

RIVERTON BRIDGE KIOSK

By Lester Durbin

As residents are no doubt aware, for some time now the City of Canning has been planning an upgrade of the kiosk and public amenities at the Riverton Jetty Park. At the Council Meeting of 28 March 2006, a Draft Business Plan with site plans and drawings was presented. Much emphasis has been placed upon consultation with interested organisations and the public generally. **WRRRA** representatives attended the first Public Information Session on 20 April.

The City is proposing to spend some \$500,000 to rebuild the old 1960's kiosk to include an enclosed café area, incorporating educational display facilities and an outlet for local arts and crafts. The playground will also be upgraded. A floating landing facility near to the bridge is also proposed from which tourist and educational river tours can be conducted to promote the environmental and historical heritage of the Canning River locally. The improved facilities will target both local residents and tourists, as well as, raising awareness and promoting the local wetlands and sanctuary walks within the Canning River Regional Park.



Foreshore Restoration urgently required

The public submission period closed on Monday 28 May after extensive local publicity. Following consideration of submissions received, the City plans to seek approval from the Swan River Trust and Dept. of Planning & Infrastructure by March 2007 with tenders for the works closing in June 2007. Construction is due to be completed by March 2008.

WRRRA made a submission on behalf of its members, based on feedback, we have received (to date) on the proposal, which was first presented at our last AGM.

In general, **WRRRA** is supportive of proposal to upgrade the Kiosk (as it will improve local amenities) and it should lead to extended opening hours, particularly over the Winter period.

WRRRA believes that the needs of current users, including pensioners, cyclists, canoeists and walkers needs to be given significantly more emphasis.



WRRRA, however, strongly objects to the proposal to establish a floating jetty as we believe it will place too much stress on the fragile local environment, as well as, adding to the social pressure to what is essentially a very small park. Presently the passage of motorised river traffic beyond Shelley Bridge is severely restricted and **WRRRA** does not support the lifting of restrictions to accommodate further commercial boating traffic as the risk is simply too great (in our view) given the fragile nature of the islands upstream from the Riverton Bridge. As part of our submission, we also suggested alternative locations for proposed boat landing facilities.

WRRRA also questioned the financial aspects of the business plan and we will be seeking assurances from the City to ensure affordable pricing is maintained (as this is the major concern for most local residents)

We also expressed concerns over the related traffic issues and will continue to lobby the City officials for a safer pedestrian crossing across Fern Road to link to the proposed CRRP dual-use path on the northern side of the Canning River Regional Park.

A copy of the **WRRRA's** submission is published on our website. City Officials will be attending our AGM (at our request) to answer any related questions.