

FERN ROAD TRAFFIC

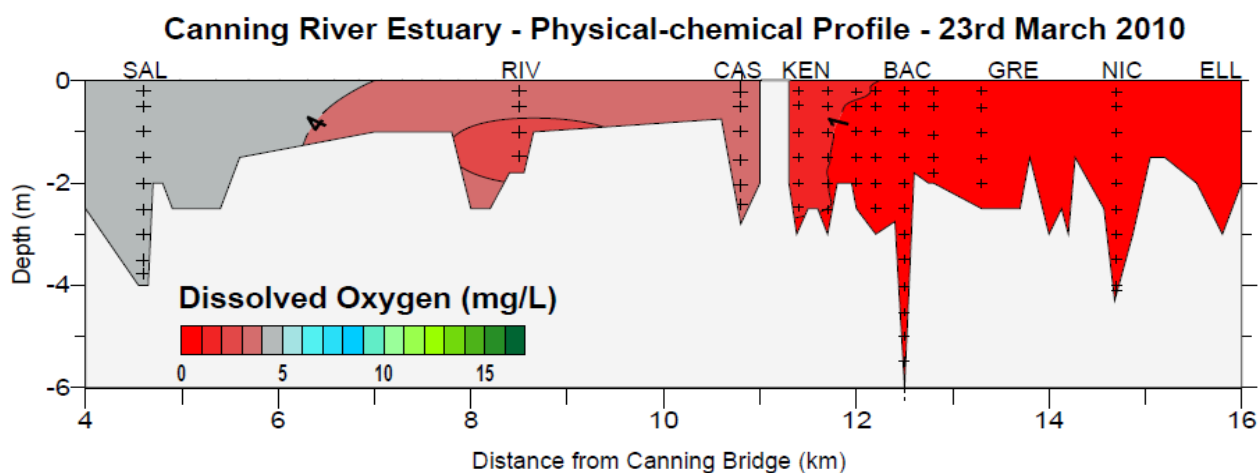
WRRA has raised the issue of the large volume of traffic on Fern Road between Bungaree Road and Riverton Bridge. The amount of traffic on this residential street significantly impacts on the residents' quality of living by the increases in noise level, restricting access to Fern Road during peak hours and the likelihood of serious accidents near the Riverton Jetty Park kiosk and playground.

The City of Canning has advised **WRRA** that Fern Road is classified as a local distributor road and is currently carrying up to 40% more vehicles than intended under this classification. The main problem is motorists trying to avoid the bottleneck on Leach Highway caused by 6 lanes going into 4 across Shelley Bridge. **WRRA** intend lobbying Main Roads WA, State and Federal members of Parliament to have Shelley Bridge upgraded to 6 lanes.

CANNING RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL TRAGEDY

The storm on 21 March 2010 had a devastating impact on the middle-to-upper reaches of the Canning River.

As widely reported in the media, dissolved oxygen levels in the Canning River upstream from Kent St Weir dropped to near-zero levels following the storm [see diagram] and remained at that level for an extended period. Marine life can't survive under these conditions.



source: <http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/science/river/Vertical%20plots%20archive/canningrivervp2010.aspx>

More than a week after the storm (on 1 April 2010), the Water Corporation finally released a Media Statement acknowledging that 35 of its' wastewater pumping stations discharged an estimated **21 million litres** of wastewater [raw sewerage] into the Canning, Southern or Swan rivers, due to the prolonged loss of mains power. The largest discharge being 4 million litres from a single pumping station in Lake Road, Forrestdale.

If that wasn't bad enough, another 65 wastewater pumping stations (approx. 100 in total) discharged wastewater into the environment, as a combination of on-site emergency storage facilities and emergency power provisions proved to be grossly inadequate.

In its media release, Water Corporation's media spokesperson Phil Kneebone is quoted as saying that "Wastewater is more than 99 per cent water and that combined with the huge surges of stormwater entering the rivers and other outlets ensured that the discharges resulted in only negligible impact on the environment".

Given the health warnings issued by the Health Department regarding the dangers of swimming or fishing in the Canning River for a period of approx. 2 weeks after the storm, and the widely reported sightings of both dead fish and raw sewerage, it's difficult to accept this claim!

Surely more can (and should) be done to prevent this environmental tragedy happening again!