

PLANNING STRATEGY SUBMISSION

By Max Zeller

The State Government recently called for public submissions to the "Network City: Community Planning Strategy for Perth and Peel".

An edited version of the WRRRA's submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission follows:

General Comments

The Wilson Residents and Ratepayers' Association (WRRRA) has strong concerns over several aspects of the existing draft, namely:

Housing Density

- a) WRRRA has worked closely with the City to Canning to amend the City's Town Planning Scheme to ensure we have a fair distribution of medium density housing within the Wilson area, and hence **we strongly object to any further blanket changes to the residential coding within the Wilson area** (or related changes to the housing density of the existing R-Codes) that the Government might propose.
- b) The City's Growth Management Plan (as outlined in the City of

Canning's submission) provides ample provision for increased infill development in the Wilson Area in areas where adequate infrastructure already exists and/or can be economically built. For its part, **the State Government should escalate plans to complete the installation of Underground Sewerage and Power services in the Wilson Area if it wants to encourage further infill development.**

- c) It is equally important that Planning Authorities maintain the "status quo" in established local communities where the majority of surveyed residents have indicated they are against higher density development.
- d) **WRRRA strongly objects to any suggestion to change the R-Codes to impose minimum density requirements** instead of maximum density restrictions.

In summary, Wilson residents DO NOT want the blanket higher density development (as is happening along Fern Road West) to become the norm within Wilson.

The Overall Strategy

WRRRA shares the City of Canning's concerns (as outlined in their submission) with regards to some key elements of the Government's Network City Strategy.

In particular, we note that:

- a) There is an obvious conflict between limiting urban expansion while maintaining housing affordability.
- b) In a democratic society, Local Community preferences should always be given priority over regional objectives.
- c) It is our firm belief that Local Governments (rather than State authorities) should have the final decision on which areas are targeted for increased infill development.
- d) State Planning Authorities should work closer with the City of Canning's Strategic and Regulatory Services' team to ensure there is a consistent view of the Strategic Planning initiatives within the region.

[The full submission can be viewed on the WRRRA Website]

WILSON WETLANDS UPDATE

By Russell Gorton

The Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc is holding an Arbor Day 2005 event on Friday 10 June at the Mills Street Main Drain rehabilitation site along Fern Road in Wilson.

Planting will commence at 9.30am and continue until 12:30pm.

The conservation category wetlands within the Canning River Regional Park has progressively been revegetated to create a substantial vegetation buffer.

Work on this site has been supported by WWAG, Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, City of Canning, CALM, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Two Rivers Catchment Group.

WWAG is seeking assistance from local schools and interested residents. This is a great opportunity for children to learn more about local projects, how they can look after our environment and what can cause harm to our river systems.

You are welcome to come for any length of time and at any time during the hours given. Please make sure everyone attending brings a hat, sunscreen, raincoat and enclosed footwear. Some tools will be provided, however, BYO trowels would be very much appreciated!

Please note: Children under 5 are not covered by indemnity insurance.

Contact Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc. on 92587301 for further information.