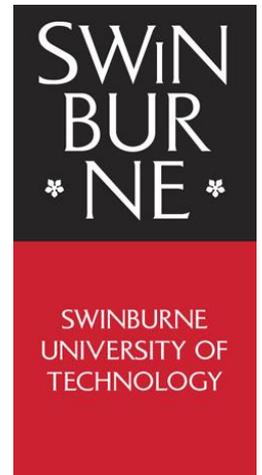


## Transcript



Title: **Kim Dravenieks - Rethink the Link**

Author(s): **Centre for Urban Transitions**

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Audio/video for this transcript available from: [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Our first speaker is our understated guest, Kim Dravnieks. And she's going to speak. I'm not going to introduce them fully, but Kim is from Fremantle, and she led the Rethink the Link campaign. The successful campaign to oppose Roe 8, as it was called. A highway, frankly. It was going to carve through critical heritage and habitat areas. So Kim is going to talk about, we're gonna start on a positive note, winning a campaign and winning it with humor. Kim, over to you.

Thank you. Can I ask what brought you here tonight? And I'm not talking about a car, a tram, a bike. But what actually made you be interested in being an activist? And no, it's not a dirty word. I wanna say congratulations. You have activated your mind and body to actually get here tonight so therefore you're an activist. And that is brilliant. We really hope now you're an activist, that you'll go on and help other people doing that as well. Because without the community being engaged, we have let things happen in our infrastructure sector and in all other places that are wrong.

We found the [INAUDIBLE] link that the key to winning a campaign was finding out, what made people step out of his or her front door? What made them get out of their comfort zone and get activated to make a change? By the end of our campaign we had 213 people who had been arrested. Hardly any of those people had ever thought that they would do that. If you'd said a year before this is going to happen, they would've just laughed at you. There's no way that we're comfortable, but that's what happened. And it's certainly something I never thought might be on my bucket list or my CV, but now all of us are so proud of what we did. And we wear it as a badge of honor.

The question is, how do we empower people to stick up when they see injustice? We found that we had to do it one conversation at a time. Like tonight, actually talking to you, finding out what it is that engages people. What is the difference? What do they see as injustice? What's going to happen to them at their home, their place of work, or whatever? And once we engaged people in that conversation, they're then having ears open to listen to others, and to listen to our stories. That was our main task for Rethink the Link, is to actually communicate on that personal level.

So our campaign was to stop the Perth Freight Link and the Roe 8 toll road. There was three key organizations that brought about the win, but many, many more alliances, like our [INAUDIBLE] professors, political parties, local governments, and we had 35 official aligned groups. Safety to Wetlands have been working for about 30 years to protect the unique environment, whether it be the wetlands and woodlands. And they were instrumental in getting the legal cases and the earlier rounds and they couldn't get past that environmental. A lot of people came in the environment and nothing else.

Rethink the Link led the campaign to get the communications going. So we're speaking directly to the wider community about the road project, how that'd impact people financially, as well as through

congestion, noise pollution, and the terrible long term planning that that would [INAUDIBLE] into that area. We organized stalls, door knocking forums, rallies, letter writing, media campaigns, and lots of fun. The third group was a nonviolent direct action group, who had no formal structure, but they did amazing work in allowing people to be informed about what was it? What they could do, what were the impacts? What happened if they got arrested? We had good legal advice.

And they were also the core group in the fun. Some of it's up there. And I think that's because they had the highest risk. And now we're taking that risk and make sure that we had fun. We had creative artworks, costumes, music, chasing the Premier as Pauline Hanson lookalike, wearing a dress calling out I'm OK with the divorce as long as I can take the upper house, with the media all there. We had an academic lock on to a handrail of the Premier's office in full regalia with reading George Orwell's book 1984. And she was there for hours and hours and that brought for me--

OK.

OK. And then the final thing is--

[INAUDIBLE]

We ambushed the Premier very unsuspecting with our beach babes with our drowning in debt, and put the lips last. So those were some of the key things to bring out humor and we had a fantastic community.

That is a hilarious photograph. I had no idea what was going on. [INAUDIBLE]

He was totally stunned. The great thing was that he attacked the media over the photos. He went straight to the media. And then I saw the writing on the wall. So they printed that photo, all cartoons, every day for the whole week.

OK, thank you very much.

Thank you.

Our next speaker--