

DUAL USE PATH

By Geoff Rees

After several years of lobbying by **WRRRA**, the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have constructed the dual use path from the Riverton Bridge Kiosk along the northern edge of the Canning River Regional Park to the western end of Watts Road.

It is hoped that this work, which is jointly funded by DEC and the Canning City Council, is the first stage of foreshore development works which will provide Wilson residents with access to the Canning River foreshore and recreational lands, by the eventual completion of a pathway along the entire northern side of the Canning River to connect with the network of dual use pathways that currently exist on the southern side.

Planning for stages two and three of this

work is continuing with a view to extend the pathway from Watts Road along the rear of Surrey Road properties to a broadwalk through the Park's wetlands and on to Canning River Gardens / Bow Street as Stage two. Construction of this work, as DEC spokesperson, Jacinta Overman advised, is subject to native title, environmental and community approvals.

Stage three, which involves extension of the dual use path from Bow Street through designated park land to the Eco-Centre, is subject to land tenure issues, which although identified as a 'high priority item' under the Canning River Regional Park Management Plan 1997-2007, may still be years away pending resolution of land ownership issues by State Government.

LEACH HIGHWAY TRUCKS UPDATE

By Lester Durbin

WRRRA and most Wilson residents were very disappointed when, just prior to the parliamentary Easter Recess, a shock announcement was made by the Minister that truck length restrictions were not to be reduced to 12.5 metres as we had been previously led to believe but would be limited to 19 metres. Apparently, this also came as a surprise to Main Roads as the signage had already been installed indicating 12.5 metres.

WRRRA immediately wrote to Ben Wyatt, MLA, Victoria Park and Riverton MLA Tony McRae, expressing our displeasure with the decision. The commitment to remove heavy freight trucks from the Leach Highway east of the Freeway was made by the then Premier, Geoff. Gallop and Tony McRae in February 2005.

WRRRA therefore feel that the restriction to 19 metres, is a further betrayal of the State's

re-election commitment. Also the announcement coming just prior to Easter week-end, which offered a 4 day break, was an attempt to deflect and avoid immediate public criticism / displeasure.

The replies were a classic exercise in obfuscation and of course denied any question of broken undertakings, at the same time making no effort to explain why Main Roads had installed signage of 12.5 metres if this was not the original intention. In fairness both replies indicated that the 19 metre restriction now in force is but Stage One, implying that there will be subsequent stages and further restrictions but does not state so with any clarity.

WRRRA will pursue this matter with vigour, in the hope that in time, Leach Highway which divides our suburb will be free of the danger from large trucks and the noise/pollution that accompany them.