

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

UPDATE



More Pollution

... No Solution

Old News

On the 5th August 1988 the State Government Lifted the road reservation order through the Wolli Creek Valley. The Minister for Environment, Mr Moore, said the option of building a high-level six-lane freeway through the valley had now been "totally abandoned"

The above news item, from the Sydney Morning Herald of August 6th, 1988, records one outrageous broken promise of this government's first term. Is it any wonder Australians are a most sceptical nation when it comes to trusting our leaders?

As we all know air pollution in Sydney has become unbearable. Our community is grossly over commercialised particularly in the road freight & transport area.

The F5 is simply one extension of this commercial bias.

The F5 will create higher levels of pollution, greater risks of toxic spills and encourage more dangerous opportunities for industrial accidents to occur — on a grander scale.

Independent research indicates that projects such as this be abandoned, yet, the RTA continues. Will the RTA ever understand that free-ways are not the answer to urban traffic congestion, never have been and never will be?

The Road Transport Authority's own investigations show that the health of residents in proximity of the freeway will be severely affected, by both noise and air pollution.

As well, Sydney's smog can jump to record danger levels overnight by the unsatisfactory burn-off methods of councils.

The government still fails to see the effect of ad hoc policies and in some areas, no policies on air pollution and traffic congestion. **It would appear that the solution to traffic problems would be in the formation of an overall policy involving the departments of housing, environment, transport and the RTA. Not just the RTA!**

The policy should have as an objective reducing air pollution, traffic congestion and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Sydney.

The government held a summit on the 4th & 5th of July! Let us hope for some sense out of it, and that the government does not just sweep the matter under the carpet and forget about it until the next heavily polluted day.

Dates

Rally	27th August Parliament house
Next Meeting	4th Sept at the Community Resource Centre
Imagine If...	23rd Oct at Earlwood PS
AGM	6th Nov at the Bardwell Park RSL
Annual Dinner	15th Nov at the Lively Lobster

Is the F5 Tollway Coming?

Despite mounting community opposition, the RTA are pushing ahead with the Casula — Beverly Hills section of the F5 Tollway. You will recall that Premier Greiner announced in April that the road would proceed as a tollway constructed by private contractors.

Reflecting the unseemly haste with which this project is being pushed through, neither the RTA representative nor the constructor could answer the questions posed by over 400 alarmed residents in Riverwood recently.

Issues such as road closure, access to local facilities, resumption of houses, traffic impacts, congestion, ramps, drainage and the old bug-bears for the RTA — **noise and air pollution**, were all left in the too-hard basket.

Meanwhile, Liverpool City Council voted on July 23 to mount a challenge in the Land and Environment Court to have the F5 Tollway decision made null and void.

The Council, supported by neighbouring Campbelltown Council, intends to demand a fresh Environmental Impact Statement be prepared and has as well, requested that a Public Inquiry be conducted into the Tollway. Both Councils have criticized the RTA's standards relating to noise attenuation and have condemned their subversion of the democratic processes.

This opposition to the Tollway throws the entire F5 proposal into the spotlight again and lends weight

to the argument of over 200 groups all round Sydney, who have demanded a Royal Commission into the activities of the RTA. Join with us and many other groups in a Rally at Parliament House at 1 p.m. on 27th August, 1991.

* * * * *

By basing all our transport planning on roads we are heading for disaster. Freeways are big, ugly, noisy, and dirty and do not solve transport problems.

The Society will continue to demand a moratorium on all freeway construction pending a full and open public inquiry into the integrated transport needs of Sydney.

* * * * *

Major Grant for Wollie Study

The NSW Department of Planning and the Federal Department for the Arts, the Environment and Tourism have recently granted the Wollie Creek Preservation Society \$10,500 for research purposes. The money is to be spent on a Wollie Valley Heritage Study.

The Wollie Creek Valley contains a rich historical heritage. Aboriginal sites, thousands of years old, have been recorded there. Captain Cook commented favourably on it when he sailed up the Cooks River in 1770. Throughout the early days of white settlement the Valley was utilized by many industries including forestry, stone quarrying, grazing, soap making and agriculture.

In an attempt to unearth this history

the Preservation Society will be employing a professional historian and an archaeologist to work on systematically documenting the Valley's heritage resources. You can help!

Old photos, magazine and newspaper articles and yarns about the old days in the Wollie Creek Valley will provide a valuable component to the study.

Any such material, if made available for copying, will be gratefully accepted, acknowledged and returned in pristine condition.

Please contact the WCPS, PO Box 270, Earlwood, NSW, 2206, or phone the Project Co-ordinator Martin Smith on (045)66 6120(H) or (045)72 8404(W) to contribute to this valuable initiative, or ring Brian Madden 718 4538.

TOLLWAY - Election Loser

A key factor in the Government's close call was the loss of the Western Sydney seats of Parramatta and Penrith. Local sentiment ran fiercely against proposed tollways, small links in the grand freeway plan which aims to join the city centre to the west with ribbons of choking traffic.

Claims were made tollways would cost some commuters an extra \$1000 a year.

The Wollie Creek Preservation society, along with many other community based urban environment groups, will continue to pressure the government on the freeways issue and the broader transport reforms this city so desperately needs. Our city's health and our precious remaining open space can not be traded for roads.

The voters of Parramatta and Penrith proved that bad urban planning can cost governments seats.

The local environment and threats to its well being can no longer be regarded as inconsequential and isolated issues. Our elected representatives in Macquarie Street have the voters' verdict and have, by now, hopefully got the message.

Imagine if... Wollie Creek - past, present and future

This creative project is designed to give young people the opportunity to explore and express their ideas through illustration and stories.

All primary school children are invited to participate in this event which is the Society's major environmental education project for the year.

Awards will presented to groups and individuals during Childrens Week on October 23, at the Earlwood P.S. If you would like further information contact 559 1269.



BOOKS
Birds of Wollie Creek \$5
Trees of Wollie Creek \$3
plus \$1 Postage

