

# The Cut, gc



*It doesn't get any better at The Cut than the par-4 12th. BELOW FROM LEFT: Wilcher's short-par 4 3rd is a gem; through the dunes to the 13th green and over them to reach the 17th green.*

**T**he global economic crisis was certainly felt throughout the golf industry in Australia and its highest profile victim was undoubtedly The Cut golf course.

The founding owners, Vive Holdings and its subsidiaries, ran into financial difficulties this year and as recently as September could not raise enough capital to repay the mortgage. But all is not lost for The Cut.

A members' consortium has been negotiating with the mortgage lender and an offer to acquire the complex's assets has been made. As you read this, the finer details of the deal are being resolved but it is going to be business as usual under new owners for the highly acclaimed course.

The fact the course has been saved by its committed members is great news. Further, it will remain a public accessible layout, which was ranked No.11 in *Golf Australia's* list of the nation's Best 60 Public Access courses earlier this year.

Laid on and around sand dunes at Port Bouvard, just south of Mandurah and about 70 minutes' drive from Perth's CBD, The Cut is the centrepiece of a massive residential and resort development wedged between the Indian Ocean and the Peel Inlet estuary.

Designed by James Wilcher, The Cut covers two contrasting landscapes. The opening hole leads straight from the clubhouse to the ocean and the following three holes run parallel to the beach across gently rolling land.

But for mine, the inward half at The Cut is one of the best nine-hole stretches in Australia. More undulating than the front nine, each back nine hole is bordered by thick walls of native shrubs while high dunes play a major role on several holes.

Without doubt the highlight of the back nine is the 400-metre par-4 12th. The tee is perched high above the beach, offering panoramic ocean views and a sighter of the green, parked on another high dune off in the distance. The fairway drops quickly from the tee, cutting through some rugged sand dunes before reaching the corner of the dogleg and the flat driving zone. The fairway turns right and heads uphill, past sandy wasteland and mounding to the right, to the putting surface. This hole offers bucket loads of the "wow" factor and is worth the price of the green fee alone.

Wilcher has a flair for designing challenging short par-4s and the 293-metre 17th is arguably the best of them at The Cut. Leave the driver in the bag here and play for the middle of the fairway 'saddle' about 180 metres from the tee as any drive long of the saddle risks flying into a deep ravine of one of the large bunkers lying through the end of the dogleg right fairway.

## → FACT FILE..

**WHERE IS IT?:** Country Club Drive, Dawesville.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** From the Perth CBD, it is a 70-minute drive south via the Kwinana Freeway.

**PHONE/WEB:** (08) 9582 4444; [www.the-cut.com.au](http://www.the-cut.com.au)

**GREEN FEE:** \$80 (seven days) including cart.

