

FOMRE Newsletter – October 2014

Hello to the Friends of Moore River Estuary.

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Have you seen 'Guilderton Moore River Hub' and the fantastic photos that are being posted there?

We are looking to revamp our savemooreriver.org website, in conjunction with Guilderton Community Association (GCA). Please visit any one of these, spread the news of our purpose and increase the network of supporters for the Moore River estuary. There are many passionate people who care for the estuary and we are continuing to galvanise support for the area as the next stage of the political cycle evolves.

Moore River South

As most of you will have read in the latest GCA newsletter (attached), Moore River Company continues to push ahead with their development plans for Moore River South.

Gone is any pretence to be 'south Guilderton'. In the ODP, approved September 2013, no communication or link with Guilderton exists. Except perhaps for a 20km drive, a swim across the river or a walk over the sandbar!

The Foreshore Management Plan (FMP) and subdivision approvals were given by the Shire in August 2014. FOMRE and GCA sat on the Community Reference Group and were pleased with some of the concessions made. The major improvements to the plan are:

1. An increase in the setback of the development footprint from the River
2. Increased constraint on access to the River from the development precinct
3. Augmented protection for the high – value bushland on the development site.

Further to this however, the progression of the development can now be achieved without community input. We watch to see what the Detailed Design Plans show; how the Moore River Company negotiates the Department of Water approvals, and their navigation of other prerequisite stages..

Moving Forward

While we wait, FOMRE is focusing on other aspects of protecting Moore River. As well as working with an improved online presence (with GCA) we are working with others too.

- Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) is providing funding and equipment for a new estuarine water quality monitoring programme – something that has been lacking for a long time. FOMRE is contributing to collecting the project data. Thank you to Phil Cook from Moore River Tours for his efforts with this.

NACC is also co-ordinating "Photomon" (a smartphone application designed to improve environmental photo-monitoring and the quality of data collection) Photos of the same areas of coastline are taken on a regular basis so that coastal erosion processes can be measured. Thank you Bob Johnson for his contribution.

- The Dept of Transport will be putting the river traffic-management buoys back in place for summer. These have been quite effective in slowing the speed of boats along the river. Linda Johnson has been liaising in this area.
- Moore Catchment Council (MCC)
The river has had good rains at times this winter but the natural process of break and closure of the bar, and the subsequent estuarine flush, has been interfered with artificially on many occasions by some members of the public. MCC is working with the Shire of Gingin on creating more signage and enforcing fines in a bid to reduce this 'estuary-damaging' behaviour.
- Shire of Gingin
We are also working with the Shire to reduce 4WD access to the estuary from the south – an increasing occurrence that last year's fencing, installed along the bottom dirt road to the groyne, is helping to prevent, and thereby helping to protect the coastal fore dunes.
- Support groups
FOMRE maintains its association with Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) and the Urban Bushland Council (UBC). In addition, FOMRE is often a dynamic part of the local groups that operate for Guilderton.

Membership

Thank you to all who have paid their \$20 membership for the year. Fees will be due for next year's March AGM. We plan to make some new stickers too. Other ideas are greatly appreciated - even in the slow times.

I hope that you all get to spend lots of time up in Guilderton, enjoying the estuary and surrounds over summer.

Linda and committee

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