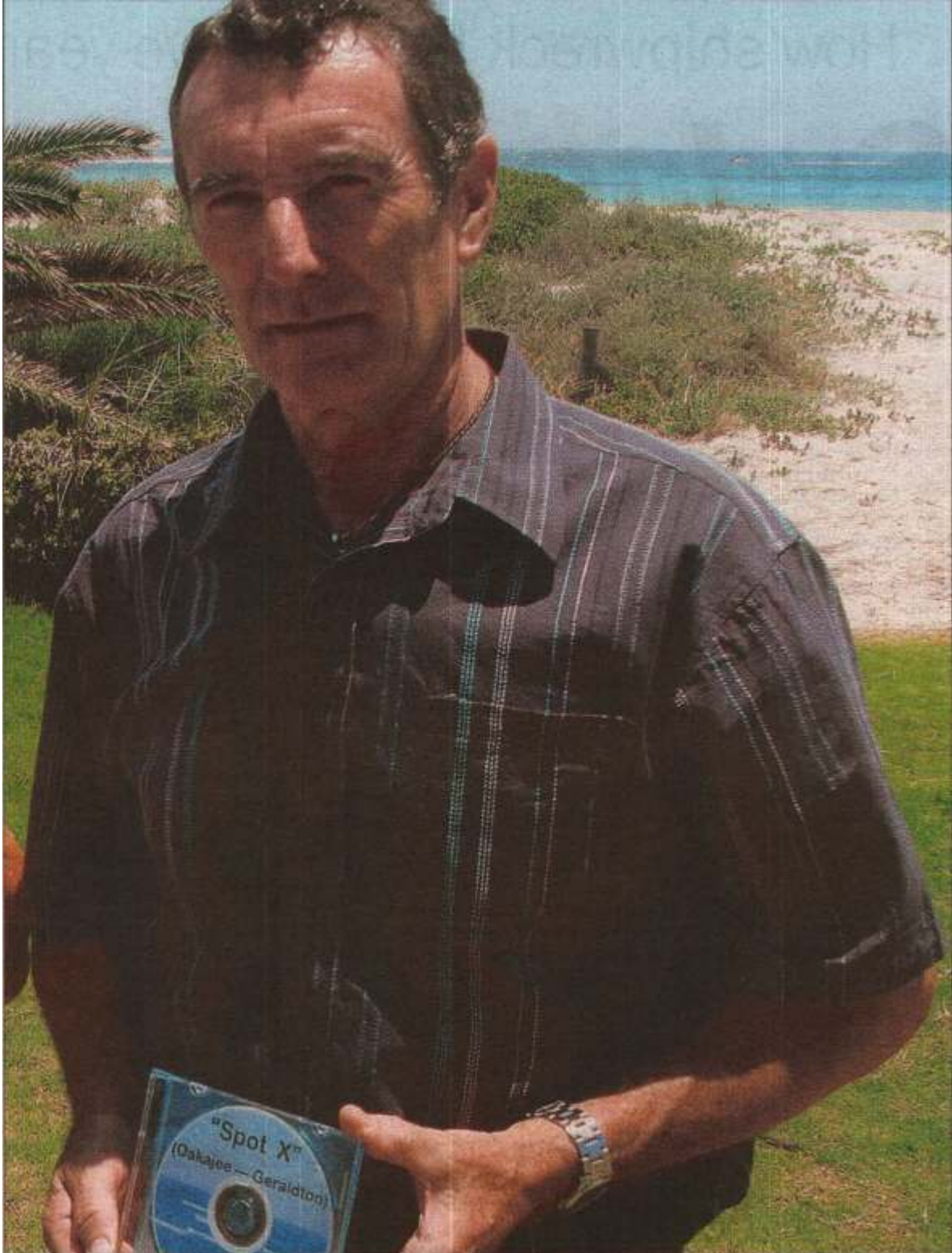
**GERALDTON WINDSURFING CLUB
MEMBER JOHN ECKERSLEY**

reef would not be able to replicate the surf conditions at Spot-X. "There are doubts on the efficacy of artificial reefs in comparison to

naturally existing surf conditions," the minister wrote. "In addition, the conditions are much more difficult on the coastline and it could therefore be very expensive to build an artificial reef."

Club member John Eckersley said: "Following years of campaigning, we are disappointed the WA Government has not included in the Oakajee Port tender documents for the proponents to build an artificial surfing reef."

However, Mr Eckersley indicated the club supported the government's insistence that it would award the port contract to whichever company "demonstrated they had a social conscience".



Disappointed: Geraldton Windsurfing Club member John Eckersley.