



Big ideas: Busselton Community Garden members Pete Malavisi, Matt Cuthbert, Claire Gardner, Penny Robinson and Leigh Gardner are excited about their upcoming project.

Community garden for LIA vacant land

by Jayne Rickard

A PROPOSAL to turn vacant land in Busselton's Light Industrial Area into a community garden is currently out for public comment.

The idea is the brainchild of the Busselton Community Garden group, who want to turn the corner of Roe Terrace and Strelly Street into a 2975sqm garden.

Group member Pete Malavisi said the aim of the project was to increase knowledge of organic gardening and to make productive use of under-utilised land.

"Community gardens play an important role in the wellbeing of many people who would oth-

erwise be denied the chance to till the soil and enjoy the health and nutritional benefits of fresh, home-grown produce," he said.

"By providing a social focus, community garden projects have a strong capacity to build a community.

"Community gardens have the potential to integrate food production, organic waste recycling and community development."

The proposal includes the construction of a shed, a compost creation and storage area, car park, gazebo, walkways, garden allotments and a perimeter fence.

Mr Malavisi expects the proposal, to cost around \$39,000, to be spread over a two-to-three-year period.

"It is proposed that these funds be generated from several sources such as local government, state and federal grants and we are hoping to secure some sponsorship deals from businesses in the local community, ongoing costs should be met by membership fees," he said.

"If possible we would like to fund a coordinator who would be responsible for seeking further funding and overseeing the hands on work on-site."

The plans are available at the Shire of Busselton office and submissions close on October 4.

Anybody interested in joining the Busselton Community Garden project can contact the group at 9754 8281 or email communitygarden@dodo.com.au.

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