

MOORE RIVER ESTUARY: 2018 PROGRESS REPORT (February 2018)

2018 and Moore River continues its millennia-long flow into the Indian Ocean without an urban sprawl on its southern foreshore. We have to be congratulated!

Yet the future of this flow remains unsecured. Read on:

STILL For Sale.

The entire 2099ha of Plunkett's land at Moore River South remains advertised FOR SALE, as it has been since August 2015.

FOMRE's opposition to the development remains relevant. The area:

- is an isolated cul-de-sac, completely outside the metropolitan boundary, in Rural Gingin.
- The site has no power, water, sewerage or NBN services, nearby or easily accessible.
- it has problematical road access and is no place for a 'suburb' - West Woodridge??
- It possesses listed significant and ecological communities and/or species that would be threatened with annihilation; Banksia woodland, Tuart groves and Carnabys cockatoos as well as all the other existing native flora, fauna and natural habitat and
- is located on a fragile coastline vulnerable to storms and sea level rise.

FOMRE maintains:

- The 12km of coastline Two Rocks to Moore River estuary and inland across existing Nature and Conservation areas provide a contiguous green belt that organically separates Perth metropolitan area from rural Western Australia and should be preserved for future West Australians.
- There is a profound shortfall in the Moore River South plans as none of the requirements for a successful dynamic community; in particular employment, health and education services, are met in the plans.
- The 2015 *Towards Perth and Peel@3.5 Million* is correct where it identifies that the planning focus for north western Perth metropolitan area is to concentrate the majority of the population within reasonable proximity of a wide range of services and activities. (Joondalup and Wanneroo)" (Pg 18 para 6 North-West Sub-regional Planning Framework Towards Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million) <https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/7702.aspx>
- The 2018 *Guilderton to Kalbarri Sub-regional Planning Strategy* also has correctly identified that "... urban growth [is] threatening areas with high biodiversity significance ... and other recognised natural assets"(https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_publications/Guilderton_to_Kalbarri_SubRegional_Planning_Strategy_2017_November.pdf The planning strategy is now out for public comment.)

- The coastal towns should continue to service residents and holiday makers and leave Lancelin and Gingin to be the service areas to grow in this Rural Shire.

FOMRE's activities:

- Water quality monitoring of the estuary - in conjunction with Northern Agriculture Catchments Council (NACC) and the Dept of Water (DoW).
For 2 years now, 4 times a year at 5 sites up river we have been collecting data on the health of the estuary, the custodians being the DoW. If you would like to help - just call Linda.
We would like someone to enter data to an Estuaries Portal, for all to access. Can you help?
- Membership and interaction with the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA), Urban Bushland Council, coastal workshops with NACC and Moore Catchment Council (MCC). We also work with Gingin Water Group and the Shire of Gingin.
- Continued liaison with the Guilderton Community Association and Guilderton Visitor Centre as always.

CONCERNS for Guilderton and its estuary:

- Ongoing vigilance and relevance of an action group (FOMRE) to the protracted issue of protecting the estuary is hard to maintain. Ideas for social media and development of video footage are underway.
Your support is always needed and we welcome your membership annual \$10 per person, per annum.
- The deliberate opening of the sand bar is all too frequent. Significant ecological damage is done each time a deliberate cut is made. This year infrastructure was severely damaged due to the delinquency of several surfers who felt that they needed a break. FOMRE has made its concerns known to the Shire of Gingin.
- 4WD activity on the beach and sand dunes. This has been less than previous years thanks to improved signage by the land manager at Moore River South (MRS).
- Watercraft behaviour on the river. The Fisheries and Marine Safety officers have been active, reducing unsafe 'hooning' on the river. As numbers of people using the river increase, it is good to see the safety improving too.
- Public water safety. The new jetties have reduced congestion on launching and the river pontoon is well used and 'staying put'.

INVITATIONS

World Wetlands Day Thursday Feb 8th 0900 and includes a boat trip. The first 24 in get a seat.

Annual General Meeting and a Sunset Cruise! Sunday 4th March 5 - 7pm (sunset is 6.48)

Fees are due. Your \$10 per person each year keeps us going!

Moore River Estuary remains a lovely place to be, any time of year, and we hope to see you here enjoying the place whenever you can. Even from afar, we appreciate your ongoing support as we continue our efforts to Protect Moore River Estuary.

Please check out our website at guildertonwa.com.au and feel free to contact us.

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