



Crucial infrastructure needed in 'timely manner'



YANCHEP TWO ROCKS

By EMMA BRENNAN

IF the new Yanchep Two Rocks is to attract business investment and employment opportunities to the area, crucial infrastructure must be provided in a "timely manner", City of Wanneroo chief executive Daniel Simms says.

The City has received positive feedback from residents and business owners about the recent extension of Marmion Avenue to Yanchep, and traffic figures taken in February this year indicate about 4500 vehicles use the new stretch of road every day.

Mr Simms said road, train and public transport networks, including the extension of the northern suburbs railway line and the Mitchell Freeway, were an integral part of the strategic plan to enable employees to travel north to work rather than commuting to southern employment centres.

However, Main Roads and Perth Transport Authority say plans to extend either the road or rail services are still in their infancy with no firm timeframes for completion.

"The Yanchep Two Rocks area in the future will have a variety of institutional employers, including a university, TAFE, hospital and government agencies, reinforcing the need for a high-quality transport network and associated infrastructure," Mr Simms said.

"(Marmion Avenue) has been well received by the residents of the Yanchep Two Rocks area as it provides an alternative to Wanneroo Road and a direct access to facilities to the south, including Clarkson rail station. It has also provided a more direct access for prospective



The recently extended Marmion Avenue to Yanchep.

property owners and businesses."

A reservation, which identifies and protects land needed to extend the Mitchell Freeway to Yanchep, is included in the State Government's Metropolitan Region Scheme. This is as far as plans for the extension have progressed.

"As further urban development occurs in the Yanchep area this will generate greater traffic demands which will need to be catered for by the regional road network," a Main Roads spokesman said.

"This includes Marmion Avenue, Wanneroo Road and the future



Daniel Simms

Mitchell Freeway, and this will be supported by the proposed passenger rail connection to Yanchep. The timing of any improvements to roads will be dependant on future traffic demands."

Yanchep District High School principal Ken Austin said before Marmion was extended, the area was quite isolated.

"The new road has made things a bit easier. I think everyone felt a little bit trapped because there was just one road out. If there was a fire, we were told - head for the beach!"

Late last year the State Government set up an independent panel to report on the public transport needs of the entire metropolitan area over 20 years to 2031.

Public Transport Authority media manager David Hynes said plans to extend the railway line north to Yanchep were now part of a 20-year Perth public transport plan, which although not finalised was expected to be released in December.

The plan will identify a network of mass transit services for Perth and Peel, prepare a capital investment program, identify rolling stock needs and consider ways to better integrate urban planning and development around public transport.

"It is looking at extensions to existing rail lines - including the Joondalup Line to Yanchep Two Rocks - as well as potential new lines or spurs, bus-ways for rapid transit systems on roads and the role of light rail and new railway stations," Mr Hynes said.

As part of the State Budget announcements in May, Transport Minister Simon O'Brien said \$147.4 million had been allocated over the next four years for the extension of the existing line from Clarkson to Brighton.



On Mitchell Freeway at peak hour.

Plea for extension

PLANS for Mitchell Freeway extended north should be accepted to provide a vital port link to Neerabup Industrial Estate and Joondalup chief executives Simms and Hunt believe.

Next month will make a submission to State Government outlining views and push the freeway to be extended to Heston by 2012.

Ocean Reef Mayor Robert Jacob last presented a proposal organised by Wanneroo council Goodenough crossing 2917 signatory support of the freeway extension, to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Simms and Hunt recently presented a proposal to discuss the freeway extension and the important role it could play in advancing economic opportunities in the northern corridor.