

## **Perth Waterfront Fig Tree National Shame, 7am, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Most of Perth was asleep whilst contractors were mobilized in the dark in preparation for a shameful act that was to be committed right in the heart of our City. The 8 foot tall total block-out fence concealed a living treasure that was about to be destroyed. A 600 tonne ancient Moreton Bay Fig tree, a public asset and a spectacular example of public art was about to be dismembered and shredded through a wood-chipper.



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The tall black fence that was by now a familiar sight had sent a clear message to the people of Perth that no matter what they thought, they had been disenfranchised. The heritage listed Esplanade Reserve with its special sense of place would be stripped away from them by an Emperor's decree.

Is there a handbook on "How to Destroy a City's Urban Forest"? Was this handbook shared around in the inner sanctum of our nation's Local and State Government authorities? Did this handbook perhaps make its way from the destroyers of the

Laman St. Fig Trees in the City of Newcastle, NSW, to the many cities in WA that have so successfully won their ruthless war against our public trees and stifled all opposition?

What local or state government would knowingly destroy an urban forest and treat its people with utter contempt? What local or state government would condone the wood-chipping of 600 tonnes of ancient tree? What Heritage Council or Heritage Minister would not value a giant ancient treasure? What Planning Minister would allow the destruction of a beautiful landmark tree? What architects and planners would not value and plan around a supreme example of natural public art?

Shame on our City's modern fathers that they still can't understand the true value of a tree. There were no good engineering and environmental reasons for not keeping this tree. What a lack of imagination, good will and common sense that they could not incorporate this tree as a feature of the development. Our architects, planners and administrators should hang their heads in shame!

*What you can do* - Make this July "**Lay a Wreath in Memory of a Tree**" month

**Bring your natural flowers, leaves and wreaths this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July at 3pm** to the corner of Williams St and the Esplanade. We will be laying them outside the fence near the site where the 600 tonne fig tree was destroyed. We invite our politicians to join us

NB: In case of heavy rain this event will be postponed to Monday or the next suitable day at the same time.

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