

As we were: Perth 1930's



In Barrack St, passengers board for Inglewood. A B-class tram is turning right into Murray St., while the conductor resets the points: 1930's



Same location as above : 1956



The Great Depression of the 1930's was devastating to Perth as much as anywhere else. In 1931 local councils were receiving applications for families to live in tents, in fact many lived in squalid conditions right up to the beginning of WW2. Perth didn't connect by phone with the rest of Australia until 1930, because of this isolation the idea of self governance or secession had often been discussed through local newspaper articles and editorials and on a number of occasions has surfaced as very public events including a State referendum in 1933. The argument in favour of secession was based on the assumption a Federal government in Canberra would always favour the business and popular interests of the larger population centres. A common complaint was that Western Australia is the forgotten State, which contributes more to federal funds than it gets back, and is discriminated against by the Eastern States. 68% of the 237,198 voters voted in favour of secession. However the Constitution of Australia describes the union as "one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth and makes no provision for states to secede from the union", so Western Australia is still part of Australia.

If you have any memories and photo's of your city that you'd like to share please send to:

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Please do not send originals. If you would like photos returned include self addressed envelope.

Or email PDF copy to:
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with short description of the location.