

PARLIAMENT HOUSE RALLY 6 NOVEMBER 2012

Introduction

I have been asked to speak at short notice today after we heard late yesterday that the Hon. Troy Buswell, Minister for Transport, declined to address this rally. He couldn't defend the indefensible.

Linley has explained how the Veitch Lister report gives us factual, independent evidence that Riverside Drive must under no circumstances be cut or diverted.

Do we really want all this traffic disruption on our City foreshore, throughout our inner suburbs and rippling over the whole Perth metropolitan area? No we don't!

It's not over until it's over

Some people have said "It's too late, construction has started. Give up, the project is going ahead".

I am reminded of the freeway that was planned through the middle of East Perth, which would have blighted that area for ever. A small group of people, including myself, pushed for over 10 years to relocate that freeway to adjoin the railway. Land had been acquired along the original route for the freeway and they had started to dump sand for the approaches for a new bridge over the river.

"Give up", people said, "construction has started". But we didn't give up and eventually, with the weight of public opinion firmly supporting a reassessment, the Government saw the light and plans were changed. Today we have the Graham Farmer Freeway next to the railway and a model redevelopment area in East Perth.

The same situation applies at Perth Waterfront.

It's not too late

It is not too late because the \$50 million spent on works so far will not be wasted. The new roads, upgrading of the Spring Street Main drain and jetty renewal are all beneficial.

A Better Plan can be the result with heritage incorporated, trees replanted and the kiosk rebuilt.

The MRA website states the next contact for \$200 million to construct the inlet and surrounds is still only in preliminary discussions with the three preferred tenderers. It can be stopped.

Become active

All of you here can become politically active in the lead-up to the State Election by questioning and lobbying your local Parliamentarians, be they Liberal, Labor, Green or Independent. Get information, inform yourselves and spread the message. Target all the candidates for the next election, particularly the Independents, for they will not have closed minds. Put your faith in and your vote for the independents.

The State Election is on March 9. Make March 9 Independents Day.

Max Hipkins