

Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

No. 21, JULY 1994

Two vital tasks!

1. Attend the M5 EIS briefing and find out what you can do to kill off the road!

Yes, the RTA is about to try again! According to their consultants, Manidis Roberts, the environmental impact statement for the M5 East is to be released early this month and will remain on display for three months.

Many local people are labouring under the misapprehension that the RTA's underground option is a step forward.

While the underground option (if the RTA are sincere about it—which remains to be seen) would spare most of the Wolli Valley greenspace the road would have a disastrous effect on the mangroves and wetlands between Turrella and Tempe, not to mention water quality in the creek and Cooks River. And the pollution, noise and traffic effects of the road would be horrendous.

The M5 East is just the start of the RTA's ambitions for our area; they see it as just the first stage in an integrated system of giant roads, the M6, the Eastern Distributor and the Cooks River Valley Road, weaving through the inner South-West.

We believe that the M5 can finally be beaten—especially given that there has been a massive upsurge in community opposition to freeway-style roads, as shown by editorial opposition to the government's

road plans by both the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Tele-Mirror*. (Did you notice the recent excellent anti-freeway piece by *SMH* motoring editor Alan Kennedy?).

All over Sydney there are now proposals (both from the private and public sectors) to construct new public transport systems which can get cars off the roads and give our city a liveable future. We must make sure these are constructed.

Together with other organisations, the Society will be opposing extension of the M5 completely and mounting a big campaign. We plan to get in an even bigger response in opposition to the road than was received for the 1989 EIS (4,600) and the Botany West Transport Study (8,600).

To do this we'll need your help. A special briefing night on the M5 East and its implications for the inner south-west is to be held on Tuesday 19 July. The briefing is being organised by the recently-formed Transport Action Group Against Motorways (TAGAM). **Please attend.** While the EIS is on display the Society will need plenty of assistance manning the street stalls where we get most of our letters and signatures. **The briefing night is the best place to get the information you'll need to help your Society get the message out to the community!**



The M5 East is just the start of the RTA's ambitions for South-West Sydney

Briefing Night

M5 East EIS: stopping the RTA's tollway disaster

**Tuesday 19 July
7.30 pm**

Illawarra Tennis Club
Chapel Street, Rockdale

Speakers:

Les Robinson

Public transport activist and co-author of the Choice publication 'Winning Back the Cities'

Michelle Zeibots

Former Director of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and community representative on the NSW Traffic Noise Task Force

2. Write to a parliamentarian and ask them to support the Wolli Park Bill

As you are no doubt aware the Wolli Park Bill (1993) was introduced into State Parliament by Clover Moore in October last year. At its launch the Bill was supported by the major conservation groups and it has since been endorsed by a number of other community groups.

You could help greatly by writing a short letter to key NSW parliamentarians expressing your support for the Bill.

You should write to your local member

(see list), and, if possible, the Premier, Mr Fahey and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Carr.

There's a specimen letter overleaf. Please write your own letter today!

Please note that we still have copies of the video on the subject of the Bill: *Too precious to pave* available to members at \$5 per copy (plus \$2 delivery charge). It's a great way to introduce friends and neighbours to the issue.

Should you require a copy of the Bill, please phone Lee on 567 8502.

Write in support of the Wollie Park Bill

It's easy; this is all you have to do...

1. Decide who to write to...

• If you live in the State electorate of Canterbury (Earlwood, Undercliffe, etc) your local member is: **Kevin Moss, MP.**

• If you live in the electorate of Rockdale (Rockdale, Arncliffe, Bardwell Park, Bexley, Bexley North, etc) you write to: **George Thompson, MP,**

• If you wish to write to the Premier, his title is: **The Hon. John Fahey, MP, Premier.**

• If you wish to write to the Leader of the Opposition his title is: **The Hon, Bob Carr, MP.**

While you've got your pen and paper out why not write to all three: your local MP, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition?

2. Copy the specimen letter...

or compose your own, making similar points. It's always a nice touch to tell them in your own words how beautiful the valley is and how much you value it.


3. Don't forget...

to sign and date your letter and to put your name and address up the top. (Then they can write back.)

4. Whoever you write to...

address the letter to them at: Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

SPECIMEN LETTER

 **Your Name**
Your address
Date


[Name of politician]

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000


Dear Mr Fahey, **[or Mr Carr or Mr Thompson or Mr Moss]**

I am writing to ask you to support the Wollie Park Trust Bill (1993) which the Member for Bligh, Clover Moore, has given notice of in the House.

The Bill seeks to have the wonderful Wollie Valley greenspace preserved and properly managed for the people of Sydney as a park with similar status to Centennial Park and Bicentennial Park (Homebush).

 **[Why not add here some of your own words about how much you value the Wollie Valley].**

For years the M5 road proposal was an obstacle to this area being preserved for future generations. It now seems that, if the road goes ahead at all, the RTA is prepared to bypass most of the Wollie Valley by going underground, so why not support the Bill?

 **[If you are writing to Kevin Moss or George Thompson please ask them to ask Bob Carr to support the Bill.]**

Your signature

Date

GIFTS TO THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

WE'RE DELIGHTED to announce that gifts (of \$2 or more) to the Wollie Creek Preservation Society's Public Gift Fund are now tax deductible. The fund supports the Society's environmental purposes.

Tax deductible status comes at a critical time for the Society. Over the next months your Society will have many, many, expenses in the fight to preserve our magnificent greenspace.

So please think of the Society if you get a refund cheque from the Taxation Department! The fight to defend and improve our environment doesn't come cheap!

Cheques should be made out to: **Wollie Creek Preservation Society Public Gift Fund**, and sent to PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206.

Please send something today. We'll send you a receipt.



Wollie Creek Preservation Society Inc.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I would like to join the Wollie Creek Preservation Society Inc....

Name

Address

Postcode..... Phone No.....

PLEASE TICK

Family \$10 Concession \$5

Individual \$7 Donation \$ _____

By mail to: WCPS, PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206