

**The Gosnells to Maddington Cycleway.** A project that should have been popular. Main Roads and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure made sure that was not to be. As can be seen from the pictures below a lot of Canning River fringe vegetation was removed to construct this cycleway. In the picture on the left the yellow backhoe is at the river. The area affected is about three times the actual cycleway bridge width. If the cycleway had been moved even 5 metres towards the rail line (to the left of the pictures) much of the vegetation that was lost would have been saved.



Around 12 kilometres of Great Eastern Highway, from Sawyers Valley to The Lakes, was subject to roadworks from mid-2004. The roadworks have been called 'widening', 'duplication' or 'reconstruction'. At least 70 ha of forest was cleared along this section of Great Eastern Highway at times up to three times the current width of the existing highway.

The roadworks were undertaken after complaints about truck traffic along this section of highway. Such largescale clearing, and over-engineering, was unnecessary especially if proper identification of problem areas took place and local small scale engineering solutions were investigated. For example, the speed limit could have been reduced, truck safety regulations should have been enforced or a truck lane constructed.

The roads works attracted protests and Main Roads was discovered to have failed to follow environmental protocols. More on this issue can be found at <http://perth.indymedia.org/?action=newswire&parentview=7218> or <http://www.perthimc.asn.au/index.php?action=newswire&parentview=4598>



The current *Great Eastern Highway* can be seen on the right with the cleared area and darker duplication on the left. The area is infected with dieback and the signs, which tend to move around, offer no protection.



There is also clearing works associated with the highway construction. A number of dams and dumps have been constructed in dieback areas adjacent to the highway.

