

Underground power shocks for Floreat owners

By **BEN DICKINSON**

Western Floreat residents have to pay \$3522 more for underground power than those in the east, according to figures from the Public Utilities Office.

The costings mean neighbours on the same block could pay vastly different amounts.

A report produced for Cambridge councillors showed the typical cost for residents in the Floreat West project area was \$8892, compared to just \$5370 in Floreat East.

Residents in Floreat North are estimated to pay \$6647.

All three projects have won funding from the State Underground Power Program (SUPP). The council will pay 40%, the state government 10% and residents the remaining 50%.

The Floreat West and East project areas are roughly divided by Hornsey and Grovedale roads, but the boundary is a wandering line.

On one block, bounded by Rosedale Street, Grovedale and Salvado roads, half of the properties are in Floreat West and half in Floreat East.

The final costs will be announced when Western Power awards a contract in early August, but are expected to be within 10% of the estimate.

"That's a lot of money for me, I'm retired and I have no way of making more money," Floreat West resident Sharon Goodchild told councillors at a committee meeting on Monday night.

"We're all Floreat. I would say just add them all up and divide by how many."

But council CEO Jason Buckley said state government rules prevented the council from averaging the cost across the entire suburb.

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School grounds ...

The aroma of fresh coffee has been drifting through Scotch College as students make their teachers' favourite brew.

"The boys have been cranking up the machine every morning from 7am," teacher Ashley Keatch said.

"They all want you to sample their coffee, so by mid-morning your eyes are like dinner plates."

Twenty Year 12 boys planned on having a one-off session at the Kirkwood Deli in Swanbourne to gain post-school skills.

Kirkwood co-owner Zac Phillips liked the idea so much he turned it into a six-week program on school grounds.

Barista Toby Dix said the boys learnt a valuable skill during the two-hour sessions.

"It can take you all over the world and it's better than working in bars," Toby said.

Student Peter Shackles said one of the trickiest parts of the job was getting cappuccino foam just right.

By the end of the course, student Callum Willmott was creating hearts and flowers in his latte art.

The boys churned out dozens of coffees in their quest to make the perfect brew and would go through 2kg of Fiori beans each session.

Toby said there were several secrets to making the perfect coffee. "Patience, attention to detail, cleanliness and a willingness to improve," he said.

Brew crew ... Peter Shackles, left, and Callum Willmott working on the perfect coffee with Toby Dix. Photo: Paul McGovern

Rokeby Rd rebounds

By **LLOYD GORMAN**

Subiaco's Rokeby Road is making a major comeback, with landlords playing their part by halving rents.

The street had been in decline since the Pavilion Markets closed and the global financial crisis hit almost a decade ago.

For-lease signs blighted the street for years as traders were forced or kept out of the area by what they said were excessive rents.

But a new report – Between the Lines, Perth's High Street Retail Strips – published this week by Ray White Commercial shows things have changed.

It found just nine of Rokeby Road's 111 shops were empty.

With a vacancy rate of 5.94% Rokeby is streets ahead of other strips such as Bay View Terrace (10.6%), Napoleon Street, Cottesloe (6.81%) and Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley/Highgate (9.01%).

All 46 shops in Oxford Street, Leederville, are occupied.

Subiaco CEO Don Burnett said it was good news for Subiaco and the turnaround was the fruit of the council's labour and other factors.

"It's bringing together all the work we've been doing over the last 12 to 18 months," Mr Burnett said.

He said the council had dropped fees for trading and alfresco permits and loosened planning controls around parking and other issues.

As part of last year's multimillion-dollar upgrade of Rokeby Road, hospitality businesses had been offered space, bollards and decking outside their premises to create alfresco areas.

The Subiaco Hotel, Funtastico and Bistro Felix were given

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