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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Uniting two sides of railway a positive step in city's growth

Perth has long suffered from a great divide. For more than 100 years the city has been cut in two by the railway line.

On one side was the central business district, the glamorous and prestigious part of town.

On the other side, very much the wrong side of the tracks, was Northbridge, which in the latter part of the last century became a rather seedy entertainment district which was an area to be avoided late at night.

But times have changed.

Tackling anti-social behaviour in Northbridge has been the subject of ongoing effort and it has slowly become a much more user-friendly place.

But despite much talk and advice about uniting the two sides of the city, it remained an elusive goal for some time.

Then slowly things began to change.

In 2013 the sinking of the railway line was completed and last year the underground bus station opened.

Work continues at Yagan Square, which will house hospitality and retail outlets and is set to be the heart of the Perth City Link precinct.

And from today, pedestrians will be able to use what is being called the King Street extension, which provides direct passage between Roe Street in Northbridge and Wellington Street in the city.

From early next year it will be open to traffic.

A new public space called Manatj Park is expected to open before the end of the year.

The City Link project has been at least 10 years in the making.

Work has, not unexpectedly, had a big impact on traffic flow in parts of Wellington Street.

Fortunately that will not last for ever.

And the inconvenience will have been worth it as the project becomes a welcome development in the transformation of the city.

When it is bedded down, Yagan Square will have the potential to become the heart of Perth.

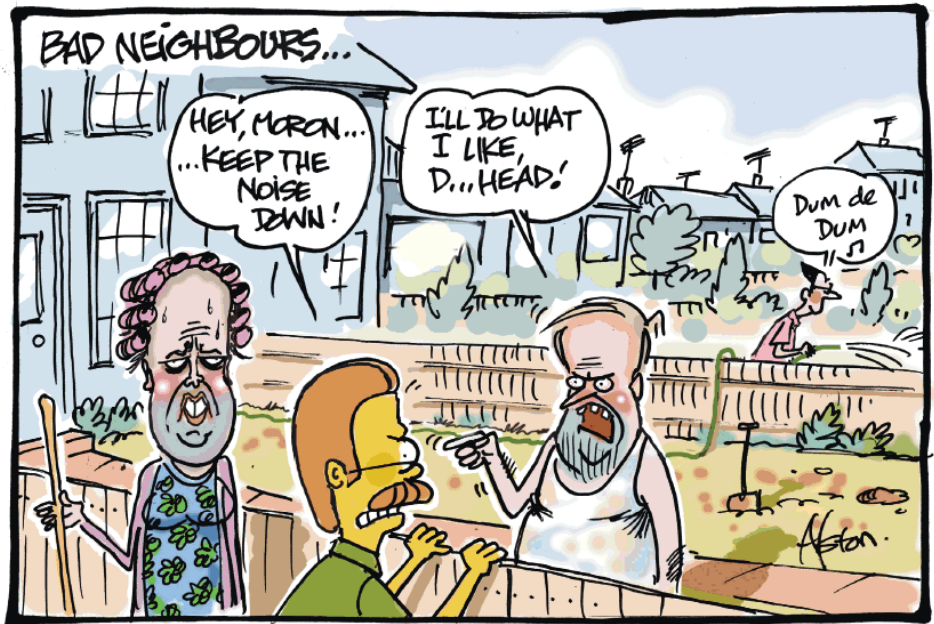
The project as a whole holds much promise and is a credit to all those involved in transforming a much neglected area into something of real value to the city.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the city, Elizabeth Quay is slowly taking shape.

It has been the subject of a number of development hiccups and evoked no small amount of criticism in its early planning days.

But when complete it will join the City Link precinct as vibrant and attractive places for business, residents and visitors alike.

Perth has come a long way.



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Cybercrime not just an issue for the IT crowd

■ Gary Martin

The biggest challenge facing today's executives is to use technology to their organisation's advantage. "Innovate" and "invigorate" are the catch phrases. Beat the disrupters at their own game.

In today's world, more than ever, technology is the tool we rely on to stay ahead of the competition and to drive productivity enhancements.

We lean on our IT departments, create new executive positions for chief technology officers, and embrace all that this digital revolution has to offer.

But do we, as leaders in our organisations, fully understand what technology has to offer? And, much more importantly, the risks that technological advances bring with them?

Much has been written about cybercrime and the challenge of trying to combat this highly potent modern weapon.

But for all the commentary around awareness of cybercrime, and the rush to install appropriate cybersecurity measures, little is being said about the responsibility.

Many executives see the rise of cybercrime and cybersecurity as an issue for their IT department. They see it as a line item in their regular executive management meetings to tick off with an "under control" stamp.

That naivety betrays the responsibility and accountability of the executive to be across more than just the notion of cybersecurity. In the case of cybersecurity, it is about more than just the technology, it is about the people who are using it.



Cybercrime affects the whole workforce.

According to Craig McDonald, a cybersecurity entrepreneur who established MailGuard, executives must make it part of their responsibility to understand the breadth and width of cyber threats to their business.

As McDonald says, executives must identify the threats to their business, find out why cybercriminals may target their businesses, and understand why teams struggle to prevent attacks.

Importantly, McDonald says that executives must understand the need to educate and empower their managers and frontline teams to employ an effective cyber defence.

It has been well established that most breaches of cybersecurity are caused through human error, and not through a lack of technology protection. Industry estimates suggest 91 per cent of all cybercrime is initiated by email and that 97 per cent of people cannot identify a phishing email.

A Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report found that 23 per cent of email users click on malicious content.

In any business, these numbers cover most of the workforce — including the executive team.

And therein lies the rub for today's executives — you don't have to become a cybersecurity expert.

But you need to be able to identify, qualify and acknowledge the increasing risk that cybercrime poses, ask the relevant questions, and realise if there is inadequate internal information flow on these issues.

This new and evolving skill has become a vital part of the modern executive's tool kit.

It is no longer good enough to delegate conversations around cybersecurity to the IT department, or the executive team's resident technology expert.

It is a conversation that needs to involve the entire executive, and extend to the entire workforce.

Think of the downside. A cyber attack has the potential to wipe out a business completely, shut it down for a considerable length of time — or at the very least cost your business a tidy sum.

Denial is no longer an excuse. Increasingly executives will be judged on their ability to keep on top of this emerging threat to corporate well-being.

Leadership is required to ensure cybersecurity is understood across the entire workforce — from the top down.

■ Professor Gary Martin is chief executive of the Australian Institute of Management WA