

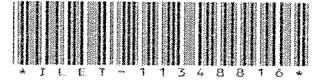


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Planning**

Your ref: OLET-6249716
Our ref: 805-2-13-2
Enquiries:

Mr Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Bassendean
48 Old Perth Road, Bassendean WA 69

Document #: ILET-11348816
Date: 11.11.2016
Officer: BOB JARVIS
File: PARE/DESCONT/6



Dear Mr Jarvis

RIVERBANK FUNDING - ASHFIELD FLATS RESERVE

Thank you for your letter regarding Department of Planning (DoP) support for an application to the Swan River Trust for Riverbank Funding to develop a Management Plan for Ashfield Flats. The Director General has asked me to respond to your letter.

I appreciate the value that the Town of Bassendean and its resident's places on the Ashfield Flats, however I feel it would be premature to seek funding to undertake work on a potential management plan prior to a decision on the end management of this reserve.

While an objective of the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee, to which the DoP provides a representative, is to prepare a management plan for the Ashfield Flats, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) pursues formal management plans only when an "End Manager" has been identified and agreed to.

This position is based on a number of factors, including the temporary or interim WAPC ownership and the funding mechanism for the WAPC to acquire and manage land. As the reserve is also a Bush Forever site (site 214) there are prior policies in place that recommend management of similar reserves by organisations best placed to undertake management, including Conservation Commission for areas of highest conservation requiring specialist land management, or the Local Government where lower levels of land management is required (see the DoP's Bush Forever 2000 publication, and State Planning Policy 2.8 Bushland Policy for the Perth Metropolitan Region).

It is also a requirement of the Department of Lands to have a management vesting agreed to prior to transfer of property to the State of WA, such that formal management is able to be transferred to the managing body immediately post land transfer.

In establishing the End Manager, the WAPC will seek a formal agreement from the organisation(s) responsible for the management of a reserve and will provide assurances to the Department of Lands that this has occurred.

The DoP considers a Management Plan to be in keeping with the requirements of Part V Division 1 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, as required by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Future management of the Ashfield Flats by the appropriate organisations that are best placed to care for the land is seen to be the most appropriate outcome, as the broad acre management principles that are in use at the DoP will not achieve sustainable objectives that meet local requirements.

Previous reviews of Ashfield Flats consider it a mixture of conservation wetland and open parkland. Ownership is predominantly by the WAPC, with unmade roads and some land ownership with the Town of Bassendean, as well as two drainage channels owned by the Water Corporation.

Items such as foreshore restoration, as noted in your letter, weed and fire management, path relocation and fencing may require specific programs of work to enhance the use of the Flats and reduce future management expenditure.

Land amalgamation, road closures and drainage management are larger programs that require consultation between several parties to resolve and may reflect on the eventual makeup of the areas under management.

The DoP understands that these programs may take some time to undertake and that the eventual transfer of land and implementation of the Management Plan for future management may not occur until such time as they are underway. Any proposed agreement will outline this as well as other interim arrangements as required to ensure that future management of the area is as cost effective as possible.

If the Town of Bassendean is willing to discuss this situation further on the basis of resolving future management, the DoP will consult with your staff to determine the details of how we can progress the matters identified and provide relevant funding.

I consider this as the most appropriate means to move forward with resolving a management plan for the Ashfield Flats and as a means of meeting the aims of the River Parks Committee.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hawkins
Manager Acquisition, Management, Disposals

11 November 2016

Our ref: OLET-6762417
File ref: PARE/MAINT/68; PARE/DESCONT/6

21 June 2017

Department of Planning
Locked Bag 2506
PERTH WA 6001

Attention: Mr Andrew Hawkins - Manager Acquisitions, Management,
Disposals/Business and Corporate Support

Dear Mr Hawkins

ASHFIELD FLATS RESERVE MANAGEMENT

Since May 2005, Council has been lobbying the respective State Governments to have Ashfield Flats Reserve vested with a State Government agency whose primary responsibility is to rehabilitate and maintain this regional and significant wetland for the entire community.

The Bassendean River Parks Management Committee (BRPMC), at its meeting held 3 May 2017, discussed Ashfield Flats Reserve in terms of its long-term management.

At its meeting, the Committee noted the proposed amalgamation of the Department of Parks & Wildlife, Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority to form a new Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Given the end manager will be the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Committee recommended, through Council, that a request be made to the Department of Planning to reconsider contributing funds to an Ashfield Flats Reserve Management plan.

The Committee further recommended, through Council, that the offer from the WAPC to transfer ownership of Lot 821/52 Villiers Street to the Town, be accepted by the Town of Bassendean, following the investigation and remediation of the contaminated portion of the site by the WAPC, in order to facilitate the development of the proposed contemplative park and wildlife observatory overlooking Ashfield Flats.

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At its Ordinary Meeting of 23 May 2017, Council considered the recommendations of the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee with respect to the Ashfield Flats Reserve long-term management, and resolved the following:

That Council:

1. Receives the report on the meeting of the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee held on 3 May 2017;
2. Requests the Department of Planning to reconsider contributing funds to an Ashfield Flats Reserve Management Plan, given the likely end manager will be the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions;
3. The Town of Bassendean considers the offer from the WAPC to transfer ownership **of the fenced top area only, being part** of Lot 821/52 Villiers Street to the Town, following the investigation and remediation of the contaminated portion of the site by the WAPC, in order to facilitate the development of the proposed contemplative park and wildlife observatory overlooking Ashfield Flats.

A letter of response to the above, from the Department would be appreciated.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the Town's Director Operational Services, Mr Simon Stewart-Dawkins, on 9377 8002 or by email to sdawkins@bassendean.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Bob Jarvis
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

21 June 2017

Encl. WAPC map for Ashfield Flats

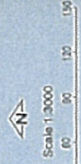


ORTHORECTIFIED AERIAL IMAGE
ASHFIELD FLATS

Legend

- WAPC - Ownership

Western Australian Planning Commission



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 Data Source: Geographical Information System (GIS) Department of Planning, Perth, WA.
 Date of Publication: 14/04/2010



**Minister for Environment; Disability Services
Deputy Leader of the Legislative Council**



Your Ref: OLET-6603017
Our Ref: 62-00687

Document #: ILET-12128517
Date: 24.05.2017
Officer: SIMON STEWERT-DAWKINS
File: PARE/DESCONT/6

Mr Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Bassendean
PO Box 87
BASSENDEAN WA 6934

Dear Mr Jarvis

Thank you for your letter dated 3 April 2017 regarding the management of Ashfield Flats Reserve.

Ashfield Flats Reserve is a significant reserve and its values have been recognised by its listing as a Bush Forever site and acquisition by the State Government.

At this stage, the future management and vesting of a number of Bush Forever sites, including Ashfield Flats Reserve, is being considered through the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region.

Further information on the Strategic Assessment will be made available in due course.

Thank you for raising this issue with me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

24 MAY 2017



Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands

Our Ref: 72-01070
Your Ref: OLET-6603417



Mr Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Bassendean
PO Box 87
BASSENDEAN WA 6934

Document #: ILET-12156017
Date: 31.05.2017
Officer: SIMON STEWERT-DAWKINS
File: PARE/DESCONT/6

Dear Mr Jarvis

ASHFIELD FLATS RESERVE MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2017 regarding the above matter.

As you would be aware, the majority of Ashfield Flats (the flats) was acquired by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in 2003/2004. The flats are reserved for Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

In July 2003, the WAPC entered into a 10 year lease with the Town of Bassendean for the management of the flats, while an appropriate end manager (originally proposed to be the Conservation and Parks Commission (CPC) via the Department of Parks and Wildlife) could be identified and agree to accept management.

As transfer to the CPC has not been able to be confirmed, the WAPC (through the Department of Planning) continues to manage the flats.

While I appreciate the Town of Bassendean would prefer an alternative management arrangement, there remains significant rehabilitation works required on the site, together with recurrent management costs, which are currently impacting the ability to transfer management from the WAPC to an end manager.

I appreciate you raising this matter with me and trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

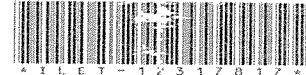
**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

31 MAY 2017



Your ref: OLET-6762417
Our ref: 805/2/13
Enquiries: Andrew Hawkins 6551 9851

Mr Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Bassendean
PO Box 87
Bassendean WA 6934



Document #: ILET-12317817
Date: 04.07.2017
Officer: SIMON STEWERT-DAWKINS
File: PARE/MAINT/68

Dear Mr Jarvis

ASHFIELD FLATS RESERVE MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 21 June 2017 regarding the above matter.

The majority of Ashfield Flats Reserve (the flats) was acquired by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in 2003/2004. The flats are reserved for Parks and Recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

In July 2003 the WAPC entered into a 10 year lease with the Town of Bassendean (the Town) for the management of the flats while an appropriate end manager (originally proposed to be the Conservation Commission, now Department of Parks and Wildlife and soon to be Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions) could be identified.

As no end manager has yet to be confirmed, the WAPC, through the Department of Planning, continues to manage the flats.

In terms of your request that the WAPC reconsider contributing funds to an Ashfield Flats Reserve Management Fund, while I appreciate that this may assist in bringing on an end manager outcome, which I support, it would be difficult to consider this matter further without an understanding of how this fund would work or the amount of the contribution required?

As an example, I understand that there are still significant rehabilitation works required on this site, estimated at \$5 million in 2004. If the WAPC was to contribute to the fund, would the Town also be contributing and how would you see the fund operating?

Currently the WAPC manages in excess of 17,000 hectares of reserves, which are being held and maintained until an end manager is identified or transfer to that manager resolved. While the WAPC funds the ongoing management, you can appreciate that the WAPC is constrained in its funding by State budget conditions.



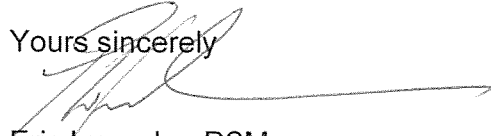
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This requires that the WAPC judiciously spends this budget and prioritises works accordingly.

In respect to the transfer of the fenced top area being part of Lot 821/52 Villiers Street to the Town, I understand that officers from the Department of Planning are continuing to work with the officers from the Town to facilitate this transfer and appreciate your confirmation of the Town's interest in managing this land once the contaminated part of the site has been rectified.

Yours sincerely



Eric Lumsden PSM
Chairman
Western Australian Planning Commission

4 July 2017