

Riverview on hold

Redevelopment in limbo following cost blowout

THE Riverview Residence retiree units redevelopment is currently in limbo following a cost blowout at stage one of the project.

Board chairman Neil Martin said costs

had come in at almost double expectations.

The committee is concerned the market will not be able to meet the substantial cost escalation.

Mr Martin said a quantity surveyor had provided three separate costs estimations over the past year, estimating stage one would cost \$8 million.

However, the tenders came in at \$15

million, creating a serious overrun on the cost.

"The wind's been taken out of us with the quotes," Mr Martin said.

"For public purposes, we're still wanting to proceed with the project, but we have to secure extra funding."

The board is now seeking both state and federal funding.

Mr Martin said an approach had been made to WA Seniors and Ageing Minister Don Punch and the board is awaiting a response.

They will also apply for funding under round one of the Federal Government's upcoming Growing Regions Program, which is designed to deliver community infrastructure programs.

"We've said to both governments that Collie's transitioning and we believe that retirement villages are part of the social fabric of Collie," Mr Martin said.

"It's no good creating jobs on one side and then losing all the retiring people because they haven't got a facility to go to. That's what's happening at present.

"People are retiring to Bunbury because we don't have a facility that's suitable."

Mr Martin said the board will continue to push forward with the project.

"We intend to explore every single possibility because we think it's a critical project," he said.



TROLLEY COLLECTION

The Collie River's low level near Soldiers' Park has enabled shire workers BJ MacIntyre and Jadon Chapman to remove debris, including shopping trolleys, from the river. See story page 4.

Allanson mobile tower approved
THE Collie Shire Council has approved the development of a 40-metre mobile tower at Allanson. **Page 2.**

Collie is 'ideal location' for fibre link
COLLIE is an "ideal location" for one of two new intercity fibre routes to the eastern states. **Page 3.**

Big battery focus on local jobs
CONSTRUCTION of Synergy's big battery project is expected to generate 500 jobs. **Page 5.**

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