

CRAG (Canal Reserve Action Group Inc.) is a community organisation that has as its major objective the protection of the Lower Prospect Canal Reserve, which stretches from Guildford to Prospect Reservoir.

The current focus of the group is a campaign to return a safe cycleway to the reserve, by the construction of a bridge over a new section of the Prospect Highway, which is being constructed across the existing cycleway.

New developments:

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 the Premier Nathan Rees held a public forum at Penrith where he and his cabinet met with the public to discuss their concerns. Two members of CRAG attended, and were able to discuss the issue with Michael Daley (Minister for Roads) and a senior member of the RTA. CRAG explained the need to build a bridge over the new highway that has cut the current cycleway, and prevents access to and from Prospect Reservoir. We received a very good hearing and an assurance the matter would be looked at closely.

We were fortunate to have a similar discussion with Minister Joe Tripodi, who has represented the Minister for Roads on this matter previously, and who showed an interest in how the original decision to have a bridge over the new highway was later changed.

We also spoke to Nathan Rees (Premier, and Member for nearby Toongabbie) who was aware of some of the issues with the Boral/RTA construction.

The local Member for Smithfield, Ninos Khoshaba was also present and was most supportive.

We need the community's support to continue this campaign to have the bridge built and make the cycleway safe again.

See the CRAG website for full details: [www.canalreserve.org](http://www.canalreserve.org)

Ted Duffy

Bicycle Group Liaison