

## From the President's Pen

Dear Fellow Residents,

Our AGM in November 2012 was well attended with Dr Mike Nahan MLA, Mr Andrew Sharpe Acting CEO City of Canning, Mr Steve Atwell City of Canning and other distinguished guests. A number of matters of interest were discussed.

We are very concerned on the huge number of heavy commercial vehicles and private passenger vehicles plying east and west of Leach Highway. The congestion at Leach Highway is getting worse by the day even before Fiona Stanley Hospital is in operation. The State government must look into this matter with great urgency and have the Roe 8 project implemented without further ado to ease the pain of the residents.

Another matter of concern is the delay in getting the underground power for Shelley precinct. Some of the Councillors (now suspended) of the City of Canning were indifferent and not supportive of the idea. Maybe the Council and Synergy can now come out with a "win win" solution for the residents of Shelley.

Regards, *Paul Ng*

## State Election

The RRSRA congratulates the Hon Dr Mike Nahan on his re-election as the Member for Riverton in the Legislative Assembly of the State Parliament. Dr Nahan has also been made the Minister for Energy; Finance; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Congratulations also to the Members of the Legislative Council who were re-elected for our region – Hon Kate Doust, Hon Phillip Edman, Hon Sue Ellery, Hon Nick Goiran, Hon Lynn MacLaren and Hon Simon O'Brien.

Active participation by electors means that it is possible to achieve the promises of the campaign and to that end the Association will be lobbying hard for the Roe 8 and the Shelley Bridge projects.

If you are speaking with any local members of Parliament don't forget to ask how these things are going.

## Rossmoyne Park

### Help needed for this year's plantings

Each year the Canning City Council have provided approximately 300 trees and shrubs for planting in the Rossmoyne Park, together with providing personal who have given their time on a Sunday morning. This year we are looking for volunteers again to help out.

We will be meeting in the Northern car park adjacent to the Rossmoyne Bowling Club at **9.00am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013**. Following the planting we will enjoy fellowship & morning tea. Those that are available could they contact Bill Young on 9457 5601 or email him on [bill.young1@bigpond.com](mailto:bill.young1@bigpond.com)

The park has been maintained and new plants watered on a weekly basis by a band of dedicated volunteers. Many residents who walk through the park are grateful that the park is maintained and cared for. Each year some existing plants do die and it is important to plant each year. **Your help would be appreciated.**

## Panel of Inquiry into the City of Canning

By now members will be aware that the Minister for Local Government suspended the Canning Council on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, following the report into various aspects by the Department.

Dr Christopher Kendall will head the Inquiry with Mr Darren Renton assisting. Dr Kendall has experience as a barrister and solicitor and has worked as the Insurance Commission of WA commissioner, Law Society of WA president, Murdoch University Dean of Law and Law Reform Commission of WA commissioner

The report will investigate City of Canning operations between February 1, 2009 and November 27, 2012 and will recommend whether the council should be dismissed or reinstated.

The terms of reference, which are very similar to the initial inquiry, can be viewed on the department's website.

The inquiry began on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and is expected to run for approximately twelve months. At the time of writing, the Panel was in set-up mode with its own website nearly complete.

City of Canning has offered to support via administrative services, use of building etc, but the RRSRA understands that the old Industrial Relations building will be used.

The decision as to whether Public Hearings will be held is still to be made but if past inquiries are anything to go by, then it is highly likely. Public Submissions will apparently be called for and the Association will monitor the website for this and advise Members when that happens.

## Petition to Council

A petition has been presented to Council to grant the honorary title of Freeman of the City to retired mayor Dr Mick Lekias.

## Response To The Robson Review into Local Government Reform

**This review looked at a variety of aspects of Local Government and made thirty recommendations to the Minister. The public had until April 5<sup>th</sup> to respond and no doubt you will be aware of the wide range of responses from the media. The City of Canning developed a series of options which it sent out to public consultation. The RRSRA emailed Members about this and hope that as many of you as possible were able to have a say. The Committee also developed a position on the thirty recommendations for submission.**

**We believe that the People must be given the final say on any amalgamations and were concerned that the most important item, that of reducing the number of Councils to 10 or 12 was hidden in recommendation 15.c instead of having its own clear item. Recommendation 30, that the report be accepted in its entirety, was also considered to be of concern as it virtually wiped out all the other recommendations. Your Committee encourages all Members to follow the matter of Local Government Reform and be active of letting your view be known. Only when we all have our say, can we be sure that a clear indication of the People's will has been heard.**



## DOLPHINS IN THE CANNING

For some years now Swan River Trust, in conjunction with Curtin University and Murdoch University have been sponsoring a programme to locate and monitor Dolphins. The Dolphin Watch Project was established particularly to monitor the Swan and Canning rivers. Dolphins are an extremely popular animal which tend to draw considerable delight, pleasure and enthusiasm from observers. As a "River Guardian" with SRT and a Dolphin Watcher I personally gain much pleasure walking along the foreshore and sailing on the Canning with Shelley Sailing Club and have regularly submitted reports of sightings or the absence of same.

There are currently 22 dolphins regularly visiting the Swan/Canning with another three known to visit occasionally. The dolphins are recognisable by the markings on their dorsal fin which over time, through photography, have been "fingerprinted". Fins tend to be marked through altercations with sharks or boats and their propellers and through entanglement with fishing lines and nets and the like.

The Dolphin Watch Project involves 425 people who have been trained by Swan River Trust, and their associated team, in the process of monitoring and reporting activity of the dolphins. Over the years of the project, since early 2010, there have been many sightings in the Canning River



including mothers with newborn calf. There are long periods of time where there are no reported sightings, particularly over the summer months. Recently, however, there have been regular sightings of up to seven dolphins in a pod between Bull Creek and Riverton Bridge. There is a good population of fish in the Canning between Mount Henry Bridge and Kent Street Weir and hence the dolphins seek out the easy fishing.

The presence of dolphins tends to indicate a river system that is both healthy and abundant as a food source. Dolphins are a protected species and it is illegal to approach any closer than 30 metres if you are in the water or 100 metres if in a boat. However, dolphins are a curious lot and can tend to approach boats themselves. It is illegal to feed dolphins as it leaves them vulnerable to boat strikes and to disease etc.

An important role of the public in general, for the sustained presence and health of the Swan and Canning dolphins is to ensure maintenance of their environment. Keep rubbish out of the river and ensure nutrients do not leach into the river. Particularly reduce the application of fertilisers and keep lawn clippings and leaves out of the local drains which flow to the river. Also and importantly, report any sighting of distressed or injured dolphins to Swan River Trust.

## Roe Highway Extension Kwinana Freeway

### Current Status

The Government of Western Australia is committed to the extension of Roe Highway from Kwinana Freeway in Jandakot to Stock Road in Coolbellup. South Metro Connect, a team comprising personnel from both Main Roads and industry partner AECOM, is managing the development phase, including: Identification of a preferred concept design; Investigation and assessment of the environmental, social and cultural impacts of the preferred design; Project approvals processes; and Ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

### Scope

The extension will start at the existing Kwinana Freeway/Roe Highway interchange in Jandakot and head west along or near the existing Metropolitan Region Scheme road reserve for approximately 5 km, ending at Stock Road in the vicinity of its current intersection with Forrest Road, Coolbellup.

A preferred concept design has been developed through a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement process conducted by South Metro Connect.

Visit the [South Metro Connect](http://www.southmetroconnect.com.au) website to view the preferred concept design.

South Metro Connect is nearing the end of the project development phase of the proposed Roe Highway Extension to link Roe Highway at Kwinana Freeway in Jandakot to Stock Road in Coolbellup.

Our Aim is to work collaboratively with the community to identify the best design and alignment option within the project boundaries that will respect the local environment and still be able to meet the growing traffic demands and associated social issues within the rapidly expanding southern corridor.

The preferred concept design forms the basis of the Environmental Impact Assessment that is subject to both the state and commonwealth approval process. The public comment period for submissions on the Roe Highway Extension Public Environmental Review (PER) closed on 12 September 2011.

It is anticipated that approvals and clearances required for construction to commence will be obtained by early 2013. However, timing for construction is dependent on funding.

South Metro Connect submitted the response to submissions report in July 2012 and is currently working with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to finalise that report.

### Update

It is anticipated that the PER process will be completed in 2013 and that approvals and clearances required for construction to commence will be obtained by late 2013. However, timing for construction is dependent on funding.

Update information is from: [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/buildingroads/projects/urbanprojects/roe/Pages/roe.aspx](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/buildingroads/projects/urbanprojects/roe/Pages/roe.aspx)

