

Gidgegannup Progress Association – April 2019

gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-progress-association/
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Next meetings: 15th April, 20th May, 17th June, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Agricultural Hall

The GPA has a thriving membership but new members are always welcome. Our membership is diverse and very proactive and we always welcome new input.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Reports of Phone Towers and Exchanges failing to provide a service during prolonged outages. Requests to Telstra re. battery life on exchanges and towers. Telstra are still finding out information re. exchanges but towers are 8 hours (although this can be shortened by usage). We have requested consideration be given for 24 hour back up at least in a rural high fire risk area such as Gidgegannup. Our land line system is poor and many people have discontinued having a land line on their properties as the service is so bad.

It was agreed that different protocols are needed for urban and rural areas. There should be a separate policy for batteries length of usage in rural areas.

STREET ADDRESSING GIDGEGANNUP;

GPA has now heard from City:

The City of Swan has prepared the street numbering for Gidgegannup. We identified lots, including vacant lots that required a street number and have issued a number based on the Australian Standards for rural street addressing.

The City will be sending out correspondence to those property owners advising them of their street address. We are also doing some additional marketing including advertising via Place Newsletters, e-News and Facebook informing property owners that they can contact the City to find out their street number if they are unsure. The benefits and requirements of displaying and using street numbers is also part of the marketing.

The City will not be issuing rural number plates to residents but can direct them to the current City of Swan contracted street sign supplier if they would like to order their own. The City of Swan Local Laws regarding property number signs will be included with any correspondence to property owners.

PANH

State Government will consider this project as part of their 2019/20 Budgetary Process.

WESTERN POWER FAULTS;

Further outage 3rd March: Response from Western Power:

Please see the response from Western Power.

We can advise a section of line supplying power to that area tripped at 12:11 on the 5th, affecting some 1680 properties. No calls from customers indicated a possible cause, and a fault crew was dispatched to the area to attend. While no total fire or vehicle movement ban conditions were declared, there were high winds in the area and Western Power captured very high fault current readings for the incident. For Western Power, this was a 'Fire Weather Day' and an operational decision was made that a full patrol would be required before restorations could take place in the interest of the community's safety.

Western Power was able to energise sections of line as they were cleared by the patrolling crew, and 1021 customers were restored at 2:41 pm - ahead of the then restoration time. The estimated time was then moved to unknown at 3:20pm as the patrol was ongoing and no cause had by then been identified. A further 522 customers were restored at 4:45 pm and the final 137 customers, likely including your constituent, were back on at 6:52 pm. Outage durations then were 2 hrs 30 mins (1021 customers), 4 hrs 34mins (522) and 6 hrs 40 mins (137). Contrary to the brief provided by the constituent, there were no customers without power into the following day though we note around 12 customers in Mount Helena were off between the 5th and 6th due to an unrelated car v pole accident in Alice Rd, Mount Helena.

For the outage in question though, no root cause issue was found, and no hazards were identified. The line was sectionalised, restored and held successfully and our suspicion is a transient fault resulting from wind borne tree branch crossing high voltage lines before blowing clear.

We can advise there was no issue on the day with a DFES escort. None was required or called for and while we cannot establish how this misinformation has come to the constituent, we certainly apologise if it was provided directly by our staff. Western Power did have contact late in the patrol with DFES incident controller attending a Bullsbrook fire, as a section of line requiring patrol for this fault was adjacent that fire zone however there were no significant delays attached to this contact. Western Power appreciates the inevitable concerns regarding extended outages which may result from the implementation of any of the protocols associated with fire weather conditions. It has reviewed procedures to strike a balance between what is in effect competing priorities, that is, the customer desire for power to be restored quickly and our obligation to operate the network safely and mitigate bush fire risks. For example, Western Power does have its own water truck resource. In this case, it was not called for as it was not required.

Unfortunately callers were advised by Western Power staff that a DFES escort was awaited before work could start and constant references were made that Gidgegannup had to wait for Bullsbrook to be connected. Western Power staff seem to be quite confused at relaying information and need better training in this.

Some people were without power the following morning but this appears to have been due to unrelated incidents.

It was felt that Western Power had a reluctance to look for faults and re-energise the system. Western Power can have an exemption to operate under total fire bans. It was felt that Western Power were not being pro-active enough and that the system was now overly sensitive thus causing lengthy delays. Western Power staff did not appear to know what was happening when contacted and little knowledge of the geography of the Outer Metro area.

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO. 4 STRUCTURE PLAN NO. 34 (NORTH STONEVILLE TOWNSITE):

The submission period has now closed and there have been close to 900 submissions. It is believed that this may come before the Shire of Mundaring in May/June, 2019. The key issue with this plan is the provision of infrastructure up front. The general lack of reliability with our power and telecommunications emphasises this, also the lack of road infrastructure to support any significant population growth.

CITY OF SWAN OMC OF 16TH JANUARY, 2019, ITEM 2.2 PERTH HILLS TOURISM ALLIANCE;

The rescission motion was successful and the MOU re. the Perth Hills Tourism Alliance should go ahead with the proviso that it is made clear that the Swan Valley is not involved in this MOU

Experience Gidgegannup members have already had a meeting with City staff. City staff in conjunction with the rest of the Alliance will be determining High level Strategy and a Marketing Plan.

It was felt that low impact tourism should be encouraged. The Hills have so much to offer but tourism must be encouraged in an environmentally sensitive way. Small one off events should be promoted along with the larger events. Events to be based on produce and art, agri and eco tourism.

EG will work with the City, other groups and the community on this

HERITAGE SUBMISSION TO BE ASSESSED BY THE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL MATERIAL COMMITTEE;

Residents have received in the post a letter and attachments from the Department of Lands and Heritage re. a heritage assessment of the lodged heritage place ID37000 (Wooroloo Brook) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA). The DPLH concludes that lodged Aboriginal Heritage place ID 37000 (Wooroloo Brook) does meet section 5 of the AHA. Consequently if the ACMC is of the same opinion this Aboriginal heritage place will be added to the Register of Place and Objects.

Reading the documentation it appears that this makes no difference to ownership or access and might in fact protect the Brook from damming and such other practices. The restrictions would appear to be little different to those of Department of Water.

Some concern has been expressed re. public access to Wooroloo Brook at such places as Noble Falls and FR Berry Reserve. Queries also as to why the

community had not been informed of the process previously as this had been going on since 2016. Also comments as to whether some reference should be made to care current landowners and Landcare groups have given to conserving the Wooroloo Brook over the years.

Property rights are being protected and right of access limited. Protected area from middle stream to banks. There is an obligation if a significant impact is to be made on the water course, that approval should be sought.

WALYUNGA FIRE;

A report was given on the fire and how efficiently it had been contained. Fortunately it did not jump the river as the impact then would have been significant. It burnt mainly on the 2013 burn scar so fuel was reduced. The cause had not been identified as yet. All the firefighters and support staff were to be congratulated on their response to, and containment of this emergency.

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD;

This has been extended until 15th April, 2019.