



## Shire of Kellerberrin

### MEDIA RELEASE

# Great Eastern Highway Upgrade & Doodlakine Train Passenger Station

Council has been contributing to two major projects within the Shire over the past two to three years involving the long awaited Great Eastern Highway Upgrade (town section and Mather Road East Rail Crossing intersection at 1.5km from town) and provision of a new Passenger Train Station at Doodlakine.

#### **Great Eastern Highway (Massingham Street) Upgrade Project – ALine East**

The Great Eastern Highway Upgrade Project has seen a number of discussions and inspections in regards to seven (7) versions of Concept Design for the Project. The discussions and early input by the Council and in association with affected Businesses, has now almost finalized the Project Construction Work to commence in January 2007 to June 2007.

The most recent matter agreed to by Project Owners ALine East has been the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Pipeline. General agreement has been reached to relocate the pipeline further north towards the railway line to improve Road Construction standards, improve safety, improve access to businesses not only with local residents but also visitors and to improve the landscape of the main Street (Massingham Street). It is estimated that \$1.25m is required to relocate the pipeline and in a partnership and cooperative agreement, Council has agreed to contribute \$200,000.00 towards the Project cost of \$1.25m. Any further information, enquiries or comments are to be made to ALine East Kylie Brierty Environmental and Community Relations Manager. ALine East will be making a presentation to the Community and provide further details of the Project to inform the Community of the Project and its highlights.

#### **Doodlakine Train Passenger Station Facility Upgrade – Public Transport Authority**

Council has been lobbying the Public Transport Authority – Transwa to provide and upgrade the Doodlakine Passenger Station Facility in consideration of passengers utilizing the Facility for Avon Link and Prospector Train Passenger Services. Councils agreed contribution is up to \$15,000.00 for the Station/Shelter Facility with an overall estimated cost of \$400,000.00 being approved by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure some time ago. Several onsite meetings have been held with representatives of the Shire, Public Transport Authority and the Doodlakine Community Committee in order to progress the project including seeking assistance from the Hon. Kim Chance in his responsibility portfolio as Minister for the Wheatbelt. Concept Design Plans are on display at the Doodlakine Store (contact Bill Nagle and/or Mike McFarlane) and at the Office of the Council.

The new Station Facility will dramatically improve the amenity of passengers utilizing the train service including shelter and parking. Council and Community concern has been centered on the location of the new Facility and Public Transport Authority have strongly indicated that the facility will be some 490m east from the town rail crossing. The location is in consideration of safety margins of the train traffic on the rail network and lobbying for a closer location to the townsite proper, would not be accepted.

FRANK PECZKA  
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Shire of Kellerberrin