

Fears unite councils

PROTEST campaigns urging the WA Government to legislate to protect Hills districts from urbanisation are gathering momentum with activists bringing groups of councils together.

A metropolitan newspaper has already begun taking up the campaign first brought to light in the *Gazette* in April.

The newspaper report last weekend sparked internet responses from as far afield as Melbourne.

East Metropolitan MLC Helen Morton has promised to arrange a meeting between Kalamunda Shire President

Elizabeth Taylor and activists in Mundaring shire.

Stoneville Progress Association chairman Mike Davies said the next step was to enlist the support of other neighbouring councils including Toodyay, Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine-Jarrahdale.

Swan MLA Jaye Radisich has already intervened in forcing the Water Corporation to reshape its public consultation process for deciding a site for the Mundaring water treatment plant.

Ms Morton has also promised to keep the issue in the forefront of WA Govern-

ment attention with a series of inquiries at parliamentary question time.

Mr Davies said the groups opposed to housing estate and urbanised development at Parkerville, Stoneville, Gidgegannup, Chidlow, Mt Helena and other parts of the Hills planned next to alert Perth householders of threats to their lifestyles.

They include threats to water quality in the Swan River and its Hills tributaries.

Present planning is considering pumping treated sewage into water courses leading to one of Perth's favourite picnic

spots and freshwater swimming holes at Rocky Pool – and on to the Swan River.

Agitators against the small-lot housing developments also plan to highlight the dangers to aviation safety with housing developments probably disrupting aircraft movements on their final approaches to Perth airport.

National aviation authorities, such as Air Services Australia that governs air navigation beacons, and the Federal Airports Authority have already expressed concerns in correspondence to Hills action groups.