



President's Report 2014/15

It is with pleasure I present this, my last WRRRA's Presidents report after 8 or so years in the role.

Following the welcome, and surprising, outcome of the State's Local Government Reform Agenda, I acknowledge the efforts of the committee and large number of members who, in the total absence of any leadership from our City's replacement Commissioners and Administrators, worked in conjunction with the Canning Community Alliance (CCA) in our joint efforts in continuing the Fight for Canning throughout the past two years.

However, after a brief celebration of the rescinding of all Government Orders, our City's Administration then committed to undertake a rushed and un-necessary ward boundary and councillor representation review. This review proposed changes to the number and configuration of wards and the number of Councillors that were to represent Canning's electorate in the upcoming elections scheduled for Saturday, 17 October.

In response, WRRRA held a joint public meeting with the CCA and with the direction of the meeting, wrote to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) expressing our concerns that the review should not be undertaken by the unelected commissioners. We proposed that the task should be left to an elected council.

During the public review period a petition of 250 electors was also submitted with a proposal for a 3 ward option. By disregarding this public opinion, the City have now been forced to back track and are currently undertaking a review of this alternative.

However, our Canning Council October election will be based on the City's preferred five (5) Wards and 2 Councillors per ward, plus an elected Mayor option. This is in lieu of the existing 4 wards, 10 Councillors plus an elected mayor. Which was not an option that was offered by the City under their 'Review Paper'.

This, no doubt, will mean that all 'alternative' options will need to be reassessed by the new elected Council following their election.

The October elections are important to all residents and ratepayers as the City of Canning has been under administration by unelected state appointed Commissioners and a new Chief Executive Officer since November 2012. During this time the City's employee numbers, costs and the rates we pay have increased substantially i.e.:

Annual budgets	2012/13	13/14	14/15	15 /16
Employee numbers.	681	691	715	692
Number of executive on \$100k+/yr	22	29	57	80
Annual employee cost increases		13.6,	9.8%	16.4%
Average Rates have risen by	4.6%	3.9%	5.9%	7.6%

The forthcoming elections effectively returns the governance of our City to democratic representation. This is our opportunity to elect a totally new Council charged with the responsibility to represent and act in the community's best interest and provide sound administrative governance.

This is the opportunity to restart our City's future, and we urge you to:

- **Encourage all of Canning's 51000+ electors to assess the credentials and past community involvement of each of the candidates, then wisely select your future representatives.**
- **Discuss these issues with all of your enrolled family, friends and neighbours**
- **Ask these friends and others you know to turn up at the polling booths on 17 October and vote.**

Looking ahead

We understand, from the City's 2015/16 General Rate and Budget Meeting, that the City still remains in a strong financial position with investments of some \$87M in uncommitted cash and land assets. This should enable our new Councillors to limit future rate, wage and cost increases to a nominal CPI+- 1%, as was forecasted by Commissioner Reynolds in discussions following his 2012/13 budget meeting.

The a strong, elected council leadership, WRRRA can get back to its day to day activities of lobbying and following up with and issues and concerns raised by associated groups, institutions and members that have a direct impact on our community of Wilson.

While involved with the amalgamation and review issues, we have also:

- **Continued Assessment of Canning River Park / wetlands bushfire hazard**
- **City of Canning's Kent Street Area Development Plan, and followed up clarification in response to the City's consultant's subsequent management plan.**
- **Reporting of street infrastructure damage and verge rubbish/materials dumping by builders' and others.**
- **Aircraft noise reduction/sharing.**
- **Fern Road, (Riverton Bridge) children's playground continuing development.**
- **Lobbying of the City to include the Kent Street area within the next underground power scheme.**

Also Submissions were made on issues that are likely to have a direct effect on our suburb including:

- **To the City of Canning Re Scheme of Amendment No 211, dual zoning**
- **To the LGAB with concerns over the City's ward and council representation review**

Matters which are in need of follow up in 2015/16, include:

- Continue to lobby the City and the State for the acquisition of the Christian Brothers land at Castledare and other privately owned lands that lie within the boundaries of the Canning River Regional Park.
- Dual use/walk trail access along the northern foreshore of the Canning River from the Riverton Bridge to link with the network of path ways on the southern side of the river at the Kent Street Weir.
- Extension of the existing dual use path that terminates at Bow Street through Castledare lands to connect with the dual use path at the eastern end of Fern Road.
- Widening of Shelley Bridge and the ongoing issue with the increasing traffic and in particular the high number of heavy haul vehicles on Leach Highway.
- Restricting Fern Road peak hour through traffic density and policing the traffic speed to 50 km/ hour.
- Surrey Road walk trail study by Department of Parks and Wildlife.

WRRRA's Future Committee

Nominations for the office bearers and committee positions are open and we seek nomination from the floor. Without individuals stepping forward it will be difficult to continue in our present form, despite the fact that WRRRA is financially sound and has a healthy membership of 128 members.

Before finally stepping down, I would like to thank our Vice President Blair, Secretary Deanne and Treasurer, Greg plus all of our committee members for their time and assistance throughout this and previous years.

I would also like to thank contributors, editors and delivery people who put together our newsletter. Also thanks must go to our parliamentary representatives **Steve Irons** MP, Federal member for Swan and **Bill Johnson** MLA, State member for Cannington for their assistance with printing of this publication and their support of WRRRA.

Geoffrey Rees
Hon President WRRRA.