

\$1b fix for ugly coast

By **JIM KELLY**

AN ugly industrial wasteland will be transformed into prime real estate by a wave of coastal redevelopment.

More than \$1 billion in new development will convert land south of Fremantle into an exclusive residential and commercial strip.

The future of more than 100ha of government land, including a former abattoir and power-station sites, was considered at a meeting of invited community leaders yesterday.

Planning Minister Alannah MacTiernan said redevelopment was an important project for the Labor Government's second term.

The land is sandwiched between planned upmarket developments in Coogee and South Fremantle.

Ms MacTiernan said yesterday's forum was the start of public consultation on how government land would be developed to link the two private projects and integrate newly created coastal communities with Fremantle.

"This is an opportunity to make use of under-utilised and neglected land," she said.

"We are tackling a situation that has been in the too-hard basket for a long time."

A redevelopment authority, similar to that established to oversee the transformation of East Perth, would guide the project.

Ms MacTiernan said work would include the clean-up of contaminated industrial sites and redevelopment of South Fremantle power station. The

development would include homes and businesses, but would also accommodate some existing industrial sites.

A group opposed to the Port Coogee marina project is angry the controversial development is not being reviewed during the planning process.

The \$500 million development will reclaim a strip of beach to create WA's only canal estate built over the ocean.

Coogee Coastal Action Coalition is contesting State Government support for the development in a landmark Supreme Court challenge.

The group, which wants to protect the beach for public use, said the Government had no authority to lease the seabed to a private developer.

Spokesman Andrew Sullivan said it was pointless discussing a cohesive coastal plan without revisiting Port Coogee.

"There is very little coastal land left for development and we have an obligation to make sure we do the best we possibly can with it," he said.

"We are not anti-development but we are anti-bad development."

"It is not too late to take a step backwards before moving forwards very quickly toward a much better result for everyone."

Ms MacTiernan said although she would prefer that homes were not built on reclaimed seabed, the benefits of Port Coogee were huge.

She said she would not allow public consultation on the redevelopment of government land to become a platform to debate Port Coogee.