



# Paid parking backlash

› Parking

**BY HAMISH HASTIE**

Paid parking continues to anger community members as more machines became operational throughout the Town of Victoria Park.

Several residents and Albany Highway business owners voiced their concerns at the ordinary council meeting earlier this month and an East Victoria Park business owner has decided to use his own money to campaign against the paid parking changes.

The backlash has prompted the town to consider public consultation, which could include a community forum, before the review period ends in the second half of this year.

Member for Victoria Park Ben Wyatt, whose electorate office is on Albany highway, has also spoken out about the issue.

Mr Wyatt said he was flabbergasted the town would impose, in some areas, paid parking until midnight, seven days per week.

"I support the town's intent to adequately manage parking in our growing area and time limited paid parking is an appropriate response," he said.

"But paid parking until midnight, seven days per week is overly punitive to the businesses along the

Albany Highway strip and has the real danger of driving people away from our area.

"I suggest that the town reconsider this trial and look to two hour paid parking limits until 6pm, Monday to Friday with half an hour free parking."

West Coast Leasing and Finance managing director Hans Beyer has started a campaign against the parking changes.

He said his East Victoria Park business and surrounding businesses had suffered since the parking machines turned on.

"These regulations are going to crucify the business community of East Vic Park and Vic Park," he said.

On Friday night I walked up Albany Highway past all the restaurants and normally, before this parking thing came in, every restaurant would've been 70 to 80 per cent full.

"On Friday they would've been 70 to 80 percent empty."

Food for Me owner Andrew Huffer said they we're looking for some flexibility from council.

"Some things we're looking for is they give 15 minutes of free parking, we'd like to see that go out up to 30 minutes to give people

the option to get in and out of their car to get their food from the café," he said. "Customers are saying to us it is a challenge to them if they want to come and grab a lunch and go."

Victoria Park Mayor Trevor Vaughan said it was still in its monitor and review phase.

"It was expected that not all community members would be receptive to the plan however the benefits of the plan once implemented, to the community, are significant," he said.

"The town has had both positive and negative feedback as a result of the parking changes. "Feedback raised by community members about the plan, if appropriate, will be considered as part of the review process.

"Any change will initially cause concern and this is expected with any new initiatives."