

Picture postcard perfect

by JENNY D'ANGER

COCKBURN Wetlands Education Centre in Bibra Lake faces the bulldozers if the proposed Roe Highway goes ahead, according to staffer Denise Crosbie.

"It's difficult to believe that significant wetlands still face such a threat," she says.

The eco-tourism and education facility in Hope Road, caters for more than 3,000 kids, adults, schools and community groups showing them the beauty and variety of wildlife and native bushland just 15 kilometres south of Perth.

The area is so natural and protected it still supports a whole range of wildlife including bandicoots, possums, a variety of bird species and even

the occasional kangaroo, says coordinator Rex Sallur.

"A major highway through the reserve would be devastating," he lamented.

The area is so significant the Centre and surrounding wetlands will feature on Channel 9's show Postcards on Sunday May 14.

But Main Roads plans dating back 50 years have the Roe Highway cutting a swathe through the heart of the wetland between Bibra Lake and North Lake as it heads west to link up to the controversial Fremantle Bypass by 2006.

City of Cockburn planning guru, Alan Blood, says the plan shouldn't go ahead on its current alignment through sensitive bush and wetlands.

There are two possible routes one along Hope Road or following the high-tension power line reserve closer to North Lake – but there were problems to be thrashed out with either route, says Mr Blood.

Fremantle Federal MP, Carmen Lawrence says pushing the Roe Highway through made no sense if the bypass was stopped, something the Labor party has promised if elected, she says.

Main Roads consultants are looking at the issues surrounding the route of the highway, before finalising plans, which should be out for public consultation towards the end of the year, says Roe Highway Project Manager Tony Missikos.