

PROPOSED WALKTRAIL – WATTS ROAD TO CANNING RIVER GARDENS

The Department of Environment and Conservation is considering a number of options for creating a walk trail or boardwalk within the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP) connecting the end of Watts Road to the end of the thoroughfare adjacent to Canning River Gardens, Wilson. Approximately 60 Wilson residents in the near vicinity of the proposed pathway were canvassed to see their preferred option. The results of this survey are not yet known.

The five options presented fell into three broad categories, namely:

- (A) (Option 1) Pathway along the northern edge of the CRRP, from the park at Watts Road to the southern end of Canning River Gardens.
- (B) (Options 2 – 4) Boardwalk path that swings some distance into the CRRP and eventually loops back in to the same point at the Eastern end.
- (C) (Option 5) No walk trail at all. This would close off all access to this section of the CRRP.

Version A would place the pathway, which may in time become a cycle way, along the boundaries of the properties lying to the edge of this section of the CRRP. This would naturally open these residences to a flow of passers-by along their non-street boundaries. The secluded nature of this area would potentially increase the risk of various types of offence, including boundary incursion. Furthermore, placing the pathway there would require destruction of the natural bush which arguably should be preserved.

Version B offers a more natural environmental experience for the walkway, well away from residential boundaries. Although there are 3 main variants of this option, in each case it would be a boardwalk, allowing small wildlife to traverse underneath. A well chosen route of this type would offer families and nature lovers the opportunity to take a quiet stroll, away from the hustle and noise of suburbia, through an untouched, peaceful, scenic section of the Canning River precinct. Increasingly into the future, this will be a valuable experience, contrasting to the inevitable expansion and intensity of built-up areas.

None of the tabled options included a connecting pathway between the southern end of Surrey Road and the Version B variants. In saying this, it is noted that many of the residents at this end of Surrey Road have expressed a preference for there to be no access via the existing cul de sac.

UNDERGROUND POWER UPDATE

In our previous Newsletter, June 2011, we reported that the Wilson East Project area had been selected for inclusion in the next round of the State Government's Underground Power Conversion Program.

The omission of very small isolated group of houses in the south east area of Wilson from the East Wilson Underground Power Project, prompted WRRRA members to conduct a petition to have approx. 140 additional residents included within the scope of the East Wilson Underground Power Project.

WRRRA would like to thank the vast majority of respondents for their overwhelming support in signing this petition. For the record there were 120 for, one against and one subject to "how much it will cost?". The Petition was presented to Council by Mason Ward Councillor Graham Barry, on the 9th August 2011 and accepted. The concerned residents will be pleased to learn that their homes are now being included in the Canning City Council's latest submission to the State Government's Office of Energy. We are awaiting an announcement of the final decision.

This is yet another example of the WRRRA working for the benefit of local Residents and Ratepayers. Why not join us and help make a difference in your local area?