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Community

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Decision tipped on water

By Carmelle Sander

THE long-running search for a site on which to build a water treatment facility in Mundaring may soon be over, with the Water Corporation expected to announce a location by December.

Mundaring Residents and Ratepayers Association member John Bentley said the community meeting held at Mundaring Shire Hall on September 25 gave people a chance to have their say on the proposal.

"Informative community forums have been held with representatives from the Water Corporation since the beginning of the year to find a suitable site for the plant," Mr Bentley said.

"Since 1997 the Water Corporation has been investigating the possibility of constructing a water treatment plant in Mundaring, but there has been debate over where in Mundaring to put it."

Initially Mundaring Weir was suggested, but strong opposition from the Shire of Mundaring, the Mundaring Tourism Association and the local member of State Parliament at the time (June van de Klashorst), meant other sites had to be considered.

"It was decided back in 1999 that the Mundaring Weir was an unacceptable site due to aesthetics, heritage, recre-

ation and tourism reasons," Mr Bentley said.

"But after examining the possibilities of other sites, including Mundaring Hill, many residents have now come to believe that Mundaring Weir is actually the best option.

"It would be really unsightly to have the plant on the Mundaring Hill.

"Mundaring Weir is a much better site because it has been purpose built for the storage and treatment of water."

Mr Bentley said he was confident the Water Corporation would make the right decision.

"This has been going on for some time now, and we're just pleased that a feasible solution is around the corner," he said.

A spokesman from the Water Corporation said the water treatment plant was vital to secure water supplies for the Hills area of Perth, the Goldfields and agricultural regions.

"Water collected from Mundaring Weir and the lower Helena catchment is of marginal quality and at times it has not complied with Australian drinking standards," he said.

"The plant is scheduled to be operating by 2011 and we are hopeful that by the end of the year, the forum process will identify and recommend a suitable site."

The next community forum will be at the shire hall on October 30, at 6.30pm.