

21 February 2007

The Hon Alan Carpenter MLA
Premier of Western Australia
Minister for Federal State Relations; Trade;
Innovation; Science; Public Sector Management
24th Floor Governer Stirling Tower
197 St George's Terrace
Perth 6000

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Dear Premier

Re: Proposed Hotel Development at Rottnest Island

I wish to register my objection to the proposed construction of an upmarket hotel on Rottnest Island. I strongly feel that such a development is totally inappropriate for the Island.

In my experience Rottnest has been an unspoiled mecca – it does not have facilities to cater for those who require luxury accommodation. The whole point of a holiday on the island is that one is able to get away from the trappings of our mainland existence. The peace and restfulness experienced there must be unique in a world which seems to spoil places of beauty by 'developing' them and turning them into what nature did not intend.

Rottnest should not have to be all things to all people. Those who wish to find luxury can find it in abundance on the mainland. Rottnest's speciality is that it does not cater to all needs. By and large development has been well contained in the Thomson Bay settlement area. To encourage development further afield would be a retrograde step. The ecology of the island is fragile and will not cope well with the additional burden of supplying water and other facilities to a development such as the one suggested.

It is difficult to believe that people organising conferences will choose to travel in winter to an island which is renowned for the rough seas and high winds at that time of year. The hotel will certainly not be appealing to families who complain now about the high cost of existing self-catering accommodation, nor to the retirees who love the peace of the island in winter.

Please do not allow this development to proceed.

Yours faithfully

Polly Edwards