

GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Next Meetings: 17th October 2016, 21st November 2016 at 7.30pm

Disclaimer: The GPA represents the community of Gidgegannup to any local, statutory, Government or other authority or body or the Government of Western Australia or the Commonwealth of Australia or to any other company, body or organisation the conduct of whose affairs affects the welfare or interests of persons resident or owning land in or round the locality of Gidgegannup.

We recognise that individual members might at times have views which differ from those agreed on by the majority of our members; however, we encourage anyone wishing to know the official position of the GPA on any issue affecting our community to contact a committee member.

Individual members of the GPA, or indeed non-members, are not authorised to speak on behalf of the GPA.

NBN towers:

Responses from Ericsson to our queries:

1. letter sent to Council justifying the site selection decision;

A letter was tabled that has just been sent to Council responding the latest round (and from our perspective the final round) of requests for review of suggested alternative sites. We have asked Council to send this on to the attendees from our meeting on 1st August.

Please note that we are proceeding with the Application for the proposal within 269 Joseph Rd as this is the best available site and by any reasonable measure it complies with Council's policies and requirements.

2. A written description of roads/subdivisions that will benefit from the improved telecommunications supplied from the nbn facility;

As advised, the proposal is seeking to provide services to approximately 221 premises (primarily homes and businesses) in the Gidgegannup and surrounding area. Please note that there are other **nbn** Fixed Wireless facilities in the surrounding area whereby coverage is planned to meet the extent of coverage from the Gidgegannup tower (i.e. we have facilities planned in Bailup, Wooroloo West, Chidlow North, north of Stoneville, Parkerville North etc). So if people are outside of the coverage area described below they should not be concerned as to whether they will be receiving the **nbn**, because the **nbn** network is being designed to ensure that 100% of Australia premises can connect to the **nbn** network.

The proposed facility at 269 Joseph Rd, will serve the area generally described below:

- Approx. 3.5 – 4.0km to the west / north-west up Reen Rd and towards the area near where Stoneville Rd meets Toodyay Rd and some areas beyond.
- Approx. 4km to the north extending up Reserve Rd in the vicinity of Hampstead Hills Drive, Chandler Loop etc
- Approx. 3km to the east / north-east towards Richmond Rd / Brompton Heights and some areas beyond
- Please note that a service from a proposed facility approx. 2.3 km to the south is designed to cover areas generally to the south of the site of the facility at 269 Joseph Rd.

If anyone has specific queries about service to their house/business please send these through in a consolidated list with their contact details and we'll provide further advice.

3. Information about the upload/download speeds of nbn fixed wireless and how this compares with current speeds (based upon the mybroadband.gov.au website)

With provision of wholesale speeds of up to 50 Mbps (download) and 20Mbps (upload), the **nbn** Fixed Wireless network will greatly improve broadband in and around Gidgegannup. There will be obvious benefits of improved broadband to small business, education (school and home connectivity), health (including remote specialist consultations) and emergency services.

From our consultation to-date, we've received consistent advice that broadband in Gidgegannup is currently heavily saturated with traffic especially during peak times. This is also confirmed with reference to the Federal Government's "my Broadband" website at www.mybroadband.communications.gov.au, (which has recently directed users to <https://nationalmap.gov.au/#share=s-80jNNI2tRUosiaGKhKfFgFn9dy5>) - which provides a description of the quality of current broadband service to premises in an area in terms of the speed capability of the fixed broadband technology available. This website currently designates many parts of Gidgegannup as experiencing an "Overall Fixed Broadband Quality E". This is one of the lower quality ratings. Current quality of ADSL broadband is shown to be poor with a median quality of approximately 7-8 Mbps but with significant fluctuations in speed and reliability.

Opal Vale Landfill:

Objectors have failed in court to overturn State Government works approval for this site. However, in a separate move the State has refused to issue a licence for dumping to start because it says there is no proof local groundwater won't be contaminated. Opal Vale told the WA Supreme Court that it had already spent \$3million preparing a Chitty Road site for stage one of millions of tonnes of Perth waste to be dumped there over the next 20 years.

The waste will be carted by an extra 60 heavy trucks and trailers a day on Toodyay Road between Redhill and Fernie Road.

DER said Opal Vale had failed to comply with a works approval condition to install bore monitors to ensure there was at least a two metre gap between the bottom of the tip and the underlying water table. The site is less than a kilometre from Jimperding Brook, which flows into the Avon River and the Swan, and is often flooded in winter. Failure to install measuring devices in boreholes around the edge of the site was one area of non-compliance and an ongoing DER audit would find out if there were others. The decision puts a temporary halt on landfill operations.

Narrow Leaf Cotton Bush:

Residents in O'Brien/Burgess Roads have written to the City re. the infestation of the Burgess Road Reserve with this weed. City have sent staff who have cleared the weeds. This is a continuing problem throughout the City of Swan and we should write again to the City citing information received from a member:

Regarding concerns about the spreading of the Narrow leaf cotton bush in Gidgegannup. This is also something that our family has brought up with the City of Swan before, and in the past they had implemented some weed control measures for the cotton bush on the Burgess Road reserve.

It is interesting to see how other local governments, not in the Declared areas were dealing with this and last year, the Shire of Gingin passed a local law under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act, including Narrow Leaf Cotton Bush as a pest plant requiring the owner or occupier of private land person to destroy, eradicate or otherwise control any pest plant on that land.

Also, at a recent WALGA Biosecurity Workshop on 2 February 2016 at which the City of Swan had representation, a presentation by the Department of Agriculture and Food noted that:

“Biosecurity is the management of risks to the economy, the environment and the community, of pests, weeds and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading”

- All landholders required to control declared weeds on their land
- Arum lily, cotton bush, blackberry, apple of Sodom are widespread – coordinated approach best.

Section 8 of the WALGA biosecurity forum notes also outlines possible policy options.

- Continue with the status quo;
- Delist species and pass local laws to manage pest plants; and
- DAFWA to delegate authority to Local Governments

Although the cotton bush isn't yet Declared within the City of Swan boundaries, hopefully via lobbying the City to act on the reserve we can prevent it becoming established here and spreading from the hills into the Swan Valley through the waterways.

Joseph Road work:

Resident written to City re. planned realignment of Joseph Road making following points:

Joseph Road is now trafficable because of good work by Councillors and staff. A lot more work will be done in coming months to protect the steeper parts with bitumen. **It is essential that the planned work should result in Joseph Road being:**

Safe

The road must be centred in the road reserve to eliminate the blind corners that make the existing track so dangerous for all users, be they emergency vehicles or everyday users.

Fit for purpose

The road must be centred in the road reserve to eliminate the tight bends that prevent fire tankers and similar vehicles from easily and expeditiously moving through the gully section of Joseph Road.

Long lasting with minimal future maintenance

The road must be centred in the road reserve so that it can be cambered and verge gutters formed to drain eroding water from the road surface, and culvert made effective.

A straight road will also last longer, too, because there will be less wheel-spin on the surface caused by tight turning.

Built in a cost effective way

Relative costs, of following the present alignment versus making the road safe and long lasting, should be ascertained now. These should include not only construction costs but also future maintenance and the City's liability if there is a serious accident attributable to bad road design.

Off Road motorbike Event:

Information from City: For your information the City has recently issued a Public Event approval under Health legislation for an Enduro Motorcycle Event to be held on private land on Reserve Road in Gidgegannup on the 8th October. Health approvals are primarily concerned with safety and health of attendees and the impact of noise on the broader community. A similar event (by the same organisers on the same lot) was held about 12 months ago and despite some community concern beforehand the event concluded without complaint. A site visit by the then Mayor and Executive Manager of Planning concurred with a technical assessment on the day by an Environmental Health Officer in concluding that the event had a negligible impact on the neighbouring community. Given the duration of the event it is not required to obtain a development approval.

Bunning Road Pavements:

Again a request for these. This came up several years ago and the answer was that there was not enough space on the road verge for it. Also bio diversity issues were raised. This was also raised in the Local Area Planning workshops. City informed.

Mobile Phone Tower – Black Spot funded:

It appears that the promised tower has now been moved to 2017, which is most disappointing as this means another very bad fire season with poor if non-existent mobile coverage. This also represents broken promises from both Telstra and the Federal Government.

Proposed Alteration and Extension of a Building (new canopy and refurbishment works) used in conjunction with a non-conforming use (Service Station) – Lot 224 (No.2095) Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup:

This refers to the ex BP Service Station. Details of the DA are available on the City of Swan website under "Have your say".