

CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK - LAND ACQUISITION **By Geoff Rees**

WRRRA's committee and representatives of the Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc., Castledare Miniature Railway and more recently Wilson Parish Council, have been lobbying the State Government to resolve the long standing issue of acquisition of the remaining privately owned lands that lie within the designated boundary of the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP).

The Ministry for Planning determined the Parks's boundary based on the proposal put forward by the former State Planning Commission in 1989 and was reiterated under the CRRP Management Plan of 1997-2007. However despite the best efforts of successive Governments and your local community groups, all efforts to-date have failed to conclude ownership of all gazetted lands within the Park.

Timely security of tenure of all park land is essential. Without ownership, sections of the park cannot receive funding for protection of the environment from State and Federal Governments, nor can any Government or the voluntary organisations work the private land areas without a very close working

relationship with the owners. Corporate support for development of surrounding facilities such as the miniature railway and public parking/picnic areas is difficult, if not impossible, to attract.

A letter outlining our community's concern and requesting that the State Government take a more proactive role in negotiating settlement of the remaining privately owned land within the CRRP boundary was forwarded to our local MLA, Mr. Ben Wyatt, in late November 2007. Since then Ben Wyatt has made several efforts to progress this matter, including a meeting at Parliament House on 7 May 2008, at which all parties concerned were scheduled to attend. However, it was disappointing that representatives from the Dept of Planning and Infrastructure failed attend.

Ben Wyatt has subsequently advised that a further meeting involving all concerned will be held within the near future. We look forward to a timely resolution of this issue and the vesting of CRRP lands in the hands of the appropriate management agencies.

WILSON RECREATION PARK FENCING

By Rob Marshall

Following requests from some local residents and organisations, **WRRRA** committee has recently requested the City of Canning to remove the perimeter fence of the Wilson Recreation Park.

WRRRA recognises that with the recent opening of the Kent Street Eco-Centre and publicity for the nearby Kent Street Weir Park and Castledare Miniature Railway it will create an increase in the number of visitors. We also understand that the fence is not required as a condition of play for the soccer

club and that bollards similar to others in the park would have to be erected to stop vehicle access to the area.

Although there is a gated access to the Park near the Kent Street Playground, **WRRRA** felt that removal of the fence would give easier public access to the park, encourage ball games to be played in a safe manner away from picnicing visitors and visually enhance the area.

We shall continue to pursue this matter with a view to bringing it to conclusion before the summer.

