

# Environmental Protection Authority scrutiny adds a year of delay to Luke Saraceni's resort plans for Gnarabup



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Developer Luke Saraceni's concept images for the Gnarabup resort. Credit: RegionalHUB

The much-vaunted resort and housing development earmarked for Gnarabup could face up to a year of delays after the Environmental Protection Authority determined it would have to be assessed.

The decision underscores a psychological win for the local action group fighting developer Luke Saraceni over the \$150 million coastal development.

The decision is likely to be monitored closely by other proposed coastal developments, which traditionally face strong community opposition on environmental grounds.

Preserve Gnarabup spokesperson Beth Carless welcomed the decision, claiming it came after 111 people and organisations called for an environmental review during a one-week consultation period.

She said many were concerned about local populations of the critically endangered western ringtail possums and Carnaby's black cockatoos.

Speaking after the recent devastating bushfires in Margaret River, Ms Carless said the Gnarabup headland was unsuitable for development because it was in an extreme bushfire risk area.

“With this decision, we know that the developer will be required to undertake a full range of environmental studies on the site to ensure that we have a full understanding of the environmental and social impacts of the proposed development before any decisions are made,” she said. “This is a great result.”

Saracen Properties project director Joel Saraceni has previously rejected claims the resort would put too much pressure on the area's fragile environment.