

Gidgegannup Progress Association Inc. - January 2017

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Next Meetings: 20th February, 20th March, 2017 at 7.30pm

NBN TOWERS

SAT handed down a decision on a tower in South Chittering where Optus had appealed the decision by the City of Swan to refuse it. The case has many similarities to the proposed tower in Gidgegannup. The Development was approved subject to conditions.

JOSEPH ROAD ROAD-WORKS

Joseph Road is open and trafficable by two wheel drive vehicles in all weather.

MOBILE PHONE TOWER - BLACK SPOT FUNDED

The construction of this tower in north Gidgegannup has been postponed from Q4 2016 to sometime in 2017 pending sourcing of extra funds to meet a cost overrun. Ken Wyatt's office is following up and has written to the Federal Communications Minister. All planning has been completed but no one has been able to supply a definite date for installation. Meanwhile, local mobile coverage quality and capacity continues to decline and Gidgegannup enters another fire season with poor mobile coverage. This was particularly evident during the power cuts over Christmas, most of the cuts being on High fire risk days.

PRIVATISING WESTERN POWER

Ove the Christmas holiday period, Gidgegannup has experienced numerous power cuts some lasting up to 26 hours. These have been due to a number of circumstances. The GPA has written to Frank Alban again regarding this and the effect the proposed sale of Western Power might have on power services and maintenance in Gidgegannup. His response:

We have asked the Ministerial Liaison for a reply. We have also requested a brief on planned power infrastructure upgrades etc. for Gidge area.

We also raised the matter with Jessica Shaw (Labor candidate for Swan Hills). Her response:

Today, I had lunch with the head of the fault management centre at Western Power and raised the terrible supply reliability in the Hills this summer.

She told me that in the last 6 weeks there has unfortunately been an unusually high number of 'one-off' events: bird strikes, car vs poles, trees down (also the cause of the Dinsdale outages yesterday).

These aren't the type of events you can prevent with maintenance. However, WP can (and should) work to improve response times and the way they communicate with their customers. They actually have to report annually to the Economic Regulation Authority on the length and frequency of outages, their

response times and the performance of their call centres. The 2016 report was published on 20 December and can be found here:

<https://www.westernpower.com.au/about/reports-publications/service-standard-performance-report-2016/>

The ERA also consults regularly with the public as part of its review of Western Power and seeks public submissions. It also has a Consumer Consultative Committee, through which it seeks feedback on issues with respect to electricity supply. I actually used to sit on this Committee as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry representative. More info on submissions on www.erawa.com.au

Jessica will be attending our February Meeting to discuss Power problems.

PUSHBIKE RIDERS

Response from WestCycle:

WestCycle recognises the need to ensure that everyone, whether they ride, drive or both, is aware of the WA Road Rules and their responsibilities to other road users. This is why we are working with the Road Safety Commission to develop a series of guides to help cyclists and drivers to share the roads.

There are three guides in the series: one aimed at drivers, one for cyclists riding in a group and another for cyclists riding on their own. A campaign to share the guides across the state will commence shortly and we'll be promoting heavily through cycling clubs and other riding groups. The guides explain the WA Road Rules as well setting out why people do certain things when they are riding a bike and how to travel safely with or around them. The guides consider both visibility and riding two abreast and I have set out the key points below.

Whilst we expect all cyclists to obey the road rules, there is no legislation that requires riders to wear hi vis clothing. Some research actually suggests that hi vis clothing makes no difference to drivers being aware of cyclists. We do, however, suggest cyclists consider wearing light coloured or reflective clothes. We also encourage riders to use lights in low light conditions.

Drivers should also adjust their driving to suit the weather and light conditions. If they feel that shadows make it harder to see the road ahead, they should give themselves more time to react by slowing down and leaving space between other vehicles, including cyclists.

In accordance with the road rules, cyclists should ride no more than two abreast. Riding two abreast makes riders more visible and shortens the length of the group. However, we do advise that groups change to single file when the road narrows, when going uphill or if traffic is building up behind. Groups riding two abreast are allowed to pass, or be passed by, another person riding a bike where it is safe to do so.

Cyclists should normally ride on the left of the lane so other vehicles can pass. However, people may choose to ride in the middle of the lane if the road conditions make it unsafe for vehicles to 'squeeze' past. In addition, cyclists are encouraged to ride out from the gutter to avoid things at the side of the road like drains, debris and parked cars. This makes them more predictable as they aren't weaving in and out.

SIGNAGE AT THE SHOWGROUNDS

The City's Parks Maintenance Coordinator and Place Manager recently met with representatives of the Agricultural Society to discuss some of their concerns about the maintenance of the show grounds, particularly in reference to removal of tree stumps and pruning of vegetation.

Following the meeting staff identified a range of works that it proposes to carry out. The majority of the work suggested has been marked out on the grounds.

We are also advised by the Agricultural Society that work will commence on Burgo's Bar on 4th January. 2017.

PROPOSED GIDGEGANNUP MEDICAL CENTRE

This Item came before Council after much persistence from our Councillors as a late Item on 18th January, 2017 with a recommendation from the City's Planning department that it should be refused as it represented ad hoc planning and provision had been made for a Medical Centre nearly 25 years ago on an amendment. The proponent, their planner and the GPA made deputations objecting to this recommendation and our Councillors moved an alternate motion that the proposed amendment was a standard not complex amendment, should be supported, be advertised for comment, go back to the Council and be forwarded to the WAPC for approval. All Councillors supported this alternate motion for which we thank them. The amendment will now be advertised for 42 days for comment.

The Licence is due for renewal in April, 2018. The Licence is conditional and if anyone requires a copy of the Licence it can be forwarded to them.

Renaming of part Cameron Road:

The City has been advised that the Minister for Lands has approved the renaming of the section of Cameron Road between Roland Road and Waterford Drive to Hawkstone Street. This was undertaken to reduce confusion, particularly for emergency services, and does not impact any residential addresses as no properties had their main access off this section of the road.

Review of Ward Boundaries and Councillor Representation

There are several options proposed, some of them would make a significant difference to Gidgegannup and our representation, so please have a read if you can and make a submission. Submissions close 5pm on Tuesday, 31st January, 2017.