

3. PETITIONS

REMOVAL OF SEA LETTUCE FROM THE AVON/HEATHCOTE ESTUARY

A petition has been received from residents living near the Estuary area requesting the removal of sea lettuce and its nutrient growth causes from the Avon/Heathcote Estuary. A letter from Michael Trousselot referring the petition reads as follows:

"You are undoubtedly aware that sea lettuce accumulations in the Estuary have created an intolerable stench this season, as also during two of the past three years. In consequence, we present this petition of 919 people, of which 910 signatures appear to be valid, on behalf of local businesses, the Southshore Ratepayers and Mt Pleasant Community Centre and Ratepayers' Association requesting that:

"ACCUMULATIONS OF SEA LETTUCE CONTINUE TO BE REMOVED AS APPROPRIATE, AND WITHIN FIVE YEARS THE NUTRIENT CAUSES OF THE SEA LETTUCE NUISANCE BE DISCHARGED DIRECTLY INTO THE OCEAN BY PIPELINE, RATHER THAN THROUGH THE ESTUARY".

This petition was distributed throughout Southshore, at Caspian Street, Bridge Street and Ferrymead retail outlets, and to the Mt Pleasant Community Centre and Ratepayers' Association. Thus as can be ascertained from the summary provided with the petition, the majority of respondents either live near the Estuary, or were interviewed while participating in their chosen sport, socialising, or shopping at Ferrymead, Bridge Street or Caspian Street.

Those living near the Estuary numbered:

Heathcote-Ferrymead	26
Mt Pleasant-St Andrews Hill	111
Redcliffs Balmoral	94
South Brighton	106
Southshore	334
Sumner Clifton	62
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	733

One hundred and eighty six signatories live further afield. Thus most represent residents who are daily more affected by the stink and nuisance of sea lettuce than the 500 "random" residents claimed in the Assessment of Environmental Effects report pertaining to applications to support discharge effluent into the Estuary. We believe this outcome validates the logic and sense of the City Council Working Party majority ratio of 13:3 which advocated discharge to the ocean by a pipeline extending offshore from South Brighton.

Many of those polled remarked along the lines that "you didn't have to be a rocket scientist to realise that the best, most affordable and sustainable option for effluent is direct discharge to the ocean" - a factor we believe eastern Ward candidates might remember in the forthcoming Local Body elections."

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the petition be presented to the Council meeting on 26 July 2001.