

# Raised solar panel row flares up again

## Controversial raised solar panels are again in council-ers' sights at Mosman Park.

Back in October 2015, more than 70 residents in Saunders Street petitioned the council against allowing raised solar panels on roofs because they blocked views. It prompted huge media coverage.

As a result, the council formulated a policy banning sloping panels.

But a subtle change in the wording meant the panels could be approved if they were within the council's 8.5m height limit.

At last month's council meeting, retrospective approval was sought for 12 raised solar panels on a roof of a house in Matheson Street.

The solar panels were retrospectively approved by the council with South ward councillor Jenna Ledgerwood and

deputy mayor Zenda Johnson voting against them.

Ms Ledgerwood and Ms Johnson both objected to council staff having delegated authority to approve solar panels.

"Almost every person in that area signed a petition to not have raised solar panels in that area," Ms Ledgerwood said.

"To the council's merit, the policy was drawn up.

"But to my shame I did not

notice that policy was changed.

"The wording change was minor but it has changed it quite a lot."

Ms Ledgerwood said loss of views affected the value of residents' homes and rates.

"I would like to have the delegation of solar panels come back to the council and I am very disappointed that a precedent has been set with this home," she said, referring to the Matheson Street case.

Ms Johnson said the original policy had nothing to do with the height limit.

"It was because raised solar panels are ugly and they can obstruct views," she said.

"I agree that the policy needs to come back to council.

"I would not like to see more and more raised solar panels and more fighting between residents about it.

"I think we do need to fix this."

## Activists threaten to free Show dogs

Two women threatened to let the dogs out at the Royal Show on Monday.

Police said the women, in their 20s, had gone to the Showgrounds' dog pavilion and demanded all dogs be let out of their cages.

The women said if the animals hadn't been released by the time they returned, they would let them out.

Dozens of dogs were in the pavilion at the time for the toy dog exhibition.

Show security attended and the women left.

Outside the Showgrounds at gate 1 near Shenton Road several people tried to persuade people to join animal rights activist group Direct Action Everywhere.

## Cops watch snapper

A Shenton Park man who takes photographs of schoolchildren is being monitored by police.

One mother said her 13-year-old daughter, a Shenton College student, had been photographed twice last week by the man while he was sitting in his car.

The first time was in Evans Street; the second was in Keightley Road.

"He followed my daughter, who was afraid," she said.

The man's cameras and drone were confiscated 3½ years ago after police searched his home.



## Mates walk in Harry's shoes

See how they run ... Fletcher Hector, left, Luca Niardone, Harry Nicholls, Oliver Montandon, and Charlie Warden are on the ball at Scotch College. Photo: Paul McGovern

### Harry Nicholls had a rough ride this year.

But the Scotch College student isn't letting two auto-immune eye diseases hold him back.

Last Friday Harry (11) and his schoolmates raised \$670 for disability support organisation Visability.

They tackled an obstacle course

in pairs. One blindfolded boy was guided by another boy who could see.

The task gave Harry's mates insight into his life.

"This year I have been diagnosed with AMPPE and optic neuritis," he said.

"When I play handball at lunch I miss the ball a lot.

"At one point I couldn't even write

my own name."

Harry said Visability had helped him since his vision was affected.

"To help me learn at the same pace as everyone else I have had to get a bigger iPad and a keyboard," he said.

"I have been wanting to give Visability something back for a while and I thought a fundraiser would be a good idea."

## Parking ban challenged

A Subiaco resident told a magistrate she was being pursued by Subiaco council through the courts for parking in front of her property.

Kaye Rosalind Hosking pleaded not guilty last Friday to parking her vehicle contrary to a parking sign.

Magistrate Donna Webb listed a trial for November 18.

Ms Hosking told her she had discussed the matter with Subiaco council several times.

"I was told I couldn't park in front of my property," Ms Hosking said.

A council lawyer said Subiaco would have one witness at the trial.

"I strongly recommend you make an appointment with Legal Aid," Ms Webb told Ms Hosking.

"On their website they have a kit on how to represent yourself."

Subiaco council declined an opportunity to comment.

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