

6 October 2005

Letters to the Editor  
The Mercury

Alderman Jeff Briscoe's suggestion (Mercury 1 Oct) that he has the support of the Minister for his plan for a promenade around the Battery Point foreshore is misplaced and misleading.

There is a big difference between sensible ideas promoting "public access to parts of the shoreline, which had minimal impact and enjoyed strong local support", which the Minister is reported to be willing to "consider", and Mr Briscoe's grandiose plan which would be socially and environmentally damaging to an already fragile shoreline; and which enjoys almost no "local" support.

Mr Briscoe, while advocating the compulsory purchase of residents' land has apparently ignored the more considered professional report commissioned by his own Council from Sinclair Knight Merz, which recommended improving existing access at several points along this foreshore.

If indeed Mr Briscoe is fairdinkum about foreshore improvements for the public benefit why has he done nothing to advocate refurbishing the Cornelian Bay beach and foreshore area, where to this day stormwater flows from unsightly pipes onto the beach at the high water mark.

Here we have a once lovely beach, crying-out for an upgrade, accessible by road, rail, and bike track and surrounded by most of the suburbs comprising the HCC precinct.

I am aware that our hard-working Lord Mayor has himself chaired local committees planning the upgrade of Cornelian Bay.

While Mr Briscoe accuses his Council colleagues (Mercury 9 May) of a "go slow" on Battery Point, expert reports on Cornelian Bay have been lying around the Council for the past 9 years.

Residents can have their say on Cornelian Bay – visit my website on [www.dougparkinson.net](http://www.dougparkinson.net).

Hon Doug Parkinson MLC  
Member for Wellington