

# **GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.**

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## **NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2010**

Next Meetings: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 (AGM) at 7.30 pm at the Agricultural Society Hall, Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup.

### **Rates**

The GPA will be putting a submission in to the City re. the rates, if you want to have input please let us know. There is no good moaning about them next year, now is the time for us to be putting our case, so if you want to be in it let us know, or write your own submission, the more the better.

### **Rural Numbering**

The City, taking a blinkered view, is putting this all back on the resident, you supply your number, you pay for it, you put it up on the gatepost. The City does nothing at all. Great support from our municipality!!!!

### **Senior's Fuel Card**

Frank Alban's office is obtaining advice from Centrelink regarding the number of Seniors in Gidgegannup, Wooroloo and Bailup.

### **Victorian Bush Fire Royal Commission Report**

GPA has queried the City on various aspects of the VBRC as relating to Gidgegannup. The City has responded as follows:

“Thank you for your emails received on 10 August 2010 in relation to the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission (VBRC) findings and the potential issues that could come from these. These findings, along with others, provide an insight into future planning and preparedness for the City. The recommendations that are highlighted make specific reference to Victorian Planning Provisions, Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and the VicRoads 1985 Code of Practice. Whilst there maybe implications within Western Australia we have to read these findings with the knowledge that they are specific to Victorian practices.

I have been advised that the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) are having an internal meeting on Wednesday 18 August 2010 to determine what the implications of the VBRC findings could have on Western Australia. Post this meeting the details should be made available to Councils and I will therefore be able to provide the progress Association with an update.

In terms of background I can advise that the City inspected 5,191 rural properties both prior to and during the fire season last year, some 568 letters were sent to these property owners advising of their requirements and 39 infringement notices were issued. In addition a number of community forums were held within the rural areas of the City to inform and provide support to residents during the fire season. These initiatives alone address a number of the recommendations within the VBRC findings.”

In Victoria it was found that the road verges had a high fuel load and this contributed to numerous deaths.

In the light of the Toodyay Fire and events, Gidgegannup is most concerned regarding our protection in the event of a catastrophic fire.

### **Showgrounds**

Fence round Dam: Cr. Trease has initiated a work order to be raised to mend the hole in the fence surrounding the dam at the showgrounds. This followed complaints from the public re. perceived danger to children gaining access to the dam.

### **Grading North East Road**

Cr. Trease has initiated work order to be raised to grade North East Road following complaints from residents.

### **Development**

It is clear that the Gidgegannup Rural Strategy is going to need reviewing. The City is probably waiting for the advertisement of the Directions 2031 document and input from the community on this document. This document is now going to be produced for public comment after the Federal Election – how soon we cannot say. A notice will be put up on the website with the link when this is at last produced.

### **Emergency Evacuation Plan for Gidgegannup**

A desktop exercise will be held regarding this in October/November. Further notification will be given in the Gidgegram.

If you wish for more information please attend our meetings and if you wish, become a member.