

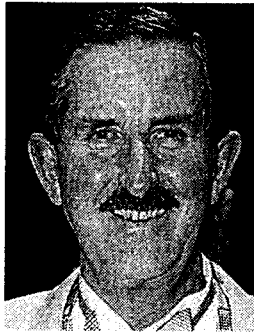
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about Water Corporation project

Mundaring Shire Chief Executive Officer, Max Williams, has come under fire for a letter he wrote to the Water Corporation about the proposed Sawyers Valley Water Storage Project. The letter, written to Corporation Project Manager, Keith Lynch, in July last year, was distributed at a public meeting about the project on Monday night. The proposal would see a 50 mega-litre storage tank and a water treatment plant built at Sawyers Valley. The corporation's original proposal, which was \$6 million cheaper, had the treatment plant at Mundaring Weir. Mundaring Residents

and Ratepayers Association Secretary, Geri van de Nadort, said Mr Williams had supported the Sawyers Valley site over the weir location in the letter. She said this was done without a council resolution on the project. "If the council has recommended nothing, why should the chief executive and the Water Corporation be in correspondence regarding the whole proposal as if the site in the forest is a fait accompli," Ms van de Nadort said. "On whose discretion and with what accountability has this correspondence taken place?" Mr Williams said the association had "misin-

terpreted" the letter. He also rejected community suggestions he was driving the push to locate the project at Sawyers Valley. "It is ludicrous to suggest that a shire officer drives government agencies to make decisions," he said. Mr Williams said there



Max Williams

was nothing in the letter to state support for either location. He said it was just a list of points which the corporation needed to make public about the two sites. Mr Williams said the council would not support the project at Mundaring Weir. He said the council had "effectively" rejected the location when it adopted the Mundaring Weir Precinct Plan last year. The plan was developed by the National Trust of Australia WA and released in July last year. It aims to develop the area into a premier cultural, tourism and recreation site.

Ms van de Nadort said the weir site would be the best location for the project. She said the association would also support the CALM airstrip site, which was recently proposed by the shire council. Corporation Corporate Affairs Manager, Steve MacKenzie, said early estimates had put the CALM site at about \$30 million more than Sawyers Valley. But the corporation would provide detailed costs within six weeks. He said the corporation would not consider moving the treatment plant back to the weir site because of conservation and heritage concerns.