

Dear Tim

Thank you for the opportunity to submit further comments in regards to the Talison Mine Access Rd plans.

I attended the information session last Wednesday and had many of my initial questions answered by Craig Dawson. However, the plans have left me disappointed as they have not addressed many of the concerns outlined in the first round of Shire submissions and have raised even more issues. Keeping in mind that there has been a number of months since the first plan was submitted, it has given Talison ample time to really detail the plan, investigate concerns and incorporate ways to address them.

The following are my comments and concerns regarding the plan and I would appreciate if they can be presented to the Shire council meeting for consideration:

1. Plans for peak traffic

Mr Dawson explained that the current plans drawn and submitted are for this road to be initially utilised as 'mine traffic only'. However, he also commented that it is highly likely to become a public road and therefore Shire owned. Therefore, shouldn't these plans reflect how to minimise the impact of the *greater potential traffic flow* that was stated at the Shire meeting as 1500 vehicles per day – not just a few hundred trucks per day?

2. Recreation impacts

I appreciate Talison's efforts to readjust the alignment of the access road to slightly increase the distance from the Greenbushes Pool and to include on their plans the sound walls to reduce the noise pollution.

Talison could have included a planting plan of what they will plant on these sound walls and how they will maintain them to ensure that they function to their greatest capacity as well as serve as beautifying the area. This extra information would show their commitment to reducing their impacts on this popular recreation spot.

3. Conservation and road pollution

Talison have made no efforts on their plans to show how they will minimise and reduce the road pollution runoff into the conservation water-shed area for the Schwenkes wetlands. Taking into account that this was a Federally funded 3-year effort with 1 million dollars from the federal government and substantial in-kind support and efforts from Talison, the local and wider communities and Blackwood Basin Group in creating this conservation area, I expected to see on their plan much more considered care & moral obligations to protect it.

There are many ways road pollution runoff can be intercepted and thereby minimising any environmental impacts of potential gross pollutants, sediment, nutrients, heavy metals and hydrocarbons entering the wetlands water-shed area.

Suggestion:

- a) compensating basins and swales with extensive reed plantings to help bio-filter the water at the very least

4. Habitat fragmentation

The inclusion of a wildlife underpass on the plan is helpful. Adding some rope ladder crossings for possums, phascogales and other nocturnal tree climbing marsupials would enhance these efforts. A study on efforts near Busselton have shown remarkably quick habituation and high use of rope bridges. Here is a link to the study:

5. Habitat clearing offsets

All habitat clearing for road purposes should have an offset plan. No details are given about how Talison and the Shire will offset the clearing of such a huge area of bushland for road construction. The area is regularly referred to as being rehabilitated land with many weedy species, but it is also bushland with abundant native species, wildflowers, watering holes and is therefore still important habitat for endemic flora and fauna. These impacts should be addressed with an offset plan.

6. Town entry beautification

- a) Over the past few years Greenbushes residents have aimed to beautify both entrances into town with native plantings, the heritage signage upgrade and tinmen installations. The new access road goes directly over the area where the North tinman, picnic gazebo and upgraded heritage sign sit. No efforts are made in the road plan to assure our community that retaining entry beautification is high on their agenda. No elevation plans were supplied to show where the tinman and sign will be reinstalled, or how the native vegetation will be enhanced after clearing or if the gazebo will be rebuilt in another place nearby.
- b) There will be new turning lane installed into Blackwood Rd from the southern-end, removing the 5-year-old native plantings. No details are given about replacing them.
- c) There were also no details of how they will beautify the new T-section off the road access mine which is the new entry into Blackwood Rd and therefore part of the new entry into our town.

7. Road maintenance and rates

Will the maintenance to the mine access road be financed fully or partly by Talison once it becomes a public Shire owned road?

With the potential 1500 vehicle movements per day and excessively heavy trucks traversing it a couple hundred times per day, this road will require a lot of maintenance. Will this increase the yearly Rates of Greenbushes residents?

Tracy Lansdell
51 James Street
North Greenbushes
0400976434