



Wilson Residents and Ratepayers Association

President's Report for 2012 AGM

WRRRA has been well supported through the past year with 107 members and Committee of 10, however, we have our Secretary (Lester Durbin) retiring and need nominations for the position of secretary and vice President to enable the Association to function during the coming year.

Throughout the past year your committee continued an active role in preparing submissions, lobbying and follow up with associated groups and State institutions on concerns raised by individual members and issues that have a direct impact on our community and residents of Wilson.

These matters included:

- **Bywater Way playground Shade Sails**
- **Path and Verge dumping of Builders' Rubbish / Materials**
- **Assessment by DCE of Canning River Park / Wetlands Bushfire Hazard**
- **Roe Highway Stage 8, which is an ongoing issue with the increasing number of heavy haul vehicles on Leach Highway**
- **Kent Street Weir area Improvements**
- **Surrey Road Walk trail**
- **Acquisition of the remaining privately owned land within the defined boundaries of the CRRP**
- **Options for extension of the Dual Use Path network from Bywater Way play grounds to connect with the existing dual use path way towards the eastern end of Fern Road at Byland Way.**

We will be asking members present tonight to endorse a WRRRA's position paper on our long term objectives for extension of this pathway network along the Canning River foreshore, to connect with the Eco Centre and Dual use path system on the southern side of the Canning River.

- **A Submission was also made on Swan River Trusts draft Report for the Swan and Canning Rivers Aquatic Use.**

Wilson East Underground Power

Despite the strong majority support for the petition raised by residents in the Kent Street enclave of East Wilson and the City's efforts to extend the Wilson East Underground Power project to include all residents and business in this area, the residents petition and a subsequent appeal made by the Mayor and the City's Acting CEO to the State in May 2012 were denied.

Unfortunately due to the timing of this action the time slot to commence installation of the Wilson East Underground Power Project has been allotted another area and we understand that work on installing UGP in the East Wilson area will now not start until early 2014.

Fern Road traffic

The ever increasing volume of peak hour traffic that uses Fern Rd to bypass the Leach H'way / Shelley Bridge constrains, both in the morning and late afternoon, coupled with the Hoon drivers who, treat Fern Road as a challenging hi speed slalom track, places pedestrians, cyclist and residents of homes abutting onto the western section of Fern, at risk. This includes young primary school students and the elderly, who are at the risk of incurring a serious accident, with the potential for fatalities.

Widening of Shelley Bridge on an urgent basis is one answer, however, in the intervening time there is an urgent need for the City and Main Road / State Government to act now by;

- **Restricting and policing the traffic speed to 50km/hr at all times**
- **Provision of a designated pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Bus stop at the Riverton Bridge Café.**

WRRRA's Future

Due to the absence of any nominations for the positions of Secretary and Vice President, serious consideration was given during our Committee Meeting of 2 June 2012 to define our future, because without individuals to fill the executive positions of Vice-President and Secretary, it will be difficult to continue in our present form, despite the fact that WRRRA is financially sound, has a healthy membership and the largest committee for many years.

The committee and others present at this meeting expressed desire to keep WRRRA operating as it perceived to be an effectively run organisation and an important conduit between local residents and the City based on a solid relationship built up over 30 years. I have therefore, decided to nominate as Honorary President for a further year and should we not have a Secretary in 2012/13 and an assistant Chairperson to take the reins in 2013/14, the committee decided to continue on for the next 12 months after which we may have to recommend wind up of our Association.

Other Matters

During the year, **WRRRA Committee endorsed the donation of a Park Bench to the City, which will be installed at the Riverton Bridge parklands.**

In Conclusion

Before stepping down, I would like to pass on the Committees' thanks to Our City's Mayor, **Joe Delle Donne** and Mason Ward councillors **Lindsay Elliott, Graham Barry and Steven Boylen** for their support and attendance at our meetings throughout the past year.

Thanks also to our parliamentary representatives **Steve Irons** MP, Federal member for Swan and **Bill Johnson** MLA, State member for Cannington for their assistance with printing and their attendance at meetings and support.

Special thanks to Committee members, and in particular to **Lester Durbin**, who after seven years of near continued service as WRRRA's secretary is resigning, as he and wife Jean have decided to have a lifestyle change and will be moving to the country within the next few weeks.