



Rethink
EastLink

Rethink EastLink (WA) Incorporated

Annual Report

June 2022



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1.0 A summary of the Rethink EastLink's activities

We are a community group made up of people who have concerns about the proposed EastLink (WA) and the irreparable harm that would result to the environment, heritage, health and communities if the proposed EastLink (WA) – (highway from Midland to Northam also known as the Orange Route) is built. Our mission is to research, inform and communicate the irreparable harm that will occur should the proposed EastLink be constructed. Over this time, we have:

- attended a number of local community events to engage with the community, raise the awareness and listen to their concerns – including the Gidgegannup Show, Wundowie Iron Festival and the Gidgegannup Agricultural Small Farm Field Day;
- engaged directly with a number of local business owners to listen to their concerns about the proposed EastLink and what they think this could mean for their business;
- raised the concerns and questions shared by the community with Main Roads, Integrated Project Team for their comment and shared this with the community via our website;
- attended meetings with other local community groups including the Gidgegannup Horse & Pony Club, the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society and the Bakers Hill Progress Association;
- convened a number of community meetings to establish connections between residents, groups and businesses, raise awareness of the EastLink route and share information and knowledge and to work together to oppose its construction. Local councillors, and Federal Candidates were also invited to attend;
- contacted all Federal Candidates for Hasluck in the lead up to the Federal elections to share our concerns and understand their position to share with the community. We met with Brendan Sturcke (Greens), Jeanene Williams (Independent), Tania Lawrence (Labor), Pauline Clarke (WA Party) and Will Scott (UAP).

- contacted local councillor candidates during elections to ask them about their position and understanding regarding EastLink to then share with the community;
- presented at Council Forums at both Shire of Northam and Shire of Mundaring on the issues with the proposed EastLink and to share our concerns;
- met with local Members of Parliament, Matthew Hughes and Jessica Shaw to share our concerns and request their support;
- sharing opportunities for the community to engage with Main Road's regarding EastLink WA such as their events and online surveys;
- hosted and attended a number of community clean up days, picking up litter at local reserves and public green open spaces that would be impacted by EastLink;
- set up a Containers for Change Scheme for people to donate their 10c for every container; and
- created merchandise for sale for fundraising for costs towards our grassroots campaign.

2.0 The achievements and highlights

There have been many achievements and highlights throughout our community group's activities. Such as:

- we have had a gorgeous logo created by the amazing Erin Byrne art and our banner printed thanks to the generosity of George at TJ Signs;
- being very grateful to Nature by Nathan, Talitha Huston and Leila Jeffreys for permission to use their gorgeous pictures for some of our collateral and communications;
- our brochure being designed by one of our talented committee members, and after some input from the team – was printed thanks to the generous support of one of our dedicated members;
- building up our membership with some excellent engagement and sharing of thoughts and actions towards this important cause at community meetings and on our facebook group page;
- attending two Radio interviews with ABC Wheatbelt and The 88.5FM Community Chat Show to share our concerns and raise awareness;

- having a regular feature article in the Gidgegram and our stories featuring in the Echo Newspaper; and
- our social post sharing the maps and survey released by Main Roads showing the design and location of some of the proposed interchanges - having a reach of over 16,400 people and having over 7,600 engagements that's from people either commenting, liking, sharing or clicking on our post.

3.0 What is planned for the next year

We have a number of activities and upcoming events planned for the year. This includes:

- continuing to share opportunities for community to engage with Main Road's updates and surveys and have their say;
- continue to build our membership through a range of activities including organising stalls at local shopping centres / markets;
- fundraising for upcoming campaign costs;
- continuing to gather signatures on our petitions both for City of Swan and the WA Legislative Council both asking that support for the proposed EastLink is rejected;
- adding to our research – putting this information onto our website so people can continue to read up on the issues and find links to more information;
- banner painting events;
- continuing to work together with elected officials to ask questions of the proposed EastLink and the upcoming business case, share our concerns and request their support; and
- communicating with the public when the environmental referrals from Main Roads are submitted to the EPA (expected last half of 2022) and encourage all to write submissions.

4.0 Rethink EastLink's Vision

Our vision is that the Perth Hills is able to be enjoyed by all who live, work and play here now and in the future; where the lush bushland and biodiversity values that make it such a unique and special place are protected and where the proposed construction of the Eastlink WA Highway is declared permanently untenable.