

## Memorial Hall display reveals road clearing havoc

### Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road

TO FIND out more about the Toodyay Road road works, visit the display of the plans in the Memorial Hall.

The campaign for Safe and Scenic Toodyay Road (SASTR) has made available higher-scale plans of the upgrades which have been provided by Main Roads WA.

The display aims to provide more-detailed information to the Toodyay community than has been provided by Main Roads' website or to their Community Reference Group (CRG).

One plan shows the intersection of Sandplain and Salt Valley Roads where there will be up to a 90m-wide and 11m-deep cuts through beautiful Wandoo and Powderbark woodland.

This is to accommodate overtaking lanes on both sides of the hill but in particular to reduce the gradient of the road for trucks and save costs for the haulage industry.

However, it comes with significant costs to the environment with removal of 14ha of native bush – land clearing far greater than at the current Jingaling Brook road works.

When SASTR started this campaign back in January it was led to believe that these upgrades were all about road safety.

But, as we enquire further, we are coming to the view that this is more about economics

with a focus on the supposed benefits of getting to a destination minutes faster and more cheaply but completely ignoring the value of the environment.

Our group aims to achieve a number of goals – see [sastr.com.au](http://sastr.com.au) for details. First is the need for a better process to inform the community than exists with the current CRG process which has many deficiencies.

We are also advocating for better road designs which still achieve the construction of passing lanes but in locations that require less damage to the environment.

Other recommendations include sealed shoulders and audible edges and centre lines to parts of the road without major clearing.

Lastly, we will be developing more sophisticated economic arguments to support more environmentally sensitive upgrades which must take into account trees which are hundreds of years old and unique flora such as rare orchids that exist all along the road.

These environmental features add to the heritage value of Toodyay Road and are best summed up as – it's not just about the destination but also about the journey.

To devise a more balanced plan of upgrades to the Toodyay Road we need your support.

The map display is open from 11am until 2pm on weekdays and from 10am to noon on weekends until the end of May. There is a petition to sign to help the cause.



Wandoo woodland at Toodyay and Fernie Roads is earmarked for removal.