



## ANSWERS NEEDED

THE article headlined "Businesses to undergo water quality testing" (*Reporter*, March 1) briefly described the Malaga industrial area project.

Although I was elated to read of its commencement, I could not ignore the comments quoted and so-called concerns acknowledged by the City of Swan in relation to the issue.

The council remarks reported are a complete distortion of the real facts, and to clarify this to your many readers it needs to be stated that on previous occasions our group has approached the council for support to establish a program tackling the source of pollutants at Malaga.

The only written response received was to point the finger at other institutions to deal with the issue.

The recorded data on stormwater quality entering Lightning Swamp collected over a number of years identified high levels of heavy metal pollutants originating from Malaga that threaten not only the future health of the swamp but also which eventually will discharge into other downstream aquatic systems.

The lack of support and little interest shown by Swan councillors concerning the threat posed to the local en-

vironment of such an A-class reserve was especially disconcerting to us.

In respect to our effort, we had taken a responsible approach to not publicly sensationalise and disseminate the information on toxic levels and type of pollutants considering there would likely have been local community outcry.

But we had taken a course of action to campaign strongly, with the support of Perth Natural Resource Management, to get an audit project up and running.

Thankfully, the Swan River Trust, with the sourcing of State Government funding together with Perth NRM resources, has now implemented an audit program as reported.

However, in all fairness to Swan council, if it wishes to dispute my claims it could start by quoting the amount of past funding it has targeted towards this environmental problem at Malaga, considering its responsibility and income derived from the massive expansion of the Malaga industrial area over the past 20 years.

**John Williams,  
Friends of Lightning Swamp Bushland,  
Noranda.**