

34 LETTERS

Mourning our bay

How did we let this happen?

The destruction of our beautiful Matilda Bay, changing it for ever. I say “our” because as West Australians we being fishers, fruit and veggie growers, farmers, miners, First Nations people, etc., these precious areas of nature, such as rivers, the coastline of the south, the astonishing gorges of the north-west, the rolling farmlands, the beaches, the tall forests, they are our heritage.

They belong to every West Australian. Here we have a big-headed woman who has the most inept Premier by the nose backed up by a bunch of toothless tigers making some very bad decisions, such as the destruction of a lovely public area for a racetrack, a rugby team and subsidising airfares so Eastern Staters can afford to come to watch a couple of ordinary Italian soccer teams in action and bolster the attendance figures.

Living in the bush, my family and I have on more than one occasion held family gatherings on special occasions at Matilda Bay because it is central to all. Where the older members sit back in comfortable chairs watching the younger ones play ball games while the very young frolic in the safe and beautiful Swan River till all join in a bring and share lunch. I am sure many families could tell the same story. Sadly, we must say goodbye to Matilda Bay as we know it. How can we stop them?

Lorraine Packham, Tammin