

## ENVIRONMENT

# Showgoers sign up to preserve nature and safe and scenic roads

### Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads

THE TOODYAY Agricultural Show provided the opportunity for Safe and Scenic Toodyay Roads (SASTR) members to tell many people about the detrimental impact of the planned improvements to Toodyay Road.

A picture of the 420-year-old Powder-bark Wandoo and its threatened demise drew plenty of people to our stand (*See story Page 1*).

A pamphlet explaining more about how such a tree contributes so much to the environment was also available and it can now be downloaded from our website at [sastr.com.au/](http://sastr.com.au/).

To all of you who purchased our offerings or donated to our group on the day – many thanks.

While donations are important, we also valued the conversations we had with many of you which have motivated us to continue our fight for greater consideration of the environment when building or improving roads.

It is clear from those conversations that now the roadworks in the Jingaling Brook area of Toodyay Road are complete, and the resulting barren landscape is clear for all to see, more and more people are questioning why this level of clearing is required in order to make the road safer?

Perhaps, more importantly, many of you signed our petition to the Legislative Assembly which asks for a reconsideration of the nature and scale of the roadworks to come. In total with our online petition, more than 2500 of you have signed, so thank you.

In response to recent questions about the scale and intentions of the road improvements that were put by Shane Love MLA to the Minister for

Transport, Planning, Ports Rita Saffioti on behalf of SASTR there are indications that the Toodyay Shire Council has been lobbying continuously for improvements to the road.

However, these improvements were designed some years ago and include multiple passing lanes all with levels of environmental destruction as great and in some cases more than has taken place at Jingaling Brook.

Meanwhile, the world is evolving, climate change becomes more pressing by the day, land clearing continues in an area with an unenviable reputation for being one of the most-cleared regional areas in the country, yet Main Roads WA seems to ignore these facts when designing road improvements.

Toodyay Shire Council also needs to take note of this shift in community sentiment and not be swayed by simplistic economic analysis asserting that people getting to Toodyay 10 minutes faster will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for the local economy, without recognising the impact on the environment.

Confirmation of this shift in viewpoint is in the findings of our survey which shows that only 20 per cent of 101 respondents are not concerned about the environmental impact of roadworks while more than 50 per cent are concerned or very concerned.

So, the collective opinion of more than 2500 of you is that the current plans are not an acceptable proposition in order to make the road more safe and we will continue to fight for more balanced improvements that are less damaging to the environment.

To help us do this we need more of you to sign our petition at: [change.org/SaveToodyayRoad/](http://change.org/SaveToodyayRoad/).



*Grand engineering at Jingaling Brook but at what cost.*