

Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

FEBRUARY 1998

Preservation Society supporting legal action against M5 East decision

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society is wholeheartedly supporting the Transport Action Group Against Motorway's legal action against the Minister for Planning's decision to allow the RTA to proceed with construction of the M5 East. An official TAGAM statement on the action is enclosed, please read it carefully.

The Society's support for TAGAM has been carefully considered by the committee. It is an action which the Preservation Society would itself have undertaken had TAGAM not stepped forward to do so.

TAGAM is being represented by the very experienced Environmental Defender's Office, a community legal centre which specialises in environmental law.

The Preservation Society will be contributing financially to support the court action.

We believe the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning's action in approving an M5 East project which had been radically changed after it had been shown to the public in the 1996 EIS supplement, sets a very dangerous precedent. If the approval for the project isn't challenged, the government, and other large developers, will be encouraged to try the same tactic in the future and the big projects, when they are built will bear little resemblance to the version of them exhibited in the EIS.

We are particularly alarmed at the plan to place a single huge exhaust stack for the four kilometre road tunnel in Turrella, right on the banks of Wolli Creek. No such plan was considered in the EIS documents exhibited to the public.

- The stack will be at least eight storeys (25 metres and possibly as much as 40 metres) high and 15 metres wide.
- It will pump out air laden with the toxic and carcinogenic exhaust fumes



Members of the WCPS and local group Residents Against Polluting Stacks (RAPS) demonstrating outside NSW Parliament last year.

of around 60,000 vehicles a day from the tunnel. (That's around 21 million vehicles a year).

- The RTA has no plans to treat the exhaust gasses in any way.
- Under atmospheric inversion conditions, toxic air will build up in the Wolli Valley. Under windy conditions there will be toxic 'hot spots' where the exhaust plume from the stack comes to ground.
- Air will be emitted from the stack at a speed of 54 kilometres an hour (defined as a 'near gale' on the Beaufort Scale).

- The stack will be noisy, but the RTA has provided no information on the levels of noise and its impact on the local community.

- The effects of constructing the stack right on the banks of Wolli Creek itself have not been explained.

Obviously, apart from the impacts on human health, all these effects will have a detrimental impact on the wildlife and recreational amenity of the Wolli Valley and the stack will be a big ugly visual intrusion.

M5 East court action

Special information meeting for Preservation Society members

**Monday 23 February,
7.30 pm**

St George's Anglican Church
Hall
Minnamorra Ave, Earwood

A solicitor from the Environmental Defender's Office will be present to speak about the case and answer questions.

The M5 East Coalition Rally in the Valley!

The community groups fighting for a new EIS for the M5 East project will be holding a rally in **Turrella Reserve** on **Sunday 8 March** beginning at **2.30 pm**.

There will be **speakers** and **food on sale**.

Come along, bring your friends and neighbours, have a family picnic and support the battle against the M5 East project!

Membership renewal

It's time to renew your membership again folks! A membership renewal and donation form is enclosed. **Remember that donations to WCPS are tax deductible.**

Clean Up Australia

... is on **Sunday 1 March**. The Society will be doing a clean-up in the vicinity of Jackson Place. Please try to make it along! Over the last few years the clean-up has had a marked effect on the state of the valley with huge amounts of rubbish being removed. Also, the proposed M5 East exhaust stack would be just below Jackson Place and this is a good opportunity to view the site and get an idea of what a monstrosity it would be.

Meet at Jackson Place, Undercliffe at 9.00 am (please park in Highcliffe Road – Jackson place is very short, narrow and difficult to get out of!)

International year of the ocean

1998 is the International Year of the Ocean. By protecting and improving an important part of the Cooks River catchment your Society is playing an important role in protecting the ecosystems of Botany Bay, and, ultimately, our Pacific coastline.

Volunteer bush regeneration days

This year the Society will be organising bush regeneration activities in the valley on the second Saturday morning of each month (8.30 – 11.30). This is a great opportunity to help restore the valley's precious bushland to health and to learn the tricks of the trade from a professional bush regenerator. If you're interested please ring Debra Little on 9554 3176.

Wildlife sightings

In the last few weeks there have been some interesting sightings:

• Spotless crane *Porzana fluminea* at Girrawheen Park. A definite sighting by Wolli Birdman Neil Rankin and the first record for Wolli Creek.

• Australasian (brown) bittern *Potaurus poileptilus* on Wolli Creek below Nannygoat Hill (a possible sighting by Gavin Gatenby).

• A grey goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* in the Turrella. This is very suggestive but not yet a confirmed sighting. It is possibly linked with the disappearance of a 12 week-old kitten in the vicinity!

STICK THIS ON THE FRIDGE FOR QUICK REFERENCE!

Wolli Creek Preservation Society Meetings and other events for 1998

Our meetings are held in the Community Resource Centre, 11-13 Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Please note the following dates in your diary and try to get along!

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| March 4 | September 2 |
| April 1 | October 7 |
| May 6 | October 21 (AGM) |
| June 3 | October 23 (Annual Dinner) |
| July 1 | November 4 |
| August 5 | December 2 |

Phone 9567 8502 or 9559 2821

Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc.

I wish to Join the WCPS
 Renew membership in the WCPS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

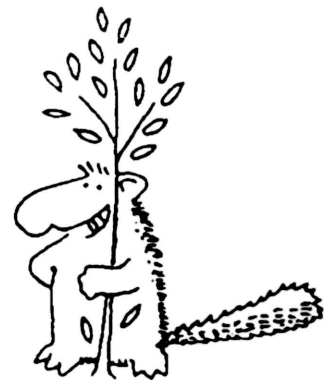
POSTCODE _____

PHONE NOs _____

EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Post to WCPS, PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206
Contact phone 9567 8502, 9559 2821



- Family membership\$10.00
- Individual membership\$7.00
- Concession membership\$5.00
- Donation\$.
- TOTAL\$.