



Wilson Residents and Ratepayers' Association

Website: <http://wrra.org.au>

E-Mail: secretary@wrra.org.au

Send all correspondence to: 170 Watts Road, Wilson, WA 6107

Winter Edition 2008

WRRRA represents you in Wilson by working co-operatively with:

- *City of Canning*
- *Mason Ward Councillors*
- *Canning River Regional Park Community Advisory Committee*
- *WA Government Depts.*
- *Neighbourhood Watch program & WA Police*
- *State & Federal Government Politicians*
- *Wilson Wetlands Action Group Inc. and other community groups*
- *Community Newspapers*

The WRRRA Committee currently meet on Monday nights every 2nd Month on:

The next committee meeting will be held on 4 August 2008.

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Editorial

Dear Wilson residents,

Nowadays, we are exhorted from all quarters to take more exercise for the good of our health, not to overspend to prevent the effects of inflation on our economy, not to waste energy to mitigate the effect of climate change and generally make the best use of our resources.

Perhaps I can suggest a simple way of complying with all these requests at one stroke, that of using public transport. Now the Southern Train Line is operational this is easier than ever. Our Wilson bus services now access railway stations at both Bullcreek and Cannington as well as the Carousel Shopping Centre, Curtin University and the City.

Thanks to the efforts of your **WRRRA** committee and local community leaders, in consultation

with the various public transport authorities, we in Wilson are now better served with efficient public transport than ever. In fact, arguably, twice as well as previously.

Of course, public transport will not suit the needs of everyone, for many reasons but if convenient why not leave the car at home on occasion.

You may find (as I do) that buses and trains are clean, comfortable, run on time, and are cheap. Also they offer a stress free journey with no traffic hassles or parking costs.

We are fortunate indeed in Wilson to have the upgraded services, so go on give it a try. You may find that not only are you healthier but your travel costs are reduced and feel that in the current climate —pardon the pun— you are doing your bit.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Our Annual General meeting will be held on
Wednesday, 23 July 2008 at 7:30pm.
Wilson Community Hall
Braibrise Road (Near Armstrong Road)**

**For more information, or have issues to raise,
please contact Lester Durbin on 9451 6915,
email secretary@wrra.org.au
or attend the meeting.**

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.

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

WRRA'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, WRRA committee has recently requested the City of Canning to remove the perimeter fence of the Wilson Recreation Park.

WRRA 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, WRRA 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.

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NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME !!!

Remember, the more members we have, the more power the Association has to lobby the City of Canning and State Government Departments to improve services within Wilson.

WRRRA Membership Subscription Form 2008/09

To join the Association, simply complete the following details, enclose your Annual Membership Fee of \$5 per Household and return it to us (as per the instructions below). Receipts will not normally be issued except upon request.

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....E-MAIL.....

Please contact me to discuss WRRRA Committee Nomination

Post form to WRRRA, 170 Watts Road, Wilson 6107 or drop it in the WRRRA Box at the Eureka One Stop Deli (on Eureka Road). Payment by cash (note only) or cheque. Mark Cheques payable to the "Wilson Residents and Ratepayers' Association".