

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN
NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE
RIVER PARKS COMMITTEE

Dear Committee Member

A meeting of the River Parks Committee of the Town of Bassendean will be held in the Council Chamber, 48 Old Perth Road, Bassendean, on Tuesday 13 November 2018, commencing at 3.00pm.


Ms Peta Mabbs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

9 November 2018

AGENDA

Please note: The River Parks Committee meeting will need to conclude at 5:00pm as a Councillor Workshop has been scheduled following this meeting.

1.0 **DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Town of Bassendean acknowledges the past and present traditional owners of the land on which we gather to conduct this meeting, and pays its respects to their Elders, both past and present.

2.0 **ATTENDANCES, APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

3.0 **DEPUTATIONS**

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 4.1

That the minutes of the River Parks Committee meeting held 7 August 2018, be confirmed as a true record.

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7.0 BUSINESS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

8.0 REPORTS

8.1 Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage - Draft 2018-2023 Ashfield Flats Reserve Works Program (PARE/DESCONT/6) Simon Stewert-Dawkins Director Operational Services

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to provide an update in regards to the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage draft Ashfield Flats Concept Plan, the public consultation undertaken and the Department's report on the community feedback received.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Attachment No. 1** - Draft Ashfield Flats Works Program 2018-2023
- **Attachment No. 2** - Ashfield Flats Community Consultation on Draft Works Program
- **Attachment No. 3** - Report on Community Consultation Received - Ashfield Flats
- **Attachment No. 4** - Department of Transport letter
- **Attachment No. 5** - Minister for Transport Planning & Lands letter

BACKGROUND

Ashfield Flats Reserve represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area and covers approximately 64 hectares. This reserve is listed as a Bush Forever Site No. 214 and the site is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

At the February 2018 River Parks Committee meeting, the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage representative presented as a deputation to the Committee, the draft 2018-2023 Ashfield Flats Reserve works programme for consideration.

The Department continued to liaise with Elected Members, as well as with other interest groups, including the AshfieldCAN, Water Corporation and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Council (OCM – 29/05/18) received the River Parks Committee report and resolved in part to:

- Note the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage is working with key stakeholders and seeking comments on the draft 2018-2023 Ashfield Flats Works Program;
- Request the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage receive and acknowledge the Committee feedback on the proposed draft 2018-2023 Ashfield Flats Works program;
- Request the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage amend the Draft 2018-23 Ashfield Flats Concept Plan to reflect the plan prepared by the Town of Bassendean to include:
 - A path alignment adjacent to the proposed fence line and a treatment that is suitable for cyclists, prams and wheelchairs;
 - An additional river access point (as suggested on the TOB map) that is stabilised and appropriate for public access; and
 - A fence that curves around to be at right angles to the riverbank at all access points to limit access to restoration areas; and
- Endorse the concept plan for Stage 1 of the Works Program subject to the above amendments.

In addition, Council requested that the Town upload the draft amended Ashfield Flats Reserve Concept Plan and Works Program (**Attachment No. 1**) to the “Your Say” Town of Bassendean website for community consultation.

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation via “Your Say” Bassendean website commenced on 11 June 2018 and Officers also arranged for the plan to be advertised in the Bassendean Briefings and promoted using the Town's Facebook page.

On 30 July 2018 at 7pm, a representative from the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage provided a community briefing to 36 attendees on the draft Concept Plan.

The closing date for public submissions via the “Your Say” Bassendean website was extended to 15 August 2018. In accordance with Council (OCM – 29/05/18) resolution the “Your Say” feedback was provided directly to the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage for their consideration.

On 23 October 2018, the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage provided a report (**Attachment No. 2**) on the community feedback received and Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH) Response to the issues raised.

Please note that for privacy, the resident names have been removed.

COMMENT

The Department of Planning Lands & Heritage also provided a detailed analysis of responses received, (**Attachment No. 3**) indicating 29 out of 41 respondents (70%) either supported or majority supported the Draft Works Program. 10 respondents (25%) did not support the Program and a further 2 respondents were neutral (5%).

From the responses, four key issues were highlighted by 95% of respondents, being; path alignment, motor boats/river wash, dogs at Ashfield Flats and the foreshore fencing. The Department compiled a list of recommendations based on these key issues, which will result in modifications to the existing Draft Works Program.

The Department of Planning Lands & Heritage (DPLH) is confident that the recommendations uphold and enhance the primary intent of the Program, being the implementation of a program of works to rehabilitate Ashfield Flats, ensuring that the environmental values are protected, while recognising the need to provide an appropriate balance for the

community who use Ashfield Flats for recreation and enjoyment. The Department also recognises that the Program remains a fluid document, and will be heavily influenced by current works undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, on behalf of the WAPC, involving a hydrological study. The results of the hydrological study are expected to be available in the next 18-24 months.

As a result, a number of the recommendations contained in the "Report on the community feedback received for the Ashfield Flats Draft Works Program 2018-2023" are contingent on the Hydrological Study being completed. It should therefore be noted that the outcome of the Hydrological Study will heavily influence the recommendations proposed and the preparation of an "Ashfield Flats Foreshore Management Plan" to be developed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

In May 2018, Council (OCM-29/05/18) resolved in part to write to the Department of Transport to request a review of the current boat speed on the upper reaches of the Swan River and undertake community education and water policing programs. On 3 July 2018 the Department of Transport provided the attached (Attachment No. 4) letter of response.

Also in May 2018 Council (OCM – 41/05/18) resolved to write to the Minister for Transport regarding regulating the use of vessels on the Swan River and on 31 July 2018, the Minister for Transport Planning & Lands provided the attached (Attachment No. 5) letter of response.

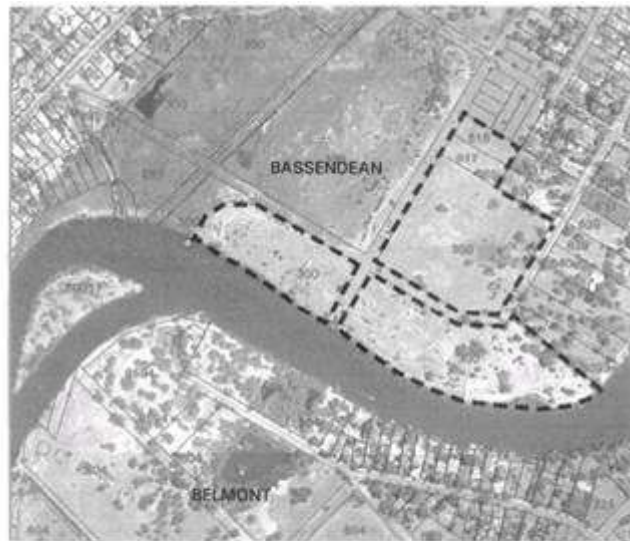
In August 2018, Council (OCM – 11/08/18) resolved in part to locate the proposed Nature Based Playground to the western aspect of Sandy Beach Reserve, being on part lot 646 Kitchener Road. Therefore in respect to Attachment 1 - Draft Ashfield Flats Works Program 2018-2023 and the concept plan that was advertised, the DPLH has advised that in the interest of accuracy and avoiding confusion, they would prefer to leave the attachment for the Committee/ Council consideration, and then to remove reference to the playground from the adopted version of the draft Concept Plan.

In regards to Attachment 3 and the recommendation "That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Town of Bassendean agree to a policy at Ashfield Flats covering access by dogs and the control of this access", as outlined above, Ashfield Flats Reserve represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area and covers approximately 64 hectares. This reserve is listed as a Bush

Forever Site No. 214 and the site is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Ashfield Flats is owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the land is managed by the Department of Planning Lands & Heritage.

In July 2003, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) leased a portion of land for 5 years to the Town of Bassendean, so as to provide 'Community Recreation and a Dog Exercise Area' within Ashfield Flats Reserve.



--- Leased Area

The WAPC resolved not to renew this lease agreement, as the designated dog exercise areas were impacting on the Bush Forever Site (No. 214) and in the Directory of Important Wetlands.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions and the Town of Bassendean staff representatives support the recommendation to control dogs within Ashfield Flats as it will assist with the management of future rehabilitation areas and the conservation of the Bush Forever Site (214) and this important wetland.

As the River Parks Committee / Council would be aware some visitors taking their dog to Ashfield Flats allow their pet to be "off leash" and as a consequence some dogs have been observed wandering and causing damage to the river bank, flora and wildlife.

The Dog Act 1976 states in section 31 Control of dogs in certain public places, that:

- (1) *A dog shall not be in a public place unless it is —*
 - (a) *held by a person who is capable of controlling the dog; or*

(b) *securely tethered for a temporary purpose,*

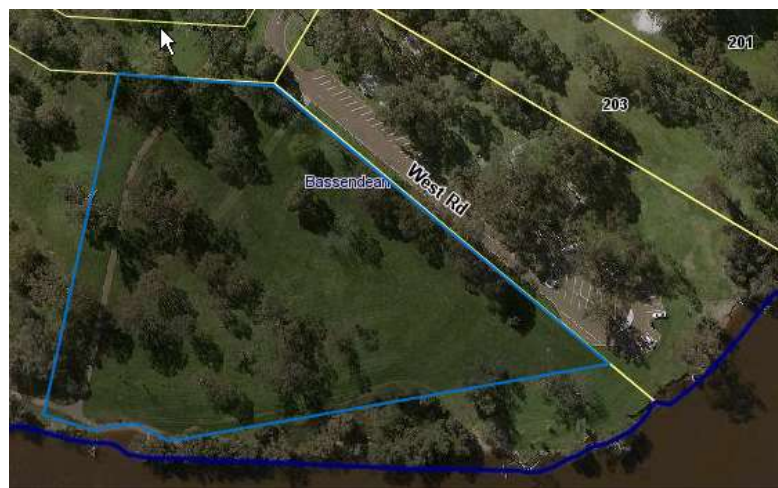
by means of a chain, cord, leash or harness of sufficient strength and not exceeding the prescribed length.

Section 3A) states

that a local government may, by absolute majority as defined in the Local Government Act 1995 section 1.4, specify a public place, or a class of public place, that is under the care, control or management of the local government to be a dog exercise area. The Dog Act 1976 also requires that dog exercise areas and dog prohibited areas are determined by an absolute majority decision of Council.

To address the recommendation for dogs to be controlled in Ashfield Flats, the Town's Rangers can work with the WAPC/ DPLH develop a policy position in accordance with the Dog Act 1976, erect signage and educate dog owners of the importance of the Bush Forever site and wetland.

If deemed appropriate, the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Town of Bassendean could enter into a short-term lease agreement for a portion of Lot 646 Kitchener Road, Bassendean, as shown in the aerial map below (marked blue) and signage erected for the specific purpose of a Dog Exercise Area in accordance with section 31, clause 3A of the Dog Act 1976.



If a short-term lease arrangement was to be arranged, it would be critical that WAPC and Department of Planning Lands & Heritage be permitted to continue to undertake the draft 2018-2023 Works Program and implement the Foreshore Management Plan in order to rehabilitate this portion of the Ashfield Flats.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027; Strategic Priority 2:
Natural Environment

Objectives <i>What we need to achieve</i>	Strategies <i>How we're going to do it</i>	Measures of Success <i>How we will be judged</i>
2.2 Protect our River, Bushland Reserves, and Biodiversity	2.2.1 Protect and restore our biodiversity and ecosystems	Community / Stakeholder satisfaction Survey (River, Bushland and Reserves)
	2.2.2 Sustainably manage significant natural areas	
	2.2.3 Partner with stakeholders to actively protect, rehabilitate and enhance access to the river	Biodiversity and Bush Condition ("Keighery" Scale of bush condition) measurement

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

At the Community Briefing held on 30 July 2018, the Western Australian Planning Commission advised that they had received a grant of approximately \$200,000 to undertake a Hydrological Study of Ashfield Flats Reserve, including the Chapman Street drain. This study is anticipated to take between 18 to 24 months to complete.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.1

That the Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. Endorses the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage's "Report on the community feedback received for the Ashfield Flats Draft Works Program 2018-2023" attached to the 13th November 2018 River Parks Committee agenda; and
2. Notes that a number of the recommendations contained in the "Report on the community feedback received for the Ashfield Flats Draft Works Program 2018-2023" are contingent on the outcomes of the Hydrological Study being completed in approximately 18-24 months and that the study will heavily influence the recommendations proposed and the preparation of an Ashfield Flats Foreshore Management Plan to be prepared by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.
3. Supports the recommendation contained in the "Report on the community feedback received for the Ashfield Flats Draft Works Program 2018-2023" for:

- a) the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage to approach the Department of Transport and request a fixed Swan River speed camera be erected at Ashfield Flats, to assist with the control of boat speed, with the aim to reduce the impact of boat wash as a contribution to reducing riverbank erosion at Ashfield Flats;
- b) the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage to seek the advice of the Department of Transport to direct all Swan River traffic and modify existing nautical maps to use the channel navigation markers between Ron Courtney Island and Garvey Park.
- c) the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage to develop a policy in accordance with the Dog Act 1976, to control dog access at Ashfield Flats Reserve in order to assist with the management of future rehabilitation areas.

8.2 Department of Planning Lands & Heritage and the proposed AshfieldCAN Look Out at Lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield (PARE/DESCONT/6) Simon Stewart-Dawkins Director Operational Services

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to provide an update in regards to the discussion held between Western Australian Planning Commission, the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage and the AshfieldCAN concerning a proposal to construct an Outlook on Western Australian Planning Commission owned land at Lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment No. 6:** AshfieldCAN Lookout Concept Plan
Attachment No.7: Department of Water & Environmental Regulation letter - Contaminated Site Lot 82152 Villiers Street.

BACKGROUND

Ashfield Flats represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area (Swan River Trust 1997; State Planning Commission 1987) and covers approximately 64 hectares. It is listed as a Bush Forever Site No. 214 (Department of Environmental Protection 2000) and the site is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

The Ashfield Flats is predominantly vested with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The Department of Planning Lands & Heritage (DPLH) currently manage the vested land (blue outline for each parcel of land) and the Department of Water manage the open drains and the Town of Bassendean manage the balance of the reserve, as illustrated in the aerial photograph below



In regards to Lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield, the WAPC own this lot and the DPLH manage and maintain the 13,462m² parcel of land.

Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, Ashfield has been identified as a contaminated site. In May 2017, Council (OCM-19/5/17) considered the Bassendean River Parks Management Committee meeting report and resolved in part to consider 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.

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

In 2006, Council (OCM - 12/07/06) resolved to write to the former Minister for Planning & Infrastructure regarding the vesting and long-term management of Ashfield Flats Reserve. The response outlined that ultimately Ashfield Flats would form part of the Regional Swan River Park and the land would be vested with the Conservation & Parks Commission and therefore Ashfield Flats would be managed by a department responsible for protecting and conserving natural areas such as the Department of Parks & Wildlife or similar agency.

Where appropriate, the Town has continued to lobby State Government and the WAPC/ Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage, to transfer Ashfield Flats Reserve parcels of land to a State Government agency responsible for protecting and conserving natural areas, such as the Department of Parks and Wildlife or similar.

The AshfieldCAN has advised in **Attachment No. 6** that the community group conducted three community consultation sessions, to determine the community's visions and concerns for the site, create a concept for a lookout feature and develop a brief for a designer.

The design that arose from the consultations was for a dry land passive local park for the local community to walk to, with a lookout feature, seating, pathways, human sundial, stepping stones, logs, signage and interpretive information.

Through the process, it became clear that the whole space would need to be considered to create a plan for an outcome of most benefit to the community.

The DPLH - Manager Acquisitions, Management, Disposals - Business and Corporate Services, advised on Thursday 1 November 2018, that the WAPC and DPLH representatives held a site meeting at Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, with the AshfieldCAN representatives, Cr Brown and the Director Community Development regarding the proposed (**Attachment No. 6**) Outlook structure, path and landscaped areas.

After the meeting, the DPLH provided the feedback to the Town of Bassendean in respect to the following queries raised:

- Has the WAPC/ DPLH completed the contaminated site investigations, remediation works and obtained Department of Environmental Regulation clearance in order to the proposed Contemplative Park and Lookout to be constructed? If so, can I have a copy of the Department of Environmental Regulation conditional clearance document?

DPLH Response:

In respect to the matter of the contamination contained within the Villiers Street site, I enclose a copy of the letter received from DWER. You will note that the DWER has classified the site as remediated for restricted use under section 13 of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.

The other key point is that the site can be used for the works proposed by the AshCAN provided that a Site Management Plan (SMP) is provided. Essentially this relates to the asbestos contained within this site and the need to ensure that if any ground penetration is undertaken it is done in a manner that does not disturb the asbestos i.e. water is used to keep the area is wet, people wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

Please refer to **Attachment No.7**: Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER) letter - Contaminated Site Lot 821/52 Villiers Street.

- *Does the WAPC / DPLH support the AshfieldCAN proposal to construct a Contemplative Park and Lookout on your land?*

DPLH Response:

In principle the WAPC supports the AshCAN plan, as we believe that what is intended is sympathetic with the overarching works program for Ashfield and it is our understanding that this was the concurrence of all attendees including the ToB. We also discussed the opportunity to adopt a signage standard e.g.. Interpretive signage etc, so that this can flow through the Ashfield Flats.

- *What Statutory Planning processes do you have to undertake before the AshfieldCAN can commence works onsite?*

DPLH Response:

In terms of statutory approval process, we would only require a DA in respect to the proposed works and depending on the final budget cost, you will need to determine if a building permit is required.

- *Does WAPC/DPLH have any estimate for the proposed Contemplative Park and Lookout?*

DPLH Response:

No I understand that the AshCAN will be looking at doing this as a next step.

- *Will DPLH contribute financially to the construction costs of the proposed Contemplative Park and Lookout?*

DPLH Response:

The WAPC is happy to assist with some aspects of the project. We discussed at the meeting that the WAPC would be prepared to construct the crushed gravel path, with the addition of a spur to be added to the adjoining ToB land where we understand that the ToB is proposing to construct a living stream, this was felt by all to be a sensible addition, as it would allow this area to provide a link to the Flats below as well as the linking the Villers Street lookout.

Clearly the AshCAN would like the Villiers Street lookout incorporated into the ToB holdings and the WAPC support this as a good for the local community outcome. As noted in our email to you of 31 October we would like to add this area to our lease discussions and would note that all parties attending the meeting agreed that this would be a worthwhile outcome.

COMMENT

Acknowledging Ashfield Flats’ regional and environmental significance, the Town of Bassendean Council (OCM - 12/07/06) resolved that the vesting and long term management of Ashfield Flats Reserve should be transferred from Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage (formally Department of Planning), to an appropriate State Government Agency such as the Department of Parks and Wildlife or similar agency responsible for protecting and conserving natural areas.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027; Strategic Priority 2: Natural Environment

Objectives <i>What we need to achieve</i>	Strategies <i>How we’re going to do it</i>	Measures of Success <i>How we will be judged</i>
2.2 Protect our River, Bushland Reserves, and Biodiversity	2.2.3 Partner with stakeholders to actively protect, rehabilitate and enhance access to the river	Community / Stakeholder satisfaction Survey (River, Bushland and Reserves)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

On 2 March 2017, Dave Kelly State Labor Member for Bassendean advised in writing that funding for a variety of projects would be made available if WA Labor is successful

at the state election to be held on 11 March. The WA Labor commitment included, but was not limited to supporting the AshfieldCAN to construct a 'look out' facility with cover and seating overlooking the Ashfield Flats.

As a result of the 2017 Western Australian state election, the WA Labor government - Dave Kelly MLA advised that the AshfieldCAN had secured \$30,000 for the purpose of constructing a Lookout on WAPC land at Lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield.

In addition, the AshfieldCAN has advised (Attachment No. 6) that it has set aside approximately \$10,000 to develop a reflective community space at Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, an elevated area known to local residents as the Lookout.

From the information provided in Attachment 6, it does not appear that detailed estimates of ongoing maintenance costs have been prepared for the Lookout Concept Plan.

At present, the AshfieldCAN has indicated that it is in a position to only commit to the construction of the Lookout feature and surrounding garden, but it is hoped that the space can be more widely developed.

Lot 821/ 52 Villiers Street, Ashfield is currently classified as a Contaminated Site. On 2 March 2018, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) provided the attached (Attachment 7) letter advising that following a site inspection and review of historical information, DWER concluded the site is suitable for its current use, as a Regional Open Space, provided a Site Management Plan is prepared for its ongoing management.

The attached DWER letter stated in part that:

- The Site Management Plan should detail how the site is to be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure the grass cover remains intact and no visible asbestos – containing material is present on the surface of the site and should set out how inspections and maintenance actions are to be documented.
- The site classifications sets out restrictions on use of the site, which includes no change to a more sensitive land use and no disturbance of the fill.
- Should any disturbance of the fill be proposed in the future, a Site Specific Health and Safety Management Plan would need to be developed to manage handling of any excavated material, air monitoring and post disturbance validation.

As outlined above, Lot 821/ 52 Villiers Street, Ashfield is owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the land is managed and maintained by the Department of Planning Lands & Heritage. To date the WAPC/ Department of Planning Lands & Heritage has not prepared a Site Management Plan or a Site Specific Health and Safety Management Plan.

Council's (OCM-19/5/17) resolution required the remediation of the contaminated portion of Lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield by the Western Australian Planning Commission/ Department of Planning Lands & Heritage, in order to facilitate the development of the proposed contemplative Park and Outlook.

The AshfieldCAN has indicated that it believes the Town of Bassendean would be best placed to undertake ongoing maintenance of the lookout and gardens should it be developed into a park. From an Officer's perspective this outcome is not viewed as appropriate, considering Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, Ashfield is a contaminated site which poses financial risks for ratepayers and Occupational Health & Safety Risks for volunteers or staff who may be involved in disturbing the soil.

In addition, the Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, Ashfield forms part of the Ashfield Flats Reserve, which Council has previously resolved that the vesting and long term management of, should be with an appropriate State Government agency. Previously Council has been advised that all of the Ashfield Flats Reserve will ultimately be vested with the Conservation & Parks Commission and managed by a department responsible for protecting and conserving natural areas such as the Department of Parks & Wildlife or similar agency.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.2

That the Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. Endorse the AshfieldCAN Lookout Concept Plan for lot 821/52 Villiers Street Ashfield prepared by Urban Botanic attached to the 13th November 2018 River Parks Committee agenda;
2. Notes the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation letter regarding contaminated Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, Ashfield, attached to the 13th November 2018 River Parks Committee agenda; and
3. Writes to the Western Australian Planning Commission to advise that the Town of Bassendean is not prepared to take on a Management Order or Lease Agreement for Lot 821/52 Villiers Street, Ashfield.

8.3 Ashfield Flats Reserve, Pickering Park and Bindaring Park – Fox Activity (Ref PARE/MAINT/68, PARE/MAINT/67, PARE/MAINT/69 - Jeremy Walker Senior Environmental Officer)

APPLICATION

The purpose of the report is to present to the committee the fox trapping results for Ashfield Flats, Bindaring & Pickering Park.

ATTACHMENTS

Information sheet:

Attachment No.8	Responsible Cat Ownership
Attachment No.9	Dog Behaviour in a Public Space and Dog Exercise Areas

BACKGROUND

Ashfield Flats is listed as Bush Forever Site (No. 214) and in the Directory of Important Wetlands.

At the May 2018 River Parks Committee meeting, Officers presented the November 2017, Fox Monitoring Report for Council owned land within Ashfield Flats and a quotation from the contractor to undertake further monitoring and trapping of both the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage and Council land.

Council (OCM – 29/05/18) supported the Committee’s resolution and resolved to receive the November 2018 Fox Activity Survey, noted the Natural Area Management Services (NAMS) Fox Monitoring & Trapping Program, that the program is currently under review by the Western Australian Planning Commission; and requested that the Town of Bassendean includes fox monitoring of Pickering Park and Bindaring Park.

In August 2018, Officers presented an updated monitoring report to the River Parks Committee (RPC-02/08/18) meeting, the updated report including monitoring of Department of Planning Lands & Heritage (DPLH) land and Town of Bassendean (TOB) land within Ashfield Flats and Bindaring & Pickering Parks. The report showed signs of fox activity within the Ashfield Flats through visual evidence of scats and carcasses of small birds. From the cameras installed, foxes were recorded at camera sites A3, A7, A8 & A10 which fall within both the Town of Bassendean and Department of Planning Lands & Heritage managed land.

The Bindaring Park monitoring report showed that no foxes were recorded through camera monitoring, however, signs of

fox activity were noted within the reserve through visual findings of fox scats, possible fox digging marks and evidence of a fox run seen along south/west side of wetland behind the houses off Watson Street. The report specified that six individual cats were recorded during the monitoring period, with only one cat visibly collared. The contractor found remains from a pigeon but were unable to determine if this was from a fox or a cat.

Council (OCM – 16/08/18) received the report on a meeting of the River Parks Committee held on 7 August 2018 and the River Parks initiatives updates, and resolved in part the following:

1. To receive the May 2018 Fox Monitoring reports for Ashfield Flats, Bindaring Park & Pickering Park;
2. Notes that Officers do not recommend that soft jaw traps be implemented within Ashfield Flats or Bindaring & Pickering Park due to potential injury to domestic animals;
3. Recommends the cage-trapping program be implemented, targeting both foxes and feral cats within Bindaring & Pickering Park during the month of October, in accordance with the Natural Area Consulting Management Services (NAM) report recommendation;
4. Recommends cage trapping be implemented targeting foxes within the Ashfield Flats Reserve in the month of October, in accordance with the Natural Area Consulting Management Services (NAM) report recommendation with the cost divided proportional on the basis of the land area being managed by Department of Planning Lands & Heritage and Town of Bassendean;

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

The Town has in place the attached Information Sheets:

- Responsible Cat Ownership
- Dog Behaviour in a Public Space and Dog Exercise Areas

Both of these information sheets can be found at: <https://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/documents/information-sheets>

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Community Strategic Plan 2017- 2027 Strategic Priority 2:
Natural Environment

Objectives <i>What we need to achieve</i>	Strategies <i>How we're going to do it</i>	Measures of Success <i>How we will be judged</i>
2.2 Protect our River, Bushland Reserves, and Biodiversity	2.2.1 Protect and restore our biodiversity and ecosystems	Community / Stakeholder satisfaction Survey (River, Bushland and Reserves) Biodiversity and Bush Condition ("Keighery" Scale of bush condition) measurement
	2.2.2 Sustainably manage significant natural areas	
	2.2.3 Partner with stakeholders to actively protect, rehabilitate and enhance access to the river	

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Local Government Act 1995
Dog Act 1976 -Section 31 Control of dogs in certain public places

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) agreed to contribute 88.75% of the Ashfield Flats cage trapping program as a proportion of the reserve land area under their management, along with the shared cost of 3 weeks free feeding. On that basis the DPLH will pay \$1,464.38 and the Town will pay \$185.62

The Town of Bassendean paid \$4,402.50 for cage trapping with three weeks free feeding at Bindaring & Pickering Park.

COMMENT

The Town commissioned Animal Pest Management Services to undertake cage trapping at Ashfield Flats Reserve, Bindaring Park and Pickering Park.

The trapping program at Ashfield Flats Reserve commenced on 8 of October 2018 with 3 weeks of free feeding at seven locations within Ashfield Flats Reserve. The consultant noted that fox activity was present during the free feeding period with evidence of fresh scats and tracks observed. The cage traps were implemented on 22 of October 2018 with 6 cages strategically placed within the Ashfield Flats Reserve where free feeding had been implemented. Once the cages were installed the contractor found no evidence of fox activity around the cage sites.

A few issues arose during the week of trapping, with two reports of domestic dogs setting off the traps with the Town of Bassendean Rangers assisting in the release of the dogs. Another trap had the lure removed from the cage without

setting it off. This is also suspected to have been caused by a domestic dog, given the recorded tracks around the cage.

The contractor has advised that the lack of success is partially due to the fact that adult foxes can be difficult to trap using the cage method and due to the high number of domestic dogs frequenting the flats with accessibility to the cages, as they are off leash. The contractor has advised that future cage trapping of foxes will result in the same success rate while domestic dogs have access to the cages.

The trapping for cats at Bindaring Park was implemented the same as Ashfield Flats with 3 weeks free feeding starting on 8 October and cages set on 22 October for 1 week. No signs of foxes were recorded during free feeding or trapping, however one cat was recorded trapped in a cage on 25 October with a resident notifying the rangers. When the Town's Rangers attended the site to remove that cat, it was no longer in the trap and it is suspected that a resident released the cat. As the cat was not in the trap when Rangers attended the site, the Town was unable to determine if the cat was an abandoned cat with no identification or someone's domestic pet.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 8.3

That the Committee:

1. Receives the report updating on cage trapping within Ashfield Flats Reserve, Bindaring Park and Pickering Park.
2. Recommends no further cage trapping is implemented due to high volume of domestic dogs wandering "off leash" within the Ashfield Flats Reserve
3. Requests that Department Planning Lands & Heritage and Town of Bassendean Officers continue to monitor the Ashfield Flats fox activity and in the future should the Western Australian Planning Commission implement a dogs "On Leash" policy for Ashfield Flats, that a fox cage trapping program be reconsidered;
4. Requests that Officers continue to monitor the wandering cat problem at Bindaring Park and Pickering Park and on an 'as required' basis, the Town of Bassendean Rangers provide cat owners education materials regarding responsible pet ownership, in order to protect wildlife.

9.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NOTICES OF MOTION FOR THE NEXT MEETING

11.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

12.0 CLOSURE

Council is yet to determine the 2019 River Parks Committee meeting dates.

Attachment No. 1

Ashfield Flats Works Program: 2018-2023



Overview: Ashfield Flats - treatment of areas

Area	Details	Priority	Funding
Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediate foreshore areas near boardwalk that have been severely affected by erosion and implement erosion control measures subject to approval by DBCA. Proposed remediation techniques to include stabilisation of the foreshore using hessian bags filled with locally sourced material, brush walling, infill with local sand, brush matting, coir matting and revegetation using endemic riparian species. Research and monitoring will be undertaken to assess whether treatment is effective 	High (within 1 year)	DPLH ~\$50k
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing areas where foreshore stabilisation and revegetation works have been carried out including additional plantings, signage, ongoing weed management and installation of fencing to protect revegetated areas from dogs and pedestrian traffic 		~\$40k
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in conjunction with SRT to develop species list, signage and staged plan of implementation (may be suitable for SRT funding) Revegetate back ~20m from the foreshore with medium density vegetation (to enable some access by pedestrians). Minimum of 5 year program, 		~\$40k

	<p>yearly plantings, fencing and ongoing maintenance will be required for this area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the existing path along the foreshore – boardwalk to remain in place 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-alignment of the pathway along the foreshore and relocation of benches above the area of tidal influence to allow for the creation of a wider strip of native riparian vegetation along the foreshore 	Medium/High (Within 1-2 yrs)	DPLH ~300k
Revegetated Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake revegetation program to create an open woodland corridor using appropriate species such as <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> - develop a suitable species list in conjunction with Swan River Trust and Bassendean Preservation Society New sealed path to be on a lateral alignment with revegetated area. Path to double as fire access track as needed and be developed in stages Fire Access Track along northern border Maintain as a public open space Continue program of weed mapping, targeted weed management, weed monitoring and slashing of open grassed areas 	Medium/High (Within 1-2 yrs)	DPLH ~\$30k
Fringing Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Path at northern boundary further delineated Maintain and enhance existing woodland areas with supplementary planting and weed management Undertake fire hazard reduction works where necessary to reduce fuel loads in the margins of the reserve, consideration of the ecological values of the site must be considered prior to scheduling work of this nature Continue program of weed mapping, targeted weed management, weed monitoring and slashing of open grassed areas 	Low (Within 3 yrs)	DPLH ~\$30k
Samphire Wetland and Stormwater Treatment Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options to infill Water Corporation drains and redirect flows to mimic the historical hydrology of the wetlands including a revegetated area for stormwater treatment and sediment capture - hydrology study required Investigate options to include a stormwater treatment area on ToB held Lots adjacent to Iveson Place, Bassendean Consider potential environmental impacts and feasibility of providing a walking trail incorporating boardwalks and a viewing platform Planting of fringing vegetation around Samphire Wetland area to reduce invasion by weeds and provide cover for fauna Ongoing weed management 	Low (Within 3 yrs)	DPLH/ Water Corp \$TBA
Viewing Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue revegetation/ stabilisation program and weed management on the steep bank and lookout at Villiers St West Potential to subdivide out of Lot 821 and cede to Crown with Management Order to ToB 	Medium/High (Within 1-2 yrs)	DPLH/ ToB
Fire Access Tracks And Bushfire Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of strategic fire access tracks for emergency response vehicles, location of limestone access tracks to be determined through consultation with relevant stakeholders Recognise the use of Helitac equipment during fire response as best practice – able to use river water due to wetland vegetation Prescribed burning unlikely due to Wetland area and Bush Forever status Undertake opportunistic weed control and revegetation after fire events Must work with ToB to manage vegetation on their Lots 3 and 12 at rear of Hardy Rd properties – consider transfer to WAPC to consolidate area Maintain fences, bollards and access gates to restrict unauthorised vehicle access 	Medium/High (Within 1-2 yrs)	DPLH
Consultation and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake consultation with stakeholders and traditional owners with historical connections and knowledge relevant to Ashfield Flats 	Medium/High (1-2 yrs)	N/A

Fragmented Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate fragmented land parcels and unmade roads to create well defined management areas for the appropriate land managers to maintain and improve 	Low (Within 3 yrs)	N/A
Acid Sulphate Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High probability of ASS and PASS onsite • Best approach is to minimise disturbance • Infill of Water Corp drain may reduce acidification processes 	Low (Within 3 yrs)	N/A

Attachment No. 2



Attachment 2 - ASHFIELD FLATS DRAFT WORKS PROGRAM 2018-2023 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REPORTS ON SUBMISSIONS

Submitter	Issue(s) Raised	Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH) Response
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept and timeline look well considered. The fence sounds ugly and potentially detracts from the whole 'close to the river' experience, but I am guessing a necessary part of the process. Reduction and monitoring of speed boats really needs to be part of this project - speed cameras. Recommends sustainable river banks/restoration not just at Ashfield but along the whole River's edge. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that a key issue in the riverbank restoration to ensure that careful consideration be given to the visual impact of the fence and the height of the vegetation be carefully considered in the restoration project. The intent is that the fence is to be only 1.1 meters high and is to be of a temporary nature until the vegetation can be successfully established. The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the Department of Transport (DoT) and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) with the aim to trial a speed camera. The plant selection to ensure that views of the river are maximised, and that the community can access the river as close as possible.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the existing path where it is. Put in a temporary path along the lines of the 'revised ToB plan', then when work is finished we can go back to using the original path. If you try to cut us out from the river, then you will end up with a 'goat track' back where the original path was with everyone walking along there, and a new path that is not being used. Anything you put in place to lock us out of the river can, and will be, circumvented. 	<p>Submission partially noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPLH note that there is a recognised need for restoration works to occur; the final location of the path will be determined by the Hydrological study and the approvals by the DBCA in respect to the relevant planning approvals. The DPLH will also work with the Town of Bassendean (ToB) in respect to ongoing monitoring of the works to ensure that no damage occurs to the Bush Forever site.

3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let the foreshore recover first, then put in restricted person access points. These should have raised platform paths to keep people off the recovered ground. Ban off lead dogs from entering this area. (On lead ok). Nature needs peace and quiet to work. Not to be invaded by mad dogs every day. Ban all motor boats upstream from Tonkin Hwy bridge including Avon decent speed boats. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPLH note that the intent of the temporary fence is to control access to the areas under restoration to allow the revegetation to establish. The issue off lead dogs can be discussed with the ToB as the responsible authority, with the aim to establish an acceptable management strategy that allows for a balance in off lead and on lead areas. The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a speed camera.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Fencing frequently becomes permanent. See Bindaring Park. The rehabilitation fencing should be removed as soon as practicable, and a relevant undertaking should be part of the work programme and funding. The path alignment suggested on the drawing “Ashfield flats alternative path alignment” denies the people of Bassendean access to the river, and is likely to result in people making their own walking tracks, likely to be next the fence. Better to look at “desire lines” to arrive at an acceptable route for the new path. However, the suggested path which is far removed from the river could be bitumised and thus attract people on cycles and gopher cars, reducing vehicular traffic on the new, close to the fence path. In this scenario the path along the fence would have a surface treatment less attractive to bicycles, i.e. gravel or crushed limestone. There is no indication that the planning for the path(s) has considered the Safe Active Street (SAS) concept on Whitfield. This would be the opportunity to make the fire access at the end of Whitfield and establish the connection between the Ashfield flats and the SAS. Access to the river should be easy and frequent – probably no more than 100 metres between access points. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH plan to remove the temporary fencing once the rehabilitation works have been established and are self-sufficient. The only exception being those areas that are designated as Dog Beach areas, where the fencing used to delineate the access and egress from these areas are likely to remain to protect the rehabilitation on either side of the beach area. The final path alignment and the construction methodology is to be determined by the planning approvals of the DBCA. It is to be noted that a number of temporary alignments may be required as part of the works program, to allow for the rehabilitation works to occur. The DPLH notes the comments made about keeping the path as close to the foreshore as possible to avoid the situation of the community making their own alternative paths. The Department will liaise with the ToB regarding the concept of the SAS, as it is not aware of what this entails in respect to any linkage between Ashfield Flats and Whitfield St or if this is viable. Access to the river will need to be a balance between maintaining the conservation value of the Bush Forever site and the Community access. The DPLH is happy to explore more frequent access points provided it does not impact on the ability to achieve the foreshore stabilisation/rehabilitation objectives of the works program and the outcomes from the hydrological study/DBCA planning approvals.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town OWNS 2 blocks, lots 667 & 668 Kitchener Rd in the vicinity that adjoin the Swan River. Should the Town of Bassendean have a greater participation in the plan's preparation. Should the proposed Ashfield Flats Playground (Sandy Beach playground) be located on lot 667 & 668? 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH is committed to working with all key stakeholders including the ToB.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use this area for about one to two hours per day early in the morning and evening to walk with my dog and occasionally with 	<p>Submission noted.</p>

	<p>other members of my family. For me it is an important part of my life in Bassendean and provides an opportunity for social interaction with other dog walkers, joggers, fishermen and bicycle riders. It is an important community recreation area and helps us connect and also to appreciate the needs and uses that other people have. The environmental aspects of the area are critical to our enjoyment - the serenity of the river and the bush land the abundant bird life and the glorious magpie carolling, but should take second place to the needs of the people who use it as an important gathering place. I believe that any steps that are taken to fix environmental problems should not diminish social amenity and our capacity to use and enjoy the space. I strongly oppose any idea of multi-use which segregates people and activities as I am convinced that we actually need to engage with people with other interests and values to enhance our understanding and sympathy for them. In walking my dog I am always alert to other users and he is always under my control even though off leash. He is quite light and small does not impact the rivers edge or bush land in a negative way. He does not harass or disturb other dogs or people or animals (Although if you let trail bike riders in he would definitely bark at them). If there is any intention to fence a compound for off leash dog exercise and require the dogs to be on-leash in the remainder of the area I would be strongly opposed and upset by this as the enjoyment and exercise I receive would be severely diminished.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this stage there is insufficient detail in the concept plan to understand what the Department intends but for those of us who live locally and who have the privilege of enjoying this area regularly please be advised that it has immense value not only for its environmental amenity but for its contribution to social cohesion and this should not be compromised. If you split people and their activities it reduces opportunities for us to get to know and understand each other better. It might be easier to control us but it would be really harmful to our sense of community and belonging. I hope you understand what I mean. I realise it's a bit theoretical and maybe naive but I really love this area and love the people who use it and enjoy the opportunities it gives us to be more sympathetic and understanding of others rather than putting us all in separate boxes to make it convenient to manage. • Re the path realignment I do love walking by the river but agree it needs to be fixed. Please don't move it too far away. • Re the fenced compound. It's not clear what this is for but I would not enjoy having to walk my dog around the perimeter of a small fenced area if that's what is intended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH recognises and is seeking to achieve a balance between the environmental requirements for Bush Forever and the opportunity to provide a space for the community to recreate in and enjoy. • Comments on path alignment is noted and the need to maintain it at close to the foreshore as possible is supported. • Fenced compound is a temporary structure to hold equipment and materials for the restoration. The compound will be removed after the works.
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7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re protection of foreshore from erosion: Great idea to shift the path and increase plantings. To maintain the shoreline, however, stabilisation needs to be heavy duty. I believe rocks and rubble will be more effective than sandbags - and also provide more hidey holes for small creatures, and crevices for roots of casuarinas to take hold in. Rocks also look better than sandbags, and will last forever. The wash from boat traffic (and storm flooding) will destroy all the plantings within a year or two (as it has in the past) unless there is a strong physical barrier. • Re the wetland area: I suggest a densely planted (tea tree thicket, paperbarks etc) "island" in the middle of the swampy area. There used to be dense bush which protected birds etc but the fires in the last few years have thinned it out considerably, there is very little protection now from foxes and cats. • Re the viewing area: this should be planted with tall trees such as Norfolk island pines to provide scale and shelter for picnickers - no eucalypts in this particular area. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH agrees with this comment, and note that the outcome of the Hydrological study will help to inform the methodology and approach required to achieve the foreshore stabilisation. • Wetland areas. The DPLH note the suggestions and have indicated that a platform in the middle of the salt marsh would be considered if the Hydrological study supports such a concept and funding is available. • Viewing area. The DPLH note that the area in question (Villiers St) has been classified as a remediated former contamination site, for restricted use under the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations (DWER). Any planting on this site will be subject to this classification.
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a terrible idea. Moving the path back from the river is ridiculous under the guise of erosion. If you want to stop erosion police the waterway for speeding boats. This is a very social area and one of the great parts of living in Bassendean the ability to enjoy a leisurely stroll immediately along the river. The proposed plan to move the path is just a bit over the top and silly. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera. • The relocation of the path area is in recognition of the requirement to preserve the environmental value of this Bush Forever site. However, to identify an appropriate alignment for the path it is also recognised that there is a need to base this on empirical research, which is the basis of the Hydrological study currently underway.
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have just received via email a copy of Bassendean Briefings asking for stakeholder feedback on the draft Ashfield Flats Reserve Concept Plan and draft Ashfield Flats Reserve Works Program for 2018-2023. These documents are dated 11 June 2018. In reading the documentation and examining the draft works program I noted that the Department has funding in this financial year and intends to spend money before 30 June 2018 committing to some of the early work. • The Town of Bassendean sought stakeholder feedback on behalf of the DPHL by 4 July 2018 which is after the date on which the works are due to commence. I understand that the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions has already issued a Section 7 Permit for the works, so they are approved to go ahead by 30 June 2018. • I note in the draft works program that the high priority works are to do further studies, fix some badly degraded areas of the river bank, 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7 Permit was for the construction of the temporary fence along the foreshore, a fence to control access from the raised walkway into the Samphire flats (a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC)), the erection of a compound for the storage of work materials and equipment, and removal of the existing path. Since the Form 7 was only received by DBCA in June, the funding that was available in the 2017/18 Financial Year were not able to be acquitted in time, so the funding did not proceed (the Hydrological study did however commence). Since this time the wet winter has prevented any further works on the site, in addition to which, it was agreed that the public consultation be first received • The DPLH believe that many of the other issues raised will be addressed as part of the Hydrological study and further community consultation as the works proceed.

	<p>remove the existing path and install temporary fencing to restrict access to the river. The installation of a new path is a high-medium priority and is not currently funded for the 2017/18 financial year. Is that correct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you please advise exactly what work the Section 7 permit has approved and what conditions are attached to the permit? • Could you also please advise why the feedback of the many people who daily use the area has been sought so late in the process and why the DPHL has not directly consulted with affected stakeholders but has asked the Town of Bassendean to do it on their behalf at a time that is far too late to inform the process. • I am a long term resident of the Town of Bassendean and use the Ashfield Flats area daily for up to two hours per day. I will be very impacted by the proposals and apart from some general conversations with Cr Melissa Mykytiuk, while on our dog walks, I have had no specific information about the proposals and certainly had no idea that it was so far advanced. I realise that I have been very privileged to have access to such a wonderful area and agree that it needs work to protect its sensitive environmental values but I am very concerned about the lack of consultation and the implication that the best way to manage this area is to 'control' the people who use and love it. • Below is an excerpt from the FAQs which accompanied the draft concept plan dated 11 June 2018. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "What works will initially be undertaken in Stage 1? ○ The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has funding available in the 2017/2018 financial year to commence stage 1 of the works program which involves a Hydrological Study, a Foreshore Management Plan and the relocation of the existing path along with controlled pedestrian access to protect the Swan River foreshore. ○ The Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage have advised that subject to the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions providing a Section 7 Permit, the Stage 1 works are anticipated to commence prior to the 30th June 2018. ○ The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage priority is to undertake the foreshore restoration by initially constructing a temporary path and fence, with the aim that a final path is to be constructed once the outcome of the hydrological study is to hand to assist and inform the Foreshore Management Plan" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community consultation phase allows the many people who use the Ashfield Flats to provide input. A sign was constructed on the site inviting the community to provide their comments.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This appears inconsistent with the draft works program which has no funding for a temporary path. The installation of a permanent path is a high-medium priority (1-2 years) which is currently unfunded. ○ It also seems unusual to establish exclusion and revegetation areas before the Foreshore Management Plan and other necessary information (like the hydrological study) is available/approved. ● While the environmental values of this area are undisputed I do not believe that sufficient weight has been given in this process to the importance of the Ashfield Flats in promoting social cohesion and a sense of community and belonging in the Town of Bassendean. I am one of hundreds of people who enjoy the area daily and I really hope that our needs can be better understood and accommodated than has so far been evident. 	
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I am a bit disturbed that there is no mention of bicycles in the plan. I regularly take the route along the river to get to work in West Perth. There is no access point for me to cross over Guildford Road safely on to the bicycle path by the railway line. I am respectful of dog walkers and children along the path and find it a joy to see such a varied bunch of people and creatures enjoying the area. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DPLH did not specifically mention bicycles in the plan as the works program is a high-level concept plan. However, it is intended that the various paths within Ashfield Flats are to be designed to support bicycles, prams and wheel chair access.
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The plans look very exciting to drastically improve what is an incredible asset that has so much potential. This area is constantly utilised by the local community as well as many visitors to the area and certainly deserves the investment that is proposed for this land. To fulfil the areas potential, I would make the following comments based on my understanding and interpretation of the provided documents/plans: <p>1. No allocation or plan is mentioned for the existing Water Corporation drain that starts on the parkland near the south west side of the Hardy Rd small carpark (near the Royer Crt cross roads) and runs down to the river entering on the south western side of the wooden boardwalk. This currently is a neglected weed laden disgrace that multiplies the weed capacity each year and is a barrier to the natural water flow of storm water to the river. This drain in particular due to its natural contours and drops has so much potential for a beautiful progressive rock waterfall feature (similar to what has been created at Kings Park) that can follow the existing curves and natural drops in the land with great effect. With some thoughtful landscaping this could be made into a very functional and stunning feature that follows the existing path from the small carpark</p>	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DPLH acknowledges the support of the works program contained within this submission. The comment on the Water Corporation drain is noted and the DPLH is working with DBCA and Water Corporation as part of a joint initiative to incorporate the drain and its surrounds in the final Ashfield Flat solution. ● The comment regarding the footpath and maintaining this as close to the river is noted. The DPLH will endeavour to meet this requirement recognising that the planning approval for all works remains with DBCA as the statutory approving authority.

	<p>to the river and adds to the river health (rather than detracting from it as is currently the case). This drain/stream flows for approximately 9 months of the year and then becomes an algae pond perfect for mosquito breeding that could be avoided and with good planning and a small boardwalk/bridge could be incorporated in some way into the proposed wetland scheme at the lower levels to receive greater tidal flushing in this area.</p> <p>2. It seems ridiculous that the Planning Commission lands are attended to reasonably well in stark contrast to that of the very small parcel of Water Corporation land in this area which also including the one third portion of the large boardwalk as I understand it. You can clearly see the maintenance of the boardwalk and riverbanks evident including lanolin treatment of all wood to the Planning Commission land and portions of the boardwalk and then the lack of treatment and dare I say it neglect to the remaining third of this boardwalk that looks to have been never been treated and maintained. Likewise the river bank and lack of erosion controls in this small area between the two Water Corporation drains, (typified by the dead fallen trees in this area) that now create a hazard to river users. It would make sense that there is a combined and consistent maintenance plan for this area or it is managed by the one government department rather than such a prominent contrast of care (particularly for such a wooden boardwalk!). There is also a small natural bay in this area just in front of the boardwalk southern entrance that has dead tree's that have fallen near-by as a result of erosion and a beautiful large Sheok (I think it is) that is being gradually eroded away in the corner of this bay and will eventually also die if not attended to. This area is very well utilised by dog owners, kayaker's, paddle boarders and children swimming as the only safe river access point in this area. We have previously requested that this small bay be stabilised with some loads of river/beach sand as a key access point, however unfortunately to date this has been to no avail, however again this is an area that needs to be included in the plan and with relatively minimal expense could be made into a wonderful area with great amenity.</p> <p>3. Rather than the enormous expense of removing the existing bitumen footpath from along the river side, I wonder if it makes more sense and is more efficient to keep the existing path and provided some further small mini board walks over the very high tide areas that engulf the path and then also have the further suggested alternative walk path back from the river as a separate alternative inland walk path? This is such a lovely river walk due to the paths positioning right next to the river with mostly unobstructed views of</p>	
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	<p>the water. The proposed path will make the walk less pleasurable due to the obstructed views of the river, particularly with all the proposed medium density planting along the river bank. Every effort should be made to keep this as close to the river as possible, however also appreciate the need for the path to be on higher ground to avoid the very high tide intrusion on the path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening up the extent of the current wetland area (based on historic hydrology) and putting in measures for greater tidal influence and flushing to deal with existing mosquito issues is particularly exciting as is the potential for the mentioned walk trail and boardwalks along this perimeter to fully appreciate its natural beauty and bird life. This is a great idea and if done well will be amazing! 	
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that the Ashfield Flats Works program is exciting and inspiring. It gives me hope that the preservation of this extremely valuable asset for the Bassendean and wider communities will be achieved. My suggestions include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Community engagement needs to extend beyond the consultation process and should include community involvement in conservation and rehabilitation activities, such as plant and weeding. This needs to be managed so that the following groups can be engaged: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> School students Friends of Ashfield Flats or similar community groups RIVER BANK EROSION Immediate action needs to be taken re the issue of boat speed and wake size. This should include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in speed, enforced by patrols, etc Well-designed public awareness campaign. SAMPHIRE WETLAND AND STORMWATER TREATMENT AREAS The following action should be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Raise the priority to medium/high Use the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary nutrient stripping wetland, Bayswater, as the benchmark for the proposed works program. I look forward to the implementation of this visionary project and contributing to its success, in some small way. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH acknowledges the support of the works program contained within this submission. Involvement of the whole community will be invited and encouraged in the restoration of Ashfield Flats. The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera.

13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I border on the Ashfield flats and look forward to the plans as outlined in the document. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH acknowledges the support of the works program contained within this submission.
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is not a concept plan. It is barely a thought bubble. Neither is this a survey if I cannot even attach a decent submission. You should not be wasting ratepayers' time and money if you cannot be bothered to prepare even the most rudimentary plan. Figures without legends. No project design objectives. A pathetic effort. Get yourself a decent consultant if you are not up to this task yourself. I will be writing to my local member. 	<p>Submission noted.</p>
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park should accommodate bbqs, dog walking, kayak launching, sports, families and children's playground. It's a great size for all the above, however would need an increase in lighting and signage to notify road users that it is a dead end. It appears police pursuits tend to end in sandy beach and hoons use the road a fair bit at night. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH note the comments and believe that this is in line with the overarching objectives of the works program to achieve a balance between environmental considerations and an area that the community can recreate in and enjoy.
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Ashfield Flats area. I am a resident of Ashfield and feel privileged to be able to access this wonderful area and enjoy the environment on an almost daily basis. I commend you on the hydrological study that will contribute to the management of the wetlands, but I am very concerned about the proposal to exclude people from being able to walk by the river and enjoy the present uninterrupted view. Having read through the documents, I am confused as to what the erosion problem is exactly and why limiting human pedestrian access to the river to such a degree will rectify it. It appears to me that boat traffic along the river causes significant erosion of the banks. In comparison to that, humans and dogs seem insignificant. Anything that can limit erosion from boats would be a benefit and it looks like a lot has been done already. Anglers using the river are not deterred by fences or vegetation at the moment and I do not think there would be much that would change this. The only ones that would be affected would be cyclists and pedestrians that enjoy the view of the river. I notice that across the river in Belmont some exclusion has been undertaken. Some of it involves river bank consolidation, low level vegetation plantings - up to 800ml - with a view of the river still possible from the path, which is only about 10m from the water. If this were the proposal, it would be acceptable to those of us who enjoy the river and would probably achieve the same outcomes of excluding foot traffic from the riverbank. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH note the comments and observations contained within this submission. It would be the intention of the DPLH that any rehabilitation of the foreshore, once determined by the hydrological study works, would be sympathetic to maintaining the maximum exposure to the river by the community using the Ashfield Flats. This is also wholly consistent with the requirement to obtain maximum root penetration and appropriate spacing of trees and other vegetation for this to occur. The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera. The final path alignment will be determined by the outcomes of the hydrological study and the DPLH notes the preference that this be kept as close to the river as possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a strong advocate of caring for our environment for future generations I commend all the wonderful strategies that have been proposed and implemented, but I am sure I am not alone in voicing a concern at the potential loss of interaction with our river without any clear link between a specific problem and solution. 	
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WAPC needs to be commended for developing a plan for the Ashfield Flats and I welcome the commitment towards this very important space in our community. The foreshore remediation is very important, but I am concerned that fencing will be placed for such a long uninterrupted distance along the foreshore. We already have an entire suburb fenced off from the river in Ashfield with very few well considered access points for the community. Having said that, some of that fencing in Ashfield is still close enough to the river that viewing access of the river can still be enjoyed. The proposed fence line on the WAPC plan does not allow for anyone wanting to enjoy what is actually happening on the river, or in the river - like watching dolphins for instance as it will be too far back. Replanting of the areas behind the fence line will invariably be quite dense with plants which will limit any visibility of this fabulous environment. To compensate for that I would like to see more well considered access points to the river to allow people to engage with and enjoy the river or at the very least have sections of the path that are very close to the river that allow for uninterrupted views of the river. Good design solutions should be possible for this to occur. The Ashfield Flats are not only a very important environmental space but also a very important community space. It is an environmental gem in a suburban area so needs to find a balance between the needs of these two often opposing positions. Often plans for areas like this are simply written from an environmental perspective which does not consider the community value of the space and how it is used and enjoyed. The samphire wetland needs to be protected and I welcome the hydrology study, boardwalks and any measures that will help protect this beautiful wetland. Education/ signage should also be a very important aspect of this plan. The viewing area I believe can be a fantastic addition to the community enjoyment of this space. As there is commitment from the AshfieldCAN to start to develop this space with a grant from Dave Kelly I would encourage the TOB to support this by taking 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH note that the fence allows for 5 access points to the river over the approximately 800 lm of fence line, this equates to an access point every approximately 160 meters, which is considered an appropriate balance between public access points to the river and the rehabilitation works that are being proposed. Replanting works. The DPLH has not established the level of planting to be undertaken, as this is to be dependent on the results of the hydrological study and the approval of the DBCA as the statutory approving authority. Based on previous successful rehabilitation programs undertaken by the WAPC, rehabilitation is to be the subject of engineering works to repair/stabilize the foreshore, reed banks to provide the primary root mass for soil stability, then a series of low, medium and high vegetation progressing out from the flood fringe at appropriate intervals to allow for further stabilisation without impacting on visual amenity. The DPLH will be installing educational signage as part of this project, as it is recognised that most people who use the Ashfield Flats are not aware that the site was purchased by the State because of its environmental significance. It is believed that in installing this signage issues will assist the community to 'buy into' the environmental significance and importance of preserving this area, while ensuring that the community still is able to recreate in and enjoy the amenity it provides.

	<p>over management of this space so we can develop it into a passive park that will benefit the local community. This could also be a key area for providing information/education about what is below on the Ashfield Flats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the WAPC for doing this Plan. 	
18	<p>Comments on Ashfield Flats Reserve Draft Concept Plan</p> <p>1. The habitat near the foreshore path that is most under threat is the section between the path and the river. Seems a waste of money to construct a new temporary foreshore path until the hydrological study has been completed. Just put up a temp fence similar to the eastern section which has recently been installed.</p> <p>2. I don't know what "The Department has consulted with the Aboriginal Heritage in respect to the current works proposed" actually means. If this does not include consultation with local indigeneous leaders it should. We should learn from the lack of indigeneous consultation for the Midland Oval redevelopment. Consultation with the relevant government department is not enough.</p> <p>3. There should be a viewing path all the way around the fringing woodland which surrounds the wetland area. This is a great viewing area for birds. If a path is not provided all the way around walkers will continue to take short cuts through the revegetated woodland.</p> <p>4. The foreshore path should continue all the way around, as it currently does, to join up with the stairs going up to Ashfield Parade.</p> <p>5. A path with steps should be provide up to the viewing area on the west overlooking the wetlands. There is a casual path at the moment but this is not safe and not useable by everyone due to the steep slope.</p> <p>6. The existing signage with pictures of birds is a good idea but needs updating. This should include local species of birds, shrubs and trees.</p> <p>7. There is currently no effective treatment of the stormwater runoff so at times this carries through pollutants such as oil after the first rains (this can be seen on the surface). The untreated stormwater intrusion into the wetlands is damaging the wetlands. Effective treatment should be provided to protect the wetlands and the river.</p> <p>8. The open drains provide an opportunity for non-endemic plants (weeds) to grow. These are currently controlled by spraying and whipper snipping. Weed spraying should not be carried out near these wetlands. The area where the stormwater comes</p>	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH note that the fence to be installed is only intended to be a temporary fence. Access to the foreshore is to be managed not removed to allow for the fishing community etc to have appropriate access. • The DPLH has consulted with Aboriginal Heritage, which is part of DPLH in formulating the draft works program. The DPLH is committed to ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community as the works program develops and is implemented as the significance of the area to the local aboriginal community is recognised and their input as custodians of the land encouraged. • Viewing path. The DPLH is prepared to consider this option funding permitted. • The DPLH notes that a stepped path to the viewing platform (Villiers St) is not possible as the site is a remediated contaminated site, with restricted usage, which does not permit a path and steps to be constructed. • The DPLH notes that interpretive and educational signage is intended to be included in the project scope. • The DPLH notes that the stormwater runoff and the open drain is the subject of the hydrological study and will be addressed as part of the overarching works program for Ashfield Flats, once the outcomes of the hydrological study are to hand – approximately 2 years. • The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera.

	<p>through the wetlands is an eyesore. This should be changed from open drains to covered culverts or buried pipes.</p> <p>9. There is no all-weather walking path across the drain at the north of the fringing woodlands. An all-weather walking path should be constructed.</p> <p>10. Foreshore erosion by boats with large wakes is a major problem. The dept recently tried to fix this by reducing the speed limit to 5 knots but there has been little public education and virtually no policing. Large ski boats and similar pleasure craft can be commonly seen speeding on the river with speeds in excess of 15 knots and consequently creating big wakes which damage the banks. Hire boats seem to be particularly bad and one wonders if the drivers hold a current license. Either prohibit non-commercial boats longer than 4m or step up the community education and enforce the limit.</p> <p>11. Unless the foreshore erosion from boat wakes is satisfactorily addressed the natural looking remediation techniques will not be effective. So either control the wakes or just construct retaining walls.</p> <p>12. I doubt if Marri are endemic to the woodland area but they would provide a good food source for Carnaby's and red tailed black cockatoos.</p> <p>13. The revegetated woodland should include endemic understory plants to encourage smaller birds.</p> <p>14. The St Barbe Grove Nursery at Men of the Trees in Guildford has previously carried out surveys and has lists of endemic flora for Bassendean.</p> <p>15. The foreshore is regularly used by people fishing. Access to some spots along the river should be provide as otherwise some fishers will just cut through the quarantined areas.</p>	
19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a resident living near to the Sandy Beach Reserve I regularly walk the path along the river and bordering the Ashfield Flats. I enjoy the opportunity to engage with the river but I am very conscious of the degradation of the riverbank. I applaud the proposed remediation works for the foreshore, especially the use of natural materials. I find the massive concrete walls on the far side of the river (South Guildford) unsightly. I do however understand why these walls have been erected. In the 10 years we have lived in this neighbourhood, I have witnessed the riverbank just upstream of Sandy Beach retreat by at least one metre in ten years. This is entirely due to the wash from speeding boats and large boats that are inappropriate for this end of the Swan River. There is minimal policing of speed limits on the river (due to 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.

	<p>under resourcing of the statutory body, I am sure) so this erosion is unlikely to decrease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediating the river banks is absolutely necessary, but it is treating the symptom not the problem. • I understand this area is very popular with dog owners and I note the enjoyment that both dogs and owners get from sharing the space. However, I would like to see more sections of the path along the river converted to boardwalks. The ground along the foreshore has become compacted with regular use. It is also impassable in some of the low lying areas when there is a high tide. • A boardwalk could work well with the proposed revegetation of the foreshore. Perhaps of the proposed Controlled Pedestrian Access could be a riverside platform with seating, allowing people to enjoy the river vista but not disturb the riverbank. • I would not like to see the path encroaching further into the wetlands area. If this area is to be maintained as a haven for birdlife then both people and dogs (in particular) should not be encouraged to venture closer to wetlands. • I agree with the necessity of fencing the areas undergoing revegetation but I would not like to see the fencing become a permanent fixture. The beauty of the Ashfield Flats is in its natural appeal. Fencing detracts from the "open space" experience. 	
20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand the Ashfield Flats Reserve planning is looking to establish measures to reduce erosion of the river bank and relocate the walking path. • I believe erosion of the river bank is a natural occurrence. However, it is my observation, as a daily walker along the river, the primary factor in the rapid erosion is from the river boat cruisers. Apparent when the wash across the shore is greater than any tidal flow. Also evidenced by the under-cutting of the soil at various points, down river from Sandy Beach (coincidentally some points are the same points as where dogs enter the water). Although the boats may only pass twice a day the ongoing erosion is greater than any 100 dogs could do. The nature of and point of erosion is not as a result of dogs. The same applies to fast travelling recreation boats. • The proposed remediation, to fence the bank and move the paths is extreme, given the council's (and former Swan River Trusts) policy of "no development within the flood plain or flood fringe". • As a resident, I would like to see details of how organisations outside of the shire, such as wine cruises co. and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation can address the erosion issue 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH would note in respect to the question of no development within the flood fringe that it is correct that the Swan River Trust now DBCA is the statutory approving authority and for this reason the DPLH did seek and receive the Form 7 approval for the temporary fence works. • As the works program currently exists, the works are to be funded primarily by the WAPC as the majority land owner, with a commitment from the Water Corporation to manage their drain as part of a coordinated approach. • The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera.

	<p>prior the the Dept of Planning, Lands and Hertiage and Shire of Bassendean commit any resources or funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would also like to understand how the project funding would be committed, including estimates and costs of the planning, materials, construction and upkeep will be. What proportion will be funded by ratepayers? 	
21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall I am very pleased that the Ashfield Flats are going to be preserved and managed as they are a very significant area of disappearing wetlands in Perth. My view is that the changes need to be done with this significance in mind using all the best and evidenced based environmental strategies to ensure the area is restored and saved from further degradation. Re positioning the pathway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I agree that needs to happen to allow the banks to be re-vegetated. However I found it difficult to understand exactly where the new pathway is being proposed as I couldn't find a key to what was current and what was proposed and where the boundaries are. There are 4 different coloured lines and no clues. I do believe that people need managed access to the river and that any planting on the river banks and edges need to be low shrubs so that the beauty of the river is visible as you walk along the path with some occasional access points. Hopefully this will stop people walking on areas that are being re-vegetated. Erosion to the river banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My observation is and has been for the last 25 years that the main problem with the erosion is the boats that are allowed up this far in the river. There needs to be either very vigorous regulation, and penalties given to those people who exceed the speed limit. However this is not going to happen due to lack of resources and there is a constant and daily flouting of the speed limit on the river. The wake from these boats can be seen as it crashes against the bank. The hull and size of the boats is also a factor and therefore this needs to be taken into consideration. Ban boats with hulls and sizes that causes large wake from coming up this far into the river as there are obviously not enough resources available to monitor and 'police' this frequent behaviour. This will go a long way to assisting with the restoration of the banks and limit further erosion. Community Involvement 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of motor boats and the speed in the area is to be explored with the DoT and DBCA with the aim to trial a fixed speed camera. The DPLH note that any restoration works that will be undertaken will include working with the local Friends of Groups. The DPLH also supports the involvement of local schools in restoration works.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get the community including local children involved in the restoration. It is well known that when people are engaged and involved in anything they will feel a sense of ownership and this can only be a positive thing for the future of the area. Children also can be involved as an educational initiative that for some will be critical for them as they grow and develop their own sense of importance of their local environment. ● I look forward to further information and having input into this very positive initiative. 	
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I think a positive move to support the rehabilitation of the Ashfield flats reserve is most definitely needed. Depending on recent rainfall and tidal patterns the paved walking paths are often cut off from flooding. Prevention of further river bank erosion is definitely needed. ● Many local residents use other unsealed walking tracks, predominantly continuing off Hamilton Street and Whitfield Street. I believe a board walk or crushed limestone along these areas would be a definite improvement in allowing residents to access the river without trudging through the muddy tracks in winter and without disturbing vegetation in the summer. 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.
23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I have lived in Ashfield and Bassendean my entire life and the Ashfield flats are very important to me. As a keen bird watcher I remember the joy of seeing my first Mistletoe bird there when I was a teenager and over the decades I have walked my various dogs there, cycled the paths and gone bird watching. ● I am passionate about conservation of the environment and wildlife and have qualifications in the former. ● The Ashfield flats is in danger of being 'loved to death' by overuse and ignorance and are badly degraded in many areas. I have watched with distress the decline of the fringing vegetation especially the trees generally just 'one tree deep' with no shrubs or rushes to support the soil, gradually collapsing into the river. I don't think many people really notice this instead they enjoy an uninterrupted view across the water to trees at Garvey park and Ron Courtenay Island. ● I would like to maximise the environmental values of the wetland including enhancing opportunities for waterbirds to breed relatively undisturbed. This means limiting access to the shore at certain location and shifting the bike path/ walking path back from the rivers edge, replanting fringing vegetation but still providing some small beach areas where dogs can swim. Many dog owners in fact 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.

	<p>already choose to avoid the main bike/ foot path instead parking at the northern edge and walking alongside the last private property. I think moving the bulk of the 'traffic' back from the rivers edge will actually enhance recreational pursuits of bird watching and Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall I support the general plan 	
24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ive been here for 17 years and like everyone that uses the Flats appreciate its significance. • The import of the changes indicate its land based activities that are degenerating the river. • I would have assumed its the boating. Can the reasoning be explained as the proposed changes would greatly inhibit our joy of this area. • Its the closeness to the river that is the attraction. I believe a fence would be an eye sore in this environment and people will sadly ignore it. At Sandy Cape there is a setback with fencing and its not as enjoyable. At Katanning st boat ramp the river is immediately accessible and could be an example to follow • (without the road of course). Preserving the close proximity to the river should be a challenge to be taken. 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH would note that the proposed fence is only to be constructed to a height of 1.1m and is intended to be in the main a temporary fence.
25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and my comments below are made within the context the Ashfield Flats has been identified as "high value" environmentally with a large part being given the "bush forever" classification, i.e. my feedback would be different if the area had been "zoned" differently such as general parkland. I have also avoided commenting on the merits of classifying it bush forever as I believe that is a separate discussion. • I agree that the area is badly degraded and therefore I strongly support the intent to improve the environmental value of the area, i.e. to create and protect habitat for flora and fauna and to "treat" stormwater. • Following on from the above, I support prioritising the environment over human needs/wants. This does not mean excluding humans (and their pets) but giving priority (not exclusivity) to the environment when there is a conflict. • Please will the technical specialists and designers make themselves aware of all previous work – especially the documented issues that need managing, i.e. the heavy metal plume emanating from the Tonkin Industrial Park, the acid sulphate soils, the elevated level of nitrogen, phosphorous and heavy metals (copper, iron, zinc and 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent. • The DPLH notes the comments regarding dogs off leach and note that this is a matter for further discussion with the ToB as the responsible authority. • Use of the current fire and access track at the base of the escarpment will be considered for upgrading to a shared use cycle and pedestrian track in the future as the foreshore path will always be subject to flooding.

	<p>lead) in the stormwater entering the flats, re-establishing natural flooding, weed eradication, revegetation and mosquito control. A non-exhaustive list of previous work is included for reference lower down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the overall design, I support and encourage the concept of creating access to the river on some parts of the foreshore while restricting access for humans and dogs on other parts. It would seem pragmatic to align access for humans with the natural beaches and possibly a few artificial platforms with access to the balance of the foreshore being restricted. I believe the areas with restricted access are crucial in providing habitat, i.e. there are a number of less common birds in the Bassendean area that require foreshore roosts free of humans and dogs such as the Nankeen Night Heron, Marsh Hens, Grebes, Raptors and Owls as well as breeding areas for the more common species. I have only seen the less common birds on the river in well vegetated areas where access for humans is difficult. • It follows from the above point that it is impractical for an access path to hug the foreshore and suggest designing a route that has points close to the river and other parts further away. • While I am a keen cyclist and regularly use Perth's shared path network, I feel the setting and high numbers of walkers (with their dogs) is not compatible with cyclists, i.e. I would support the new path being dedicated to pedestrians – as Bayswater have done around Riverside Gardens. The fire access track at the base of the escarpment may be a suitable alternative path for cyclists? • In line with what I have observed in many other parts of the Swan-Canning basin, I support fencing off some areas of the river to restrict access and limit the damage done by humans and their pets. Furthermore, I feel it is inconsistent for dogs to be off-leash in areas that have been recognised to be of high environmental value. For clarity I support off-leash dog exercise areas in benign areas like Ashfield Reserve. • I appreciate that it may be beyond the jurisdiction of the governing Department but I have observed the 5 knot speed limit is poorly enforced. While I support remediation of the river bank, I feel it is treating the symptom and thus feel one of the underlying causes (boat wash) should also be addressed. I live on the river, kayak regularly and rescue water birds so have good contact with the river between Garratt Rd Bridge and Whiteman Bridge. • There is a noticeable gap (when viewed from the river) in the riverside vegetation at the back of the properties between 47 and 53 Hardy Rd. This may be natural but I encourage the Department to 	
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	<p>look out for and prosecute any person found destroying vegetation in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel there is a conflict of purpose in protecting the last bit of river flat and creating a regional playground on the same area – as the Town of Bassendean plans to do. In line with previous comments, I encourage the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage to reject such a large scale development. I also encourage the development of nature based activity more in keeping with the ecological value of the area such as nature trails, bird watching and educational tours for students. • I encourage people to consider what the area could be in 30 years' time – when Perth and the Town of Bassendean have a population close to double what it currently is. To assist in visualising scenarios, I urge people to look at the swamp on Bennet Brook to the east of the old Nyoongar Community off Lord St, Bassendean. It is similar to the Ashfield Flats and is a unique pocket of nature that could be valuable to future generations. • In summary I feel the current program will determine the future of Ashfield Flats for future generations, i.e. to preserve the current uniqueness of a sensitive environment or transform it into a glorified urban park – such as around Lake Monger and Herdsman lake. I urge the Department to preserve the current environment which in turn I feel is a combination of reducing the damage from boat wash, managing human access and restricting the damage done by dogs. • Please feel welcome to contact me to clarify anything and I have attached a non-exhaustive list of References suggested as background reading – and for consideration in developing the design and work plan. • Appropriate Technology Development Group Incorporated (ATDG) (1988) Ashfield Flats Design and Management Plan (prepared for Town of Bassendean). • Bassendean Preservation Group (1985) A Regional Park Plan for the Ashfield Flats (prepared for Bassendean Town Council). • Blair, A & Blatchford, D (1978) The Ashfield Flats – A Study of Present and Potential Land Use. Prepared for the Department Conservation and Environment. • Davis, G & James, B (1991) Ashfield Parade Bassendean Foreshore Management Plan (prepared for Swan River Trust and Town of Bassendean). • Department of Environmental Protection (2000) Directory of Bush Forever Sites. ISBN 0 7307 6627 6. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loos, C (2003) Acid Sulfate Soils in Ashfield, Bassendean Master of Science Dissertation, School of Environmental Science Murdoch University. • P and M Tooby Pty Ltd (1987) Ashfield Flats Land Use Study (prepared for State Planning Commission and Town of Bassendean). • Pen L (1986) Report on the vegetation of Ashfield Flats and implications for management. • Quartermaine Consultants (2005) Report on Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Sites Ashfield Flats Project Area. • R. & E. O'Connor Pty Ltd (2005) Report on an Ethnographic Survey of Ashfield Flats Reserve, Ashfield Parade Reserve and Sandy Beach Reserve (Prepared for the Town of Bassendean). • Syrinx Environmental PL (2005) Ashfield Flats Preliminary Weed Management Plan (prepared for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Town of Bassendean) . • Town of Bassendean (2004) Request for Quotation. Ashfield Flats Reserve Management Plan Brief. RFQ C0048. • Town of Bassendean (OCM 0710/04) Environment Plan. • WA Planning Commission & Swan River Trust (2002) Swan and Canning Rivers Precinct Planning Project – Precinct Plan Handbook. • Waters & Rivers Commission (1997) Swan River System Landscape Description (prepared for Swan River Trust). 	
26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a 77 and 74 year old couple who have lived in Bassendean all our lives and the past 54 in Hardy Road, Ashfield. The river has always been an important part of living here, both as children and adults and as such we are pleased that some conservation measures are being considered for the Ashfield Flats. • We have walked the flats almost daily for the last forty years starting well before the path, bridges, steps and landing etc. along muddy tracks and railway sleeper bridges. We have witnessed many changes as they occurred. • The river walk is loved by dozens of residents and is like the Town Common – a meeting place, exercise and relaxing space where friends gather and new friendships are formed. • We believe that the first conservation effort should be at the riverbank with some form of hard barrier to minimise the boat wash which is by far the major factor in the bank erosion. This can be observed by the number of dead trees standing some three metres into the river. These trees have undermined over the last 20 years 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH notes that the hard barrier as the first conservation activity is largely in line with the draft works program, however this in turn will be determined by the results from the Hydrological study which will provide the data to inform the restoration works. • The comments regarding the path being relocated as close to the river and the selection of vegetation so as to ensure the views to the river are maximised is supported by the DPLH.

	<p>along with the council seating which was installed at several points along the river bank. If the shoreline is not initially protected it will be extremely difficult to achieve this after revegetation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many years ago when Dr. Judy Edwards was the state member for Bassendean we met with her to view the area between White Rocks and the main drain. The bank along this section was eroding at an alarming rate and as a result of her input a matting and limestone barrier was installed. This has prevented further erosion and whilst this is perhaps not the ideal remedy it has weathered and stabilized the bank. Spider crabs and other aquatic animals have colonised the spaces between the rocks. • The proposed relocation of the riverside path should be close enough for the public to easily view and appreciate the river and it's wildlife such as dolphins, birds and fish. To allow people to fully appreciate the river several access points must be provided. The selection of flora for the foreshore planting is critical so as not to form a visual barrier to the river which is the object of the riverside walk. • We are available to discuss this submission with you at a convenient time and place – preferably at the Flats. 	
27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per your plan there are not enough access points for the amount of people wanting to access the river. • I would like to see dogs better managed within the park. There has been an influx of larger breeds of dogs in this area over the last 10 years resulting in those owners allowing their dogs access to the samphire wetlands with no control, access to fenced off areas with no control, dogs being allowed to jump on other users of the park and the owners not having enough control to stop them, large dogs running around people's legs with the potential to unbalance the person causing a fall. I have been knocked over 3 times at the so called dog beach and have permanent damage to my left knee which will eventually result in surgery due to 2 large dogs slamming into me whilst I was standing on the path. • There are currently no controls over the dogs or their owners and no one policing the behaviour. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH note that the fence allows for 5 access points to the river over the approximately 800 lm of fence line, this equates to an access point every approximately 160 meters, which is considered an appropriate balance between public access points to the river and the rehabilitation works that are being proposed. However, the DPLH is open to considering a further access point, providing it is supported by the findings of the hydrological study. • The matter of dog control is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to include this in discussions on the future of Ashfield Flats.
28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am most disturbed that the Ashfield flats walkway from Sandy beach to Ashfield parade steps is going to be ruined for the hundreds of people who use it daily .It is a major reason that people live in Ashfield and bassendean , we need to be able to walk next to the river and sit on the seats and fish and just contemplate life here without the wire fencing and the walkway further away from the water, it will be an absolute shame to change 	<p>Submission noted.</p>

	<p>something that is so unique to Bassendean, I don't care if there is a viewing platform from Hardy Road, it is a joke to compare that with what we have now. The people who use it already look after it, also I am wanting to know who owns the land next to the stupid viewing platform, it is a bit suspicious, Keep our river a beautiful place to use directly to the river it is truly unique</p>	
29.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to repair and protect the environs of the Ashfield Flats are well overdue.. • I have lived on the edge of this area for 20 years. • I have walked it nearly daily for that period. I am very familiar with its daily and seasonal changes over that period. I have observed the various influences of the fires, floods, tides etc over that time. I have a reasonably deep understanding of the ecological relationships that exist over the site. • Having read the proposals and timelines put forward I am in general agreement with the plan. I applaud the management program that has occurred over the last ten years or so. Trees have been planted, seedlings have been encouraged to grow. Fencing of the most eroded parts of the river bank have provided evidence of their effectiveness. Chapman street drain/stream has not been dug out for a year now providing evidence that major flooding will not result but a healthier streamline will. • Now is the time to proceed further in the manner proposed and provide an environment which will encourage the re establishment of the natural vegetation mix that will help to reestablish the natural fauna populations and allow the wetland system to more successfully achieve its natural function. This in a critical period of hydrological change which will require as healthy a system as possible to adapt to those changes. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.
30.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I realise there is a need to fix the erosion of the river bank especially in a few places, but find it somewhat distressing to think that you are going to be fencing off such a significant part of the river foreshore and for at least five years. I walk along the path by the river twice a day and find it a calming influence being able to see the river. I'm always looking out for the chance sighting off dolphins and love seeing the pelicans skimming the surface of the river. With the proposed new pathway going to be much further away from the actual river I feel that it will no longer be a special place to walk. • I've always felt very fortunate that I had this beautiful walk in Bassendean and now I feel that it might all be taken away. Does the whole pathway have to be fenced off all at once? Could smaller areas not be worked on at a time similar to the one that has already 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH would note that the proposed fence is only to be constructed to a height of 1.1m and is intended to be in the main a temporary fence covering approximately 800 meters of the Ashfield Flats.

	<p>been done. Have other areas of the river been consulted? Across the river at Garvey Park there seems to be no problem with pathways near the river bank. Once again I just think five years is a very long time.</p>	
31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many time I have looked in dismay from the escarpment at the bisected samphire landscape where the halophytic part of the biome struggles with too much water or not enough. So I am delighted that there is to be a rigorous and knowledge based restitution of the saline flats. • However I'm not sure what is driving the restoration on the foreshore. This riparian fringe has been subjected to millennia of aboriginal fire culture and colonial cattle grazing (and probably sheep), which has long since removed any of the small under story and ground bulbs, orchids and wildflowers we love etc. To restore any of the subtile flora is way beyond the scope of this type of broad scale project. • The erosion at the waters edge will only be stabilised by: initially engineering or mechanical processes: then botanical, by reintroducing large water plants to soften the wave action. The roots of trees will have very minimal ability to mitigate the force of wash and waves. • This all seriously begs the question of why the path needs to be moved further inland. It appears a botanical barrier using local species of melaleuca and some E. Rudis will be planted to stabilise the immediate foreshore - which will be excellent, but the existing path (or one moved to slightly higher land) could be fenced so the river is still within sight when the plants have grown. Point contact with the river is probably fine for fisher people, but people walking the path want the amenity of seeing and walking by the river not necessarily 'a walk in the woods'. • At best this is only ever going to be a man made park using local and hopefully provenant species. One can't hope to reinvent or rebuild the wilderness it is only ever going to be a parkland. It is not appropriate to use wilderness or fragile community techniques to protect this area. So why, why are you dragging the path away from the river? 	<p>Submission noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH would note that the purpose of the hydrological study is to help determine the restoration works to be proposed to be undertaken. • In terms of the use of vegetation for the restoration works, given that the Ashfield Flats represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area and covers approximately 64 hectares. This reserve is listed as a Bush Forever Site No. 214 and the site is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. • Bush Forever is a State Government policy that seeks to protect remanent high conservation value areas of the Perth Metropolitan Region of the Swan Coastal Plain. Under this basis while the respondent questions the type of vegetation to be used in the restoration works, the rehabilitation to meet Bush Forever policy requirements, will need to be native endemic species.
32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on the Ashfield Flats Reserve Draft Concept Plan. • My family has been resident in Bassendean since the 1920s. My memories dating from the 1950s are of McDonald's dairy farm at Ashfield Flats and swimming at Sandy Beach. I have been involved with Bassendean Preservation Group's (BPG) plant propagation and revegetation work at Ashfield Flats and I have seen the site 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.

	<p>gradually change from completely degraded paddocks to areas of thriving habitat for wildlife. Our earlier plantings are now producing their own seedlings by natural regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to make the following comments: • Environmental values of Ashfield Flats: habitat for wildlife in an urban area, Bush Forever site, contains a Threatened Ecological Community, is a link in a chain of riverside wildlife habitats. • Dogs: effect of off-lead dogs on the environment – trampling vegetation, soil disturbance, faeces, odour, harassing wildlife. Dogs have trampled BPG’s unfenced riparian revegetation sites causing death of seedlings and riverbank erosion at the sites. Fenced revegetation area near the bridge over the drain has been very successful due to dogs and walkers being deflected away but not excluded. Past experience has proven that it is futile to attempt revegetation of the riverbank without fencing to exclude dogs and people. In addition, there is a danger of off-lead dogs to pedestrians. A fully-fenced off-lead dog park similar to the one at Whiteman Park would be an alternative for dog owners. In short, dogs are not compatible with conservation areas. • Riverbank erosion: it is difficult to show the progression of the erosion over time from aerial photographs. A relatively small distance e.g. one metre, is significant in this context. In the past, attempts have been made to prevent the erosion by installing boards, brush, jute matting, and rocks with limited success. Wave action caused by boats is a contributing factor in riverbank erosion. More research is needed on how to mitigate this factor. • Realignment of walk path: needs to be relocated further away from the river due to riverbank erosion. However, the proposed relocation site is low-lying and boggy in winter, so fill would need to be brought in to raise the level of the path to prevent flooding. The area adjacent to the blue rubbish bin on the side of the path has been churned up in a dreadful way by Town of Bassendean vehicles accessing the site. The new path should be sufficient standard to take vehicular traffic e.g. Town of Bassendean and emergency services, if not, the area will continue to be degraded. Fenced walk paths (controlled access points) leading off the main path could provide access to the river for walkers whilst at the same time protecting native vegetation and revegetation sites. Consider installing raised wooden walkways to protect fragile areas from walkers. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrology: the hydrological study should look into treatment of drain stormwater e.g. sediment basins/traps to prevent pollutants and sediments entering the Ashfield Flats and the Swan River. • Signage: new and improved interpretive signage is required to educate the public about the environmental and social values of Ashfield Flats. • There have been many studies done on Ashfield Flats over the years and they are worth reading. With the predicted increase in population in Bassendean and increasing numbers of visitors to Ashfield Flats in the future it is extremely important that the area is carefully managed to conserve its values for the future. 	
33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having reviewed the plans and attended the Community Briefing, I would like to make the following points: • 1) I am aware that there is a small but vocal and organised group of people (dog walkers) who are strongly opposed to any changes to the foreshore, which would take the footpath further from the river, and limit access for them and/or their dogs to the foreshore; and who object to any loss of views for people walking along the river, or to being fenced off from the foreshore. • I am a longstanding member of the Bassendean Preservation Group (nb. not "Society" as the document calls us), and for many years we have been engaged with plantings along the foreshore to try to slow down erosion and also provide some habitat. • Some points: • 1. Ashfield Flats reserve is not JUST for people, but is also for habitat, and also has an impact on the water quality in the Swan River. People who want to maintain the entire foreshore as one long view corridor and dog playground for the benefit of themselves and their dogs, are not being fair or adequately considering other needs. I do understand that it is pleasant to walk along the river and enjoy the views, and also it does seem to be very fun for dogs to run into the river and dig and cover themselves with mud. However, it is not fair to lock up the entire foreshore for this purpose. A couple of controlled access points where dogs can get into the water, and where people can be close to the river and enjoy a view, would be sufficient - after all, people can also enjoy these aspects at Sandy Beach. • The existing path is so close to the river that it doesn't offer much planting space on the river side of the path. Planting is the best hope of holding the soil together, you only have to look to see there are many places where soil is washing away and trees are in 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent. • The matter of dog control is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to include this in discussions on the future of Ashfield Flats. • DPLH supports the extension of integrated management of Ashfields Flats to Reid Street including the open drain which we expect can be turned into a living stream. The hydrological study with help guide the outcome which has Water Corporation "in principle" support.

	<p>danger of falling into the river. We had previous BPG members (Bassendean residents for around 50 years) tell us how many species of birds have been lost from the area, and how the reeds that were previously thick along the river banks have now disappeared. Ashfield Flats needs to be given priority as a Bush Forever site to perform some conservation functions. BPG has found from our own experience that it is essential to have a fence to protect foreshore plantings.... otherwise they get trampled, and dug up by dogs and people. A fence to exclude dogs may also allow some of the native fauna to re-establish in the area, particularly birds that nest on the ground or low down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs also cause damage where they run into the water, typically they dig and scratch up the ground (just look at how the western end of the existing Boardwalk has deteriorated over time to become a mud pit). Dogs are certainly not the only cause of damage, there is boat wash, but people who claim that dogs do not cause "any" damage are being wilfully blind. This is one reason why they should only be allowed access to the water in a few key places, ideally where the ground is already sandy or rocky to start with. • I do support moving the path further from the river - 100m as originally suggested, does sound excessive, but it is essential to reestablish a decent amount of revegetation. • Other points: • * I live immediately off Iveson St (in Best St) and would very much like to see the Chapman St drain turned into a Living Stream or similar. The concept plan only says that there is an intent to investigate options for a stormwater treatment area on TOB lots adjoining Iveson Place. I would hope this is something attractive and "natural" looking, not just a big hard engineering / tank type solution. I'd like to see something that gives the wildlife down there a better habitat and a higher priority in the overall picture. I've heard that the existing fencing around the drain stops tortoises getting in and out.... There are definitely a lot of frogs down there (just listen any evening). • * I definitely support the continued infill of the "fringing woodland" area (where BPG has been planting for years) - and this is well away from existing houses where it will not create an undue fire risk. • * I definitely support the Fire Access Track along the rear of Hardy Rd properties. The limestone track has greatly increased the useability / accessibility of this area during winter - it is now possible to go for a walk through the reserve, towards the river, when the ground is wet. Ideally I would like to see a few more "all weather" tracks (or boardwalks) in Ashfield Flats. In winter it is only possible 	
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	<p>to walk from the end of Iveson Place to Sandy Beach in gumboots, if you want to walk through the reserve. We don't need dry tracks everywhere, but a few more would be good. A boardwalk into / over the samphire Threatened Ecological Community would also be a great way for people to be able to learn about it, without the risk of damaging it. There is a good similar example at Booragoon Lake, and has a nice little spot for people to sit at the end of it and watch the birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * Agree with plans for the Viewing Area and this reflects the community planning that Ashfield CAN has already done for this spot • * In terms of land tenure - I would support arrangements that would help the land to be managed more easily as one cohesive unit. It appears that it might be most natural for the Town to retain tenure over areas primarily for public use and recreation (eg. Sandy Beach, Viewing Area, possibly the BMX track if there are plans for that) and for the WAPC to manage areas which have more of a conservation priority. Ideally one concept plan would cover WAPC, Water Corp and TOB land, but even where coordinated by one plan, there could be a lot of administrative advantages in simplifying the number of lots and the pattern of who manages what. • Please note - this letter is from myself personally, not from BPG (we did not have time to prepare a coordinated response). Nonetheless it reflects issues that we have discussed as a group. 	
34.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Flats Works Program 2018 and beyond • Thank you for the chance to comment on some things I think are important for the Ashfield Flats and the Swan River in these parts: • 1. We need to work on ways to re-establish fringing vegetation on the foreshore that creates a sheltered habitat for shrimps and spider crabs etc to increase their struggling populations. There have been a number of attempts over the years but erosive forces have beaten them. • One trick might be to engineer conditions that create accretion such as what happens naturally around the mouths of Water Corp drains and creeks. • These reed banks benefit from patches of shade for cooler, low-light conditions – ie some trees. Roosting logs and posts for Darters and other birds would also be good to include in the design. • The notion of small jetties or 'fishing platforms' combines public amenity with shelter and protection for reeds. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent. • The matter of dog control is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to include this in discussions on the future of Ashfield Flats • It is intended to prepare a management plan in the future once the hydrological study has been finalised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the previous reports (maybe the Tooby Report of about 1987?) suggested that a bay associated with the mouth of the Chapman St. main drain could be developed as a nursery for reeds that would be naturally acclimatised to the river and therefore more robust for transplanting. Still a good idea for a design element for a master plan. • Other reed beds could be established back from the river so that they are not subject to the normal erosive forces. Would need a hydraulic/hydrological design. • 2. Master Plan • A MP endorsed by all relevant government agencies would be really handy to protect the flats from over-development and being nibbled away by apparently complimentary community uses. • Its strength is its size and the way some areas are not by the faint-hearted due to mud and open drains. This natural inaccessibility could be capitalised on to discourage recreational access for the benefit of wildlife habitat. • Flood plain values • the flats should hold the line against fill in the Floodway. The Floodplain is awkward territory for property owners and planning approvals, but in this instance, where government agencies hold land with conservation value in the Floodway it should be respected and not filled. • The management Plan should clearly distinguish between the floodplain and the floodway in terms of possible uses. That is Council owned floodpain is suitable for fill and structures whereas the Floodway is not. • 3. Boats and erosion • There is no doubt that boat traffic contributes to erosion but it is only one of the elements and banning power boats will not achieve a dramatic change of fortune for fringing vegetation. But like any aggravating agent it is better to keep the dose low to prevent a chronic effect. • I'd like to see the MP acknowledge boating as a contributing damaging agent and to discourage features that attract power boat users to the area. • On a council level this means not upgrading boat launch facilities at Pickering Park, but that's not for the Ashfield Flats Plan. • 4. Dogs • Dog walkers are the most frequent beneficiaries of the flats and their numbers increase. The better the paths become the more people walk dogs there. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs off lead are a menace to water birds and tortoises. • They are also a menace to revegetation patches. • Ways to keep dogs out of the samphire heath wetland lakes and foreshore revegetation patches have to be a part of the Master Plan design. • 5. Pathways • Let's route paths and water access to increase the amenity of the path users. Design in great views, water front access and comfortable routes through the flats that also steer us away from wildlife habitat hotspots. • Let's think about how people walk from Hamilton and Iveson Streets as well as how people like to get straight to the waters edge. • Temporary fences will be necessary while a landscape plan takes root. 	
35.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I visit Ashfield flats to enjoy the large area of off lead dog walking available so close to home. It is full of a wonderful group of responsible dog owners who care very much about the area. • I hope that the council plans won't effect one of the few off lead dog parks in Perth. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of dog off leash is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to include this in discussions on the future of Ashfield Flats.
36.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe it is imperative that the Ashfield flats area be given appropriate conservation measures, however it is essential that the community continue to be able to access the river, both being able to walk along it and to access it for fishing, dog swimming, kayaking etc. The proposed path is far too far inland. I support the suggestion that the existing path be made into a 'loop' with the proposed path. I do not support the proposed playground location on the flat at all as, being a flood plain, it is likely to be washed away and rate payers will be forced to pay for repair and replacement. I do not support the fencing strategies as previous "temporary" remains in place and it is perceived any fencing will not be temporary either. I support measures to rebuild the river banks where erosion has occurred. Given the minimal erosion on the ashfield flats side of the river since the 1950's I do not see the need for extensive fencing off requirements. I do support the boat speed camera idea. I request that the area remain a dog off lead walking area. • As a member of Bassendean Dog Walkers Group I submit the following letter submitted in April 2018 from our group for consideration: Bassendean River Parks Management Committee Town of Bassendean Via mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of dog off leash is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to include this in discussions on the future of Ashfield Flats. • The location of the path, access to the water and the balance between conservation and local recreation and enjoyment will be informed by the hydrological study. • The DPLH note that the proposed fence allows for 5 access points to the river over the approximately 800 lm of fence line, this equates to an access point every approximately 160 meters, which is considered an appropriate balance between public access points to the river and the rehabilitation works that are being proposed. It is also noted that the fence is intended to be a temporary fence.

13/4/2018

To whom it may concern

Re: Dog Walking at Ashfield Flats

On 5/4/2018 a group of local Bassendean residents met to establish the Bassendean Dog Walkers. The meeting was held to discuss the issues around 'off leash' access to Sandy Beach and Ashfield Flats, with the proposed new Nature Playground initiating our conversations. We write this letter to table our group's thoughts regarding dog walkers concerns and contribution to the community, specifically to the Ashfield Flats area.

There was initial confusion with regards to where dogs are actually allowed to be 'off leash'. Ms Melissa Mykytiuk, Councillor for the Town of Bassendean (TOB), was in attendance and clarified that the reticulated area of Sandy Beach Reserve is not currently an off leash area. She advised that the majority of the Ashfield Flats, is currently managed by the WA Planning Commission and that, despite there currently being TOB signage in place indicating it is an off leash area, this was not necessarily the case.

The group identified the following as being priorities for the group regarding the Ashfield Flats and Sandy Beach Reserve:

1. The Ashfield Flats and Sandy Beach Reserve are extremely valuable community assets - spaces for the whole community - and, as such, should be freely accessible to all members of the community. Multiple group members indicated this was a space where community members socialise on a regular basis.
2. Dog walkers access the areas on a very regular basis with most accessing it daily and some multiple times per day. It was noted that they are deemed to be the most frequent users of the area.
3. Dog walkers provide a high level of 'passive security' with regular and frequent use of the areas preventing criminal activity such as car break-ins, car theft, vandalism and graffiti.
4. Dog walkers provided conservation activities including collecting rubbish such as plastic bags, fishing line, bottles and cans from the river and its banks.
5. Conservation of the local flora and fauna is a priority for the group.
6. Erosion of the river banks is of concern to the group. Noted was the fact that natural erosion is being exacerbated by speeding boats, lack of vegetation, and other issues. It was agreed that,

	<p>although dogs can contribute to the erosion of the river banks, it is scientifically low on the hierarchy of causative effects of erosion. Options to minimise the effects of erosion caused by dogs were discussed.</p> <p>The following suggestions were made by the group to address the group’s concerns with regards to Ashfield Flats and Sandy Beach Reserve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ‘Off Leash’ privileges be maintained in the Ashfield Flats area to maintain the current level of community use and the passive security it provides. 2. A map of dog ‘off leash’ walking areas be available on the TOB website. 3. Current signage regarding off leash areas, and ON leash areas, be improved to assist the community to identify where they are, and are not, permitted to have dogs off leash. 4. Educational signage regarding the flora and fauna of the area be upgraded and/or implemented in appropriate areas to promote the diversity and needs of the environment and how to protect it. Signage should promote good behaviour by community members and the need to share the space. 5. Designated areas be identified and clearly signed allowing dogs to access and swim in the river, to prevent dogs trampling areas that needs protection. 6. Consideration be given to better fencing of the bridge is Ashfield Flats to prevent dogs entering the wetlands around the bridge. 7. Dog training classes be available in the area and promoted to the community to improve owner control of dogs. 8. ‘Poo bags’ made of vegetable products, rather than oil based products, that are fully biodegradable be provided to dog walkers. <p>The idea of enclosed dog walking areas was discussed and there was unanimous agreement that such areas would not meet the needs of dog walkers and were not a welcomed suggestion. I trust that this letter provides a clear indication of local dog walkers’ thoughts regarding the Ashfield Flats and Sandy Beach Reserve. We welcome this letter being distributed to various departments within the Town Of Bassendean and formally request that it be tabled and discussed at the next committee meeting.</p>	
37.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Flats Feedback on Works Program: 2018 – 2023 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general I support the plan and am very happy to see a coordinated approach being put in place for the management of Ashfield Flats. • The Ashfield Flats are an area of environmental significance and an area of community significance. I would like to see these two aspects both given respect and the connection of the local community to the place utilised and developed as a resource to protect the environmental asset that is the Ashfield Flats. • I am supportive of short term temporary fencing to protect planting and other remediation works. I am not supportive of this fencing being maintained in place long term. • I would like to see higher priority given to various elements of the plan that 'improve and support the communities' sensitive use of the space'. By undertaking these elements alongside initial environmental works the communities' use of the space becomes more managed and they become more informed without feeling like they are being excluded from the space. • For example a new boardwalk or jetty, signage and a fence feels very different to just a fence. A fence feels like a barricade to the communities' connection to the space, whereas a new viewing platform, signage and a fence feels like an opportunity to connect more with the space. • The environmental outcomes are initially the same (keeping people out of new plantings) but the community outcomes are considerably better and in the long term the environment will benefit from the continued connection to and greater understanding of the space by the community. • There are already a number of these elements within the plan such as the provision of additional boardwalk areas over the samphire and improved signage to highlight the unique environmental aspects of space. I would like to see elements such as more boardwalk and or jetty areas along the water's edge to also be considered. • I also see room for more 'soft' exclusion of people to discourage them from particular areas or to disrupt problematic pathways, things such as utilising fallen branches, placing rocks etc. • The Ashfield Flats is a place for our local community to connect to nature and each other. It is also an important area of remnant vegetation, habitat for local fauna and contributes to the health of the Swan River. I hope that the long term management of this space will support people to sensitively move through and be part of an area of environmental significance in the middle of the city. To protect the environment you must first know and understand it, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In respect to the issue of the jetty/board walk, the DPLH is happy to consider this issue further and would note that it is not inconsistent with the intent of the Draft Works Program.
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	<p>a space like this, if well managed will allow us to do this now and into the future.</p>	
38.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe start by putting a few facts on the table: • Bayswater Riverside Gardens 2km west of Ashfield Flats has a substantial, well maintained purpose-designated off lead dog exercise area. The dog exercise area consists of isolated trees and manicured lawns and is of little value for native habitat. The area is dedicated to dogs. Bicyclists are not allowed on the paths in the dog exercise area. • Ashfield Flats is a high value conservation area and contains regionally significant wetlands. Dogs are not generally allowed in high value conservation areas, on or off lead. • ToFB has jurisdiction only over a small area on the periphery of Ashfield Flats. ToFB has posted signage at Sandy Beach Reserve permitting off lead dog exercise at Ashfield Flats. The State Dog Act of 1976, Section 51 (3A) states "A local government may specify a public place or class of public place, that is under the care, control or management of the local government to be a dog exercise area." ToFB has no control or management of the area at Ashfield Flats where the dogs are off lead. The land is under the care of the Dept of Planning Lands and Heritage. • The ToFB Senior Environmental Officer is currently video monitoring the wetlands area of Ashfield Flats that was once habitat for numerous water birds. Images of two foxes have been captured and dozens of off lead dogs. ToFB is unable to conduct the standard vermin control options because of the number of off lead dogs present in this important native habitat area. Over the years, the off lead dogs have run off the flocks of herons, spoonbills, egrets, ducks and occasional pelicans and swans that used to frequent the wetlands. • Off lead dogs are contributing to the foreshore erosion by breaking down the banks and trampling the native vegetation. An example of successful soft engineering foreshore restoration using native vegetation can be seen at Dog Bay just upstream of the boardwalk. Prior to the works dogs entering the water at Dog Bay had completely stripped the native foreshore vegetation and the resultant erosion washout had reached the adjacent combined use path before a fence was installed and the area revegetated. • Attempts to divert blame from off lead dogs damaging the banks can be refuted by simply observing the success of the native planting behind the short sections of fence along the foreshore near the boardwalk. Gates allow human access behind the fence, but 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent. • The DPLH is proposing a solution that considers not only the environmental requirements, but also the community outcomes of providing a place for the community to recreate in and enjoy. • The issue of dogs off lead is a matter for the ToB as the responsible authority. The DPLH is happy to discuss this with ToB as part of a balanced approach. • The DPLH notes and shares the concern regarding the critical TEC area and the fact that damage has been noted to this wetland. The works program allows for a permanent fence to in high traffic areas to help protect this area and retain its high conservation value.

	<p>screen out foraging off lead dogs. The result is in dramatic contrast to the beaten barren degraded areas beyond the fence extension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Flats has long been victim to destructive inappropriate activities including rush clearing “tidy ups”, worm digging, illegal tipping and two and four wheel off road vehicles. These were once accepted as the norm. Off lead dogs are only the latest of these historic abuses. • Given the above, it follows that: • TofB should immediately remove their signs permitting off lead dogs at Ashfield Flats. For now, the signs should be replaced with signs that identify the area as high value conservation, restricting dogs’ access to on lead only. • The fence and combined use path alignment should proceed following best practice clearances from the foreshore to implement a native vegetation buffer. This should be a decision based on the body of foreshore erosion mitigation knowledge, not influenced by a perceived right on the part of some to continuation of a legacy bad practice. • Soft engineering solutions should be continued along the entire foreshore based on the successful design of the project at Dog Bay. • Off lead dog enthusiasts should be referred to the nearby well established off lead dog exercise area at Riverside Gardens rather than continue their attempts to downgrade Ashfield Flats into one more low natural value dog run. 	
39.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Flats does need to be rehabilitated; the TEC, restoration of the riverbank erosion and revegetation of the riparian zone. The area is enjoyed by many. We appreciate the wildlife: the vegetation and flora. • Foxes need to be controlled. A regional approach is necessary as the foxes do not recognise cadastral boundaries and cross the river and travel along drains. They ot only decimate domestic chickens but there are signs that they have attacked turtle eggs and baby birds. • I love nature and walk along Ashfield flats to enjoy the serenity of the river, the birdlife and the social connection. I have dogs but respect the sensitive environmental sections. I believe the path does need to be set back about 20 metres. This leaves space to revegetate and protect the riverbank. I would like to see access nibs with seating for quiet reflection overlooking the river. • Education for anglers. Much rubbish is left by anglers; bait bags, hooks, lures, and fishing line which entangles the wild birds. Several 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent. • Feral animal and weed control will be ongoing issues. Unfortunately, feral animal control in particular can be very difficult to implement if dogs enter areas subject to traps or baits. Therefore feral animal control such as foxes may only be possible in fenced off internal conservation areas.

	<p>birds have been caught up and several dogs injured by hooks left behind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretive signs for wildlife appreciation and noongar heritage. I have not seen any reference to the 'Yam Warrens' I believe this area was used by noongars to cultivate many different species of yams. This is 'women's business' and an example of the local sustainable agriculture. I heard this history from Aunty Dale from Bindi Bindi Dreaming. I would like to see reference to the six noongar seasons as they are connected to the environment. They are tied to the hunting and breeding of animals, the weather and the gathering of bush tucker and regeneration of vegetation. There is an example of reference to the noongar seasons at the northern section of Bardon Park. • The southern side of the carpark at Sandy Beach Reserve should have seating and rustic tables for reflection and picnics as used at Woodbridge. No build form with earthworks on the riverside of the carpark. • The playgrounds in Sandy Beach Reserve need to be upgraded like the 'nature playground' north of Bardon Park. Definitely no playground south of the carpark. • Dog walkers currently use the footpath and the grassed area, the TEC and samphire flats should be protected. Most dog walkers already respect this invisible boundary. placing good amenities; a path set in 20m from the river, controlled access points, bins etc will encourage dog walkers away from the protected area. • Ashfield Flats is an area that we all love and appreciate and want to be able to enjoy and protect - not just for 'future generations' but in it's own right. 	
40.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see below feedback in point form: • New path should avoid pre-existing vegetation and features. • Fencing, with possibly intermittent in-out access points, to protect the foreshore and allow re-vegetation and erosion mitigation strategies. • 20m buffer zone between path and foreshore is acceptable. • Dogs should not have access to foreshore area due to damage to flora, fauna and river banks, the positive outcome of restricting dog access can be seen in the fenced area adjacent the boardwalk. • Revegetated woodlands should remain open and accessible. Dogs to be kept on leash and under direct control of their owners to prevent damage to environmental flora and fauna. • Protection of the samphire wetlands ensuring no pedestrian - and especially no dog, access to prevent damaging fragile environment. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH believe that the proposed works program is largely in alignment with the views expressed by this respondent.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog usage in general should be restricted to on-leash throughout the whole park. Damage to plants, small animals and bird nesting is unacceptable. Roaming dogs are also prone to effecting other recreational users, children etc. • Once a clearly signaged Dog policy is put into place Dog owners should be held accountable to non-compliance. This should be policed and enforced to consolidate new behaviours with the new restrictions. • Bush forever status should be respected - paving and elevated areas dedicated to children's playground is not appropriate - this whole area is a 'nature playground'. • We have a beautiful amenity in the Ashfield Flats and it should be protected for future generations - people, fauna and flora. Bush forever. 	
41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dear ToB, • Please ensure the Ashfield Flats Reserve remain a haven where the wildlife, dog walkers and families can co-exist in harmony. • Please maintain the off-leash exercise area, while containing the nature reserve playground to the existing playground site. The current layout and functionality serves our community well. Maintenance work amd upgrades to current facilities are the only work that needs to be done on this amazing site. 	<p>Submission noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPLH note that the hydrological study will help to inform the strategy and works program that it is believed will achieve a balance between protecting the environmental value of this Bush Forever site, while allowing the community to enjoy Ashfield Flats as a place of recreation and enjoyment. • The matter of off-leash dogs is a matter for the ToB and the DPLH is happy to discuss this matter with the ToB.

Attachment No. 3



Department of **Planning,**
Lands and Heritage

Report on Community Feedback Received on the *Ashfield Flats Draft Works Program 2018 - 2023*

September 2018

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Executive Summary

This report details the key findings from the recent request for community feedback on the Draft Ashfield Flats Work Program 2018-2023 (the Program) which was issued by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Public consultation was undertaken between 12 June 2018 and 15 August 2018.

The feedback received during the consultation period identified four main issues raised by the community. These issues were in relation to the path alignment, motor boats and river wash, dogs at Ashfield Flats and the addition of a temporary foreshore fence. In addressing concerns in relation to these issues, five recommendations have been proposed, which if adopted will result in modifications to the Program. The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1 (path alignment)

- 1.1. That the Program be modified to reflect the existing path remaining in situ until the findings of the hydrological study and associated foreshore management plan are received. Consideration will be given to the construction of a temporary path adjacent to the foreshore fence as an interim solution. The existing path will then be removed following receipt of the hydrological study and foreshore management plan to allow for the rehabilitation of the foreshore area.
- 1.2. That any path realignment reflects the majority preference for the path to be kept as close to the river as possible, to maximise the views of the river for the community.

Recommendation 2 (motor boats and river wash)

- 2.1 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in conjunction with the Town of Bassendean, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, approach the Department of Transport requesting the erection of a fixed speed camera at Ashfield Flats, to assist with the control of boat speed, with the aim to reduce the impact of boat wash as a contribution to riverbank erosion
- 2.2 That the advice of the Department of Transport be sought to direct all river traffic and modify existing nautical maps to use the channel navigation markers between Ron Courtney Island and Garvey Park.

Recommendation 3 (dogs at Ashfield Flats)

- 3.1 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Town of Bassendean agree to a policy at Ashfield Flats covering access by dogs and the control of this access.

Recommendation 4 (foreshore fence)

- 4.1 An additional access point is considered to provide increased access for users of Ashfield Flats to access the river foreshore.
- 4.2 Information to be provided to the community on the material to be used for the fence construction and the height of the fence to lessen community concern in relation to the impact on the view of the river.
- 4.3 Confirmation to be provided that the fence is intended to be a temporary installation (3-5 years), with much of the fence to be removed, once the restoration works have been completed. Areas of fencing will be maintained, where they are being used to frame access to the river e.g. dogs beach, which is considered necessary to discourage off lead dogs from accessing the adjoining rehabilitation works.

Recommendation 5 (other)

- 5.1 To ensure a holistic approach to the rehabilitation of Ashfield Flats, the project area needs to be redefined to incorporate the additional land bounded by Iveson Place, Reid Street and Hamilton St, owned by the Water Corporation and the Town of Bassendean.
- 5.2 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions develop a foreshore management plan for Ashfield Flats.

In proposing these recommendations, DPLH recognises that the Program remains a fluid document, which will be heavily influenced by the current works underway by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), on behalf of the WAPC, involving a hydrological study. The results of this study, which should be available over the next 18-24 months, will help provide the scientific evidence and rigour required to ensure that the investment by the state in Ashfield Flats remains targeted, specific and relevant to the integrity of the Program.

Funding for the Program is largely subject to budget availability via the WAPC, while recognising that the WAPC is only permitted to expend funds on land under its ownership, in accordance with the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. This in turn will necessitate a tripartite approach be adopted between DPLH, Water Corporation and the Town of Bassendean (ToB) (in relation to their respective ownership areas), to ensure that a holistic approach is adapted to the remediation of Ashfield Flats. DPLH looks forward to working closely with all stakeholders as it implements this important Program of works for Ashfield Flats.

Introduction

Ashfield Flats Reserve represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area and covers approximately 64 hectares. This reserve is listed as a Bush Forever Site No. 214 and the site is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

For the past 18 years, the State Government has been committed to implementing Bush Forever with the aim of 'Keeping the bush in the city.' Bush Forever has been the single, most important piece of State government policy that protects our urban bushland and is one of the most significant conservation initiatives ever undertaken in Western Australia. Since 2000, over 51,000 hectares of regionally significant bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region has been protected.

Over recent years, it has become evident that the Ashfield Flats area requires significant investment to address concerns about foreshore erosion, increased recreational use including boating, and the impact of changes to the groundwater hydrology and bushfire. DPLH, on behalf of the WAPC, developed a Draft Work Program in March 2018 (Attachment 1) to address these concerns and to seek a balance between the conservation value of this Bush Forever site and the value to the local community of the provision of an area for recreation and enjoyment.

The Program was developed based on findings from previous studies that had been undertaken on Ashfield Flats (commissioned by various stakeholders including the ToB and the WAPC). Key to the Program was the recognition that in order to address the issues in a balanced and holistic manner, it was first necessary to obtain data on the wetland hydrology. This data is then to be used to further develop and prioritise the Program and achieve the balanced outcomes required. A grant was established and provided to DBCA so that this study could be commenced.

DPLH submitted the Program to the ToB – River Parks Committee (the Committee) in February 2018 and were invited to speak to the Program at the Committee meeting of 8 May 2018. Following feedback from the Committee, it was agreed that the Program would be opened up to community consultation which was formally advertised and invited via the ToB community consultation webpage 'Your Say Bassendean'. The consultation period commenced on 12 June 2018 and concluded on 15 August 2018.

To provide further context to the community consultation, as well as an opportunity for the community to seek additional information, a public forum was arranged in the offices of the ToB on the evening of 30 July 2018. At this forum officers from DPLH provided a presentation to the public on the Program and answered questions from those attending.

At the conclusion of the consultation period, the ToB advised that over 800 people had visited the consultation webpage and 41 feedback submissions were received. Please refer to Attachment 2 for a comprehensive description of all the submissions and feedback received.

Background

Ashfield Flats Reserve is a significant site of ecological importance; it is one of the last remaining samphire flats in the Swan River. The Reserve consists of an escarpment, floodplains and the river foreshore and has vegetation from the Swan Complex, consisting of *Melaleuca* dominated wetlands, samphire flats and *Eucalyptus rudis* woodlands.

The floodplain reaches up to one kilometre in width at Ashfield Flats. A major section of Ashfield Flats is within the 100-year flood fringe although inundation of the low-lying land follows heavy rain.

The reserve also receives a large proportion of the Ashfield and Bassendean storm water from urban and industrial sources. The groundwater hydrology of the area has likely been altered due to groundwater use and contamination upstream in the catchment.

Ashfield Flats Reserve contains two main drains that are managed by the Water Corporation. The Chapman Street drain has a 295 hectares catchment area and Kitchener Street drain has a 30 hectares catchment area, both of which flow directly into, and affect the water quality of, the Swan River. Both drains are believed to intercept groundwater. Water quality at Chapman Street drain is monitored fortnightly as part of Swan Canning catchment monitoring program. The data is available for download from the Water Information Reporting tool, under project site 'CSMDREID'.

The drains and their associated levees are believed to be significantly altering the hydrology of the site and therefore the structure of existing plant communities with western plant communities receiving less tidal incursion and interaction with saline river water. Eastern plant communities are believed to receive less fresh water because it is intercepted by the drains and channelled directly into the river. Ashfield Flats Reserve also contains a 20.45 ha temperate saltmarsh threatened ecological community. Temperate saltmarsh is recognised as an ecosystem of high ecological value increasingly under threat, including from altered hydrological regimes.

Potential Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) are also thought to be naturally occurring in the estuarine soil deposits present across Ashfield Flats Reserve. It is believed that decreasing groundwater levels in the area (due to residential and industrial groundwater use as well as regional drought) has resulted in increased exposure of soil to oxygen and oxidation of sulfidic material.

In 2003 core soil samples were collected to study the extent of Acid Sulfate Soils. Field and laboratory testing was used to assess field pH, chloride to sulfate ratios as well as Suspension Peroxide Oxidation Combined Acidity and Sulfate (SPOCAS). Water quality monitoring has revealed high nutrient and heavy metal concentrations (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2016). In 2007 a water quality monitoring program was undertaken in the Town of Bassendean, which was repeated in 2010, then every year thereafter. Site 7 (on Chapman Street drain) was shown to be of highest concern and to further investigate, four additional sites were added in 2013 and five new sites were added in 2015. In 2016 the Chapman Street drain exceeded the ANZECC guideline of 1.2 mg/L of Total Nitrogen on all three sampling occasions and exceeded the Total Phosphorus guideline of 0.065 mg/L on all sampling occasions.

Over recent years it has become evident that the Ashfield Flats area requires significant investment to address concerns about foreshore erosion, increased recreational use, including boating, and the impact of changes to the groundwater hydrology.

Summary of Key Findings

Majority of the feedback received on the Program from the 41 respondents was positive; 29 respondents (70 per cent) advised that they either supported (or mostly supported) the Program, ten respondents (25 per cent) did not support the Program and a further 2 respondents (5 per cent) were neutral.

Supportive feedback commended the Program and the commitment from the State government to invest in the preservation and management of the Ashfield Flats Reserve for the Bassendean and wider communities. Despite this, there were several concerns about the Program, with four key issues highlighted by 95 percent of the respondents. The key issues identified are in relation to the path alignment, motor boats and river wash, dogs at Ashfield Flats and the foreshore fence.

Path Alignment

Almost half of all respondents provided feedback and comments in respect to the proposal to temporarily relocate the existing path. Of these respondents, 53 per cent were supportive of relocating the existing path, while the remaining 47 per cent were not supportive of any change to the existing path alignment.

Positive feedback acknowledged the benefits that the relocation of the path alignment would have on re-establishing vegetation, breeding of birds and improvement on the condition of the path, although despite this, many also argued that the proposed distance was too far from the river. Concerns included decreased access to the river, expense of the relocation and as above, the distance from the river.

Motor Boats/River Wash

Although the use of the Swan River is outside the ambit of the Program, 39 per cent of the respondents noted concerns regarding boat speed and boat wash as a contributing factor to river bank erosion at Ashfield Flats. In response, respondents suggested reduction or banning of motor boats and increased monitoring of speed boat numbers and speed.

Dogs at Ashfield Flats.

Of the responses received, 39 per cent addressed comments specifically to the issue of dogs at Ashfield Flats. Of these respondents, 59 per cent were not supportive of dogs (or dogs off leash) while the remaining 41 per cent were supportive of dogs at Ashfield Flats.

Concerns about dogs (particularly those off leash) included damage to nature by dogs (i.e. trampling vegetation and soil disturbance) as well as to wildlife, lack of control by owners resulting in the dogs entering fenced off areas and the potential for dogs to cause injury to visitors of Ashfield Flats. Those in support of dogs at Ashfield Flats argued that dog walkers are the most frequent users of the area and that this should be taken into consideration in any future plans.

Foreshore Fence.

Approximately half of the submissions received referred to the proposed temporary fencing of the foreshore. Of these submissions, 63 per cent indicated support for the proposed fence, stating that the fence will assist to protect nature (including foreshore plantings) as well as wildlife and support the landscape plan of the Program.

Concerns centred around the potential for the temporary fencing to become permanent, loss of river views as well as access points to the river, and the likelihood of the fence ruining the beauty of the landscape.

It is to be noted that the fence to control access from the raised walkway into the Samphire flats (a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) is not included in this recommendation, as it is a priority installation to protect the existing TEC and is not a part of the Foreshore Fence proposal.

Recommendations

Following detailed analysis of the responses received, DPLH has compiled a list of recommendations, which if adopted, will result in modifications to the existing Program. In identifying the list of recommendations, it is to be noted that many respondents support the intent of the Program (70 per cent of respondents). However, it is also clear that some modifications to the Program are required.

The recommendations below do not change the primary intent of the Program which remains to implement a program of works to rehabilitate Ashfield Flats and ensure that the environmental values are protected, while recognising the need to provide an appropriate balance for the community who use Ashfield Flats as a place for recreation and enjoyment. DPLH believes that this balance is both achievable and from the feedback received to date – desirable. As such, the proposed modifications to the Program will assist in ensuring that these objectives can be more effectively realised.

In proposing these recommendations, DPLH recognises that the Program remains a fluid document which will be heavily influenced by the current works underway by DBCA, on behalf of the WAPC, involving the hydrological study. The results of this study, which should be available over the next 18-24 months, will help provide the scientific evidence and rigour required to ensure that the investment by the state in Ashfield Flats remains targeted, specific and relevant to the intent of the Program.

The recommendations outlined below have been grouped according to the four key issues identified above.

Path Alignment

Most respondents, although recognising and supporting that an eventual realignment of the existing path will need to occur, questioned the need for this to be done right away. In addition, there is a clear preference from the feedback received to keep any path alignment as close to the river as possible.

It is recognised that the hydrological study will provide the evidence based information that will inform any path realignment; in addition, it is likely that keeping the path in situ may in fact assist in the short term to provide a degree of stability to the existing foreshore. For this reason, it is now believed that there is more benefit in leaving the existing path in place, until the findings of the hydrological study and associated foreshore management plan can provide the data to support a new alignment.

Recommendation 1

- 1.1. That the Program be modified to reflect the existing path remaining in situ until the findings of the hydrological study and associated foreshore management plan are received. Consideration will be given to the construction of a temporary path adjacent to the foreshore fence as an interim solution. The existing path will then be removed following receipt of the hydrological study and foreshore management plan to allow for the rehabilitation of the foreshore area.
- 1.2. That any path realignment reflects the majority preference for the path to be kept as close to the river as possible, to maximise the views of the river for the community.

Motor Boats/River Wash

Although the use of the Swan River and speed of boats on the river is outside of the remit of the Program, it is clear from the feedback that this is an issue of concern for many of the respondents.

DPLH is aware of the impact of wash on the foreshore of Ashfield Flats and that Ashfield Flats is located on a 'power bend' in the river; the impact of boat wash and natural tidal influence is a large contributor to the foreshore erosion that is occurring.

The proposed Program will not be able to be implemented without considering the impact of wash and wave impact on the foreshore at Ashfield Flats. For this reason, the foreshore rehabilitation works that are being proposed for Ashfield Flats, informed by the results of the hydrological study, recognises the need for both hard and soft rehabilitation works. Hard rehabilitation works include gabions, rock and wood revetments, wave deflectors etc, while soft treatments include the use of reed mats and the use of sedges and other river plants to stabilise the river bank.

From the feedback received further works needs to be undertaken on the policing of boat speed on this section of the Swan River to reduce boat wash and its impact on the river bank. For this reason, the following recommendation is to be added to the Program.

Recommendation 2

- 2.3 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in conjunction with the Town of Bassendean, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, approach the Department of Transport requesting the erection of a fixed speed camera at Ashfield Flats, to assist with the control of boat speed, with the aim to reduce the impact of boat wash as a contribution to riverbank erosion at Ashfield Flats.
- 2.4 That the advice of the Department of Transport be sought to direct all river traffic and modify existing nautical maps to use the channel navigation markers between Ron Courtney Island and Garvey Park.

Dogs

Feedback indicated almost equal support for dogs at the park as there were for the banning or restricting of dogs. There is evidence that the increasing level of off leash dog activity at Ashfield Park has resulted in damage to the Samphire Flats area and is contributing to some of the blow-outs within the foreshore area. However, DPLH also recognises that the blame does not lie solely with dogs, as there is evidence that illegal vehicle use, fishing activity (digging for worms etc) and bush walking in the conservation category wetland areas has also contributed to this damage.

From the feedback received, it is clear that a Dog policy needs to be agreed between the major land owners (WAPC and ToB) at Ashfield Flats and that this policy needs to consider:

1. the protection of the valuable conservation areas;
2. achieving a fair balance between dogs being allowed off leash and on leach;
3. policing of the area to ensure that compliance is being adhered to in accordance with the *Dog Act 1976*;
4. clear delineation of areas where access by dog and dog owners is permitted to the Swan River; and
5. Upgrade of signage and information including bins and dog waste bags etc.

Recommendation 3

- 3.1 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Town of Bassendean agree to a policy at Ashfield Flats covering access by dogs and the control of this access.

Fence

It is clear from the responses received that respondents require more information on the type of fencing being proposed, the height of the fence, the number of access points that are being proposed and the foreshore planting guide to ensure river views are maintained as much as possible. Currently there are five access points proposed which represents one access point per 160 meters. DPLH believes there is an opportunity to consider an extra access point which will take the number of access points to six or an access point every 130 meters.

In relation to the type of fence to be constructed and the height proposed, it is important that DPLH be able to demonstrate that this will not restrict views of the river and that the fence is only intended to be a temporary installation with the intention to remove the majority of the fence, once the restoration works have been completed. Areas of fencing will be maintained where they are being used to frame access to the river e.g. dogs beach, which is considered necessary to discourage off leash dogs from accessing the adjoining rehabilitation works.

Recommendation 4

- 4.4 An additional access point is considered to provide increased access for users of Ashfield Flats to access the river foreshore.
- 4.5 Information to be provided to the community on the material to be used for the fence construction and the height of the fence to lessen community concern in relation to the impact on the view of the river.
- 4.6 Confirmation to be provided that the fence is intended to be a temporary installation (3-5 years), with much of the fence to be removed, once the restoration works have been completed. Areas of fencing will be maintained, where they are being used to frame access to the river e.g. dogs beach, which is considered necessary to discourage off lead dogs from accessing the adjoining rehabilitation works.

Other

Following the community consultation meeting on 30 July 2018, the issue of the need for a holistic approach to Ashfield Flats was raised. Consequently, the final recommendation deals with this issue and the recognition that the natural boundary of Ashfield Flats would include the additional land bounded by Iveson Place, Reid Street and Hamilton St. This is land that is owned by Water Corporation and the ToB.

Recommendation 5

- 5.1 To ensure a holistic approach to the rehabilitation of Ashfield Flats, the project area needs to be redefined to incorporate the additional land bounded by Iveson Place, Reid Street and Hamilton Street, owned by the Water Corporation and the Town of Bassendean.
- 5.2 That the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions develop a foreshore management plan for Ashfield Flats.

Attachment No. 4



Mr Simon Stewert-Dawkins
Director Operational Services
Town of Bassendean
PO Box 87
BASSENDEAN WA 6934

Dear Mr Stewert-Dawkins

REVIEW OF CURRENT BOAT SPEEDS IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE SWAN RIVER AND VESSEL COMPLIANCE

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2018 regarding possible review of speed limits, community education and compliance activities being undertaken in the upper reaches of the Swan River.

In 2011 the Department of Transport (DoT) in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Swan River Trust) completed Full Scale Boat Wake and Wind Wave Trials on the Swan River utilising expertise from Curtin University Marine Science and Technology. These trials focused on an open area of the Riverpark being Melville waters and upstream narrow section of the Riverpark, adjacent to Ron Courtney Island.

The results provided clear evidence that vessels travelling at 5 knots produced significantly less wake than those vessels travelling at 8 knots. It was also noted in the upper reaches that all vessels trialled produced less wake energy than extreme wind waves when travelling below 6 knots.

As a result of the subsequent report DoT reduced the speed limit in the Upper Reaches of the Swan River from 8 knots to 5 knots. Given the current speed limit is based on sound scientific advice, DoT does not consider it viable nor warranted to review the current speed limit.

In relation to boating education and compliance, DoT engages in many educational campaigns, including issuing media statements, newspaper articles, social media and publications such as the Swan Canning Riverpark boating guide. In addition, DoT conducts regular compliance and education patrols on the Swan River to promote adherence to the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982* and associated regulations. These patrols are scheduled to coincide with peak use times with the resources available. This effort includes regular patrolling within the upper reaches of the Swan River targeting speeding vessels. For your information, in the period 1 October 2017 to

26 June 2018, DoT completed a total of 204 patrols within the Swan Canning Riverpark and our compliance officers have issued a total 1,227 infringement or caution notices for various offences, including speeding.

DoT's marine compliance efforts in this area are also supplemented by patrols conducted by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the WA Water Police under special Cross Agency Authorisation Agreements. DoT has also recently increased its compliance capability by providing a dedicated patrol vessel stationed at the Maylands Police complex which is specifically utilised for patrols to the upper reaches of the Swan River.

I acknowledge the frustration experienced by members of the public when observing speeding vessels when a patrol vessel is not present and encourage the public witnessing such events to contact the WA Water Police on 9442 8600. When calling this number an operator will then seek to direct the nearest patrol asset from any of the above agencies to intercept the offending vessel.

In the event that a patrol asset is not available at that location, members of the public are encouraged to report the incident by submitting a Marine Non-Compliance Report form, available on DoT's website <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imate/contact-marine-and-coastal.asp>. These reports are individually investigated by DoT and often result in direct action against the offender. Importantly, these reports also assist DoT in scheduling patrols during the times of when they are most needed.

If you require further information or assistance please contact Mr Chris J Mather, Director Waterways Safety Management, 9435 7794.

Yours sincerely



Steve Beyer
A/Managing Director

3/7/2018

Attachment No. 5



Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands

Our ref: 72-12364
Your ref: OLET-7564918

Mr Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer
Town of Bassendean
mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Jarvis

BOATS ON THE SWAN RIVER

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 June 2018 to the Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport, regarding boats on the Swan River. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Department of Transport (DoT) conducts regular compliance and education patrols on the Swan River to promote adherence to the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982* and its associated regulations. These patrols are scheduled to coincide with peak use times and includes regular patrolling within the upper reaches of the Swan River targeting speeding vessels.

For the period of 1 October 2017 to 26 June 2018, DoT completed 204 patrols within the Swan Canning Riverpark. From these patrols, a total of 1,227 infringement or caution notices were issued for various offences, including speeding.

DoT's marine compliance efforts in this area are also supplemented by patrols conducted by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Western Australia Water Police under special cross agency authorisation agreements. DoT has also recently increased its compliance capability by providing a dedicated patrol vessel stationed at the Maylands Police complex, which is specifically utilised for patrols to the upper reaches of the Swan River.

DoT engages in many educational campaigns including issuing media statements, newspaper articles, social media and publications such as the Swan Canning Riverpark boating guide. DoT will continue to enhance compliance and education efforts to target speeding in the upper reaches of the Swan River.

For further information on this matter, please contact Mr Peter Beattie, Manager Compliance and Investigations at DoT on 9435 7828 or Peter.Beattie@transport.wa.gov.au.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

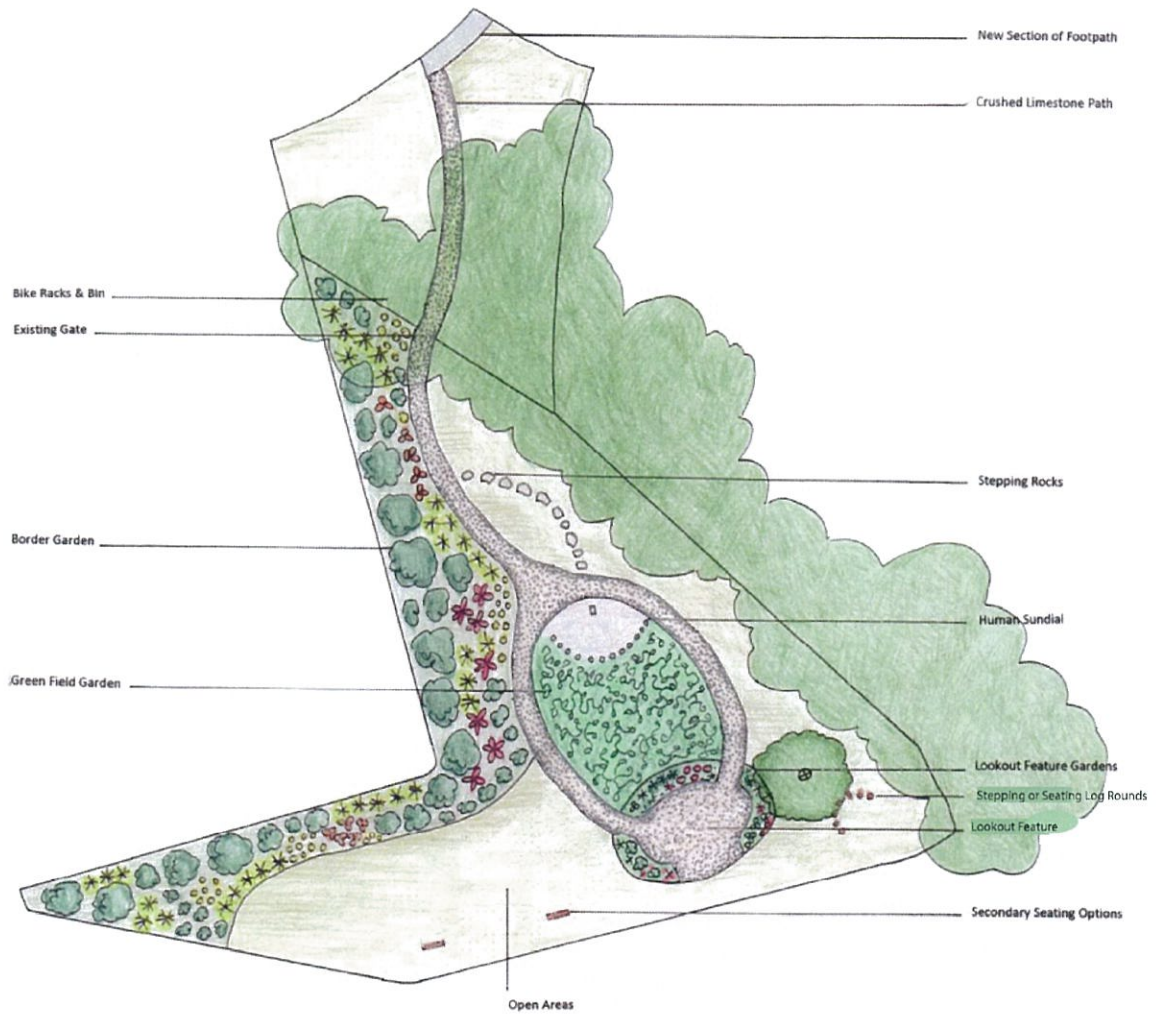
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**RICHARD FARRELL
CHIEF OF STAFF**

31 JUL 2018

Attachment No. 6

The Lookout: A Reflective Community Space overlooking Ashfield Flats



Original Plan size A2 Scale 1:400

Crushed Limestone Path
Crushed Limestone Path that provides pram and wheelchair accessibility.

Limestone Stepping Rocks
A playful element and alternative pathway – low key nature play element and interest for all ages.

Human Sundial
Playful and usual element, a point of difference for the space. This could be constructed in many different ways – poured concrete for the whole space then markers painted/embossed or individual stone/mosaic markers set into mulch.

Green Field Garden
This garden creates a calm and spacious feel in the centre of the site. One species of super low native groundcover only is utilised to create this feel. It should be densely planted from the beginning so that people do not create alternative pathways through this area.

Seating or Stepping Log Rounds.
These provide a seating option in the shade, taking advantage of the existing trees on site and in the gully to the east. As a seating area they again focus on the view and also provide another playful element as stepping logs.

Lookout Feature Gardens
Decorative gardens of low, native plants that surround the lookout feature.

Lookout Feature
Low, multi-level seating element constructed of stone, wood or 'Tamiere' concrete it contains options for groups or individuals to sit comfortably. Signage and artwork can be included in this feature. For more information see detailed Lookout feature drawings.

Border Garden
These gardens effectively divide the community space from the private space of the adjoining houses. A diverse selection of low native shrubs, ground covers and grasses will be used. The garden will add seasonal interest and beauty to the space while also increasing the habitat value for local fauna. Spaces will be left through the gardens for resident access to their gates.

Open Areas
These spaces could be treated in a number of ways depending on final decisions made about the maintenance regime and site-preparation. Options include: leaving it as it is continuing to mow these areas which are a combination of couch and weeds. More regular mowing will encourage the couch to become more lawn like (in summer this area would brown off). Chunky free draining mulch as is or sparsely planted with low growing native ground covers. The final option would be to install a new lawn complete with reticulation in these areas.

Secondary Seating
Bench Seats for reflection, remembrance and quiet contemplation looking out over the beautiful Ashfield Flats.
Service Area: Bike Rack and Bin
No parking is provided on-site so bike parking helps to that the site is pedestrian and bike friendly. This is also an ideal location for a bin with dog waste disposal bags.

Plant Palette Suggestions
A range of water-wise, low growing native shrubs, ground covers and grasses will be used. There are three distinct garden spaces. The Border Garden, the Lookout Feature Gardens and the Green Field Garden.

The Border Garden
Pimelea thelemanniana
Pimelea ferruginea
Thryptomene baecaeacea prostrata
Grevillea obtusifolia "Gin Gin Gem"
Ficinia nodosa
Dianella revoluta
Conostylis candicans
Kennedia prostrata

Green Field Garden
Acacia saligna prostrata
OR
Hardenbergia "Sea of Purple"
OR
Carpobrotus virescens

Lookout Feature Gardens
Thryptomene baecaeacea prostrata
Conostylis candicans
Pattersonia occidentalis
Dampiera linearis
Dianella revoluta
Kennedia prostrata

Other Possible Species
Hibbertia grossularifolia
Grevillea crithmifolia "Green Carpet"
Leschenaultia floribunda
Hardenbergia comptoniana
Low growing Scaevola cultivars

The View
All of the new elements included in this plan including all planting is deliberately low so as to not impact on the sense of scale and sense of space and sky that the Lookout provides.
The view out over the Ashfield Flats is the key view but the "long view" to the horizon and the hills is equally important and a rare commodity in the city.
Playfulness
Although there is no playground on site play is welcome. All features are low key and are suitable for all ages including adults. Encouraging playfulness and physical activity for everyone is an important function of local public space. All the features that could be considered play elements are on the east side to reduce any noise issues for residents to the west.

URBAN
gardenslandscapesplaces
BOTANIC

emmaslavin@bigpond.com
0438 561 483

Client: AshfieldCAN
Address: Hardy Rd, Bassendean

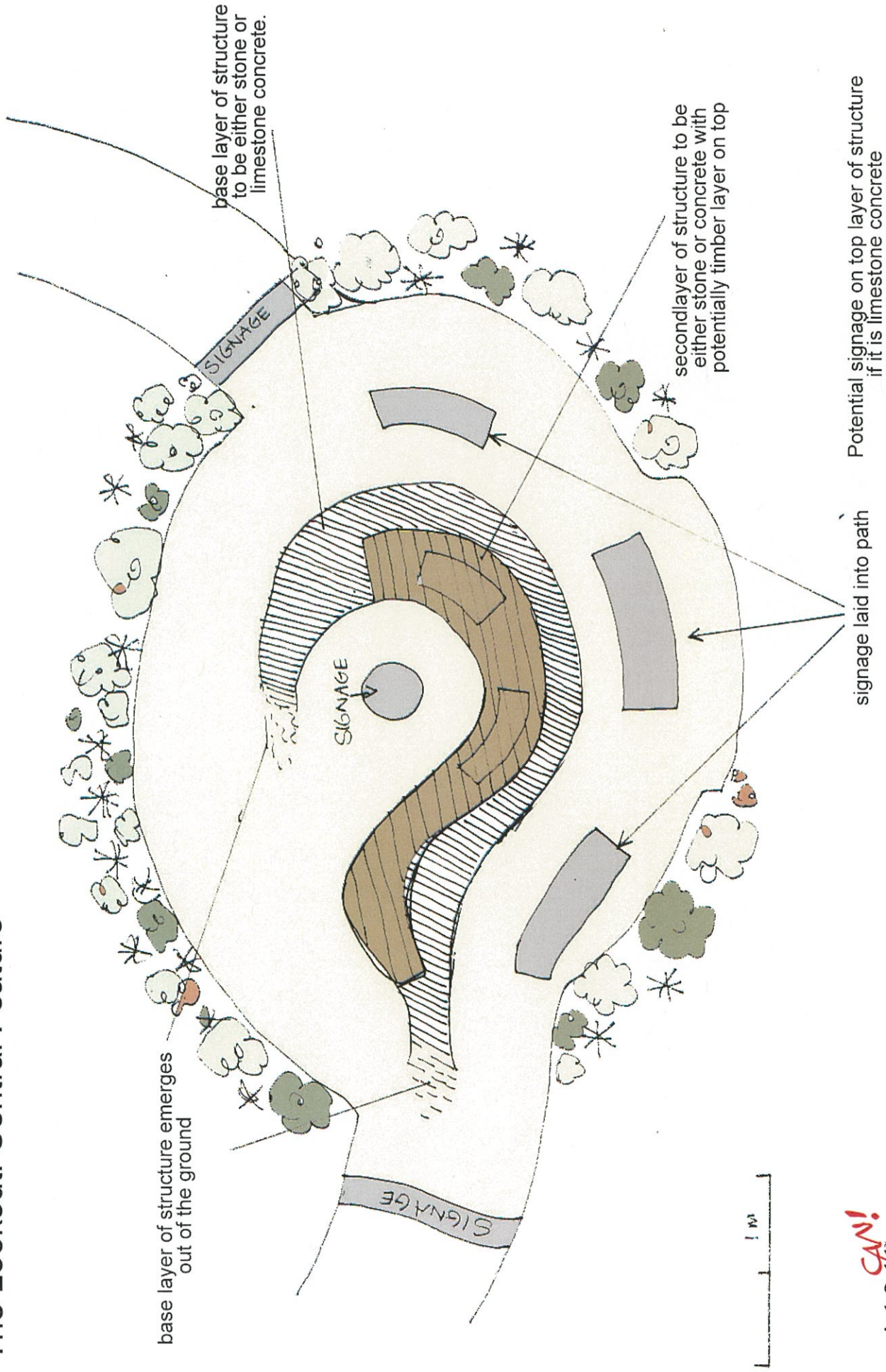
Scale: 1:400

Date: October 2018

Garden Concept Design: Original size: A2

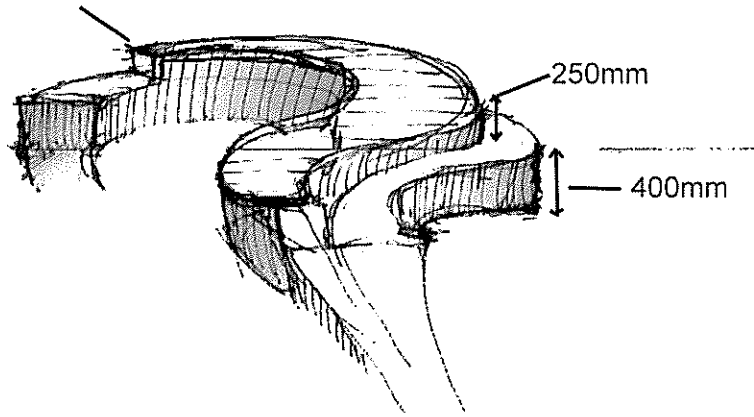
This is a concept plan only. All dimensions must be checked on site by construction contractors

The Lookout. Central Feature

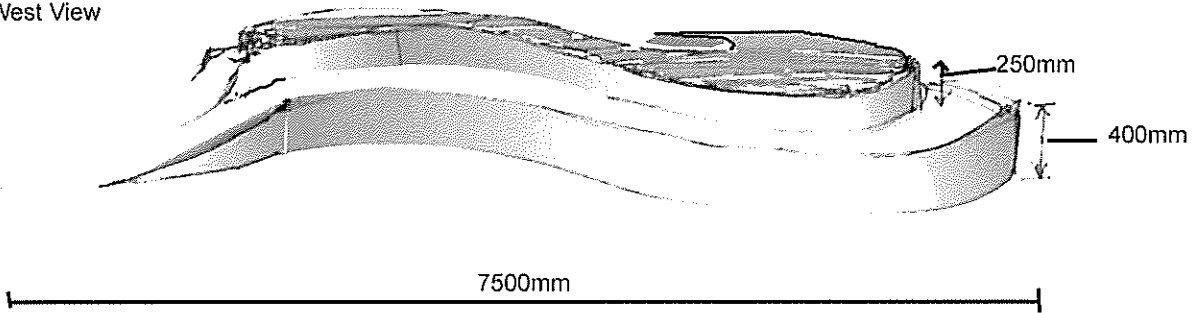


North View

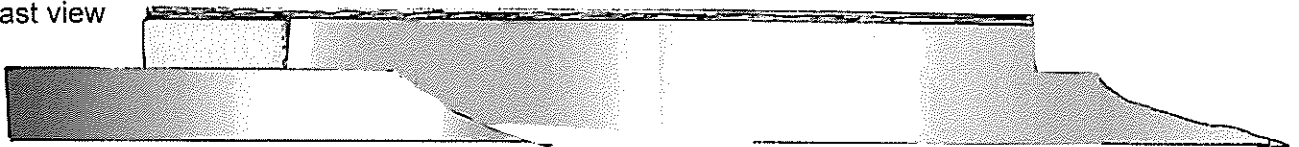
Timber on top 30mm



West View



East view





The Lookout

A reflective Community Space looking over Ashfield Flats

Concept Plan.

The Ashfield Community Action Network (AshfieldCAN) has undertaken a series of community design sessions to develop a plan for the area adjacent to Villiers Street known to local residents as the Lookout. This is part of 52-62 Villiers West Street, Bassendean

The area sits high above the Ashfield Flats and is part of a parcel of land that is currently owned and maintained by the WAPC.

The site has been classified as a Contaminated site – “remediated for restricted use”

There is a Site Management Plan in place for the site.

The AshfieldCAN sees the site as a potential passive park/community space.

With a growing population and infill being indicated as part of the plan for Ashfield /Bassendean this parcel of land should become an important local community asset as a passive local park.

The AshfieldCAN believes that small local parks are one of the building blocks of creating good local communities and this space offers an opportunity to create such a space.

The AshfieldCAN believe this concept plan is in line with the Town of Bassendean Strategic Community Plan for Bassendean.

From the Town of Bassendean Strategic community Plan –

7.Our Vision for the future

10. Play and recreational facilities for all ages – reviewing current facilities and innovative approaches to recreation areas

12 Community activation of spaces across all neighbourhoods within the Town of Bassendean.

2.3. Ensure the Town’s open space is attractive and inviting

2.3.1 Enhance and develop open spaces and natural areas to facilitate community use and connection.

3.2.3 Enhance liveability of local neighbourhoods



The process.

The AshfieldCAN initially applied for funding from Local MLA Dave Kelly and was successful in securing \$30,000.00 towards this project. The AshfieldCAN has also set aside approximately \$10,000 towards the project.

Having then discovered the site was classified as a contaminated site the process of planning for the site has changed considerably from the original intention.

The AshfieldCAN has held three Community Design Consultation sessions.

The first session was held on site and local residents were invited to participate.

This workshop investigated how participants viewed the site and what their visions and concerns would be if the site was developed into anything at all.

Time was spent getting to know the site and what the possibilities and limitations would be.

Initial questions were asked such as

Who will be here?

What will they be doing?

Why is the place important?

What changes can be made in the space to support this?

What are your concerns for the site?

This information was collated and taken to the next session which was essentially a design session.

The community concerns were discussed to look for solutions to perceived problems.

Possible layout of features was discussed.

The importance of suggested ideas was rated, and a brief was developed for the designer.

At the third meeting a draft concept plan was presented and again any concerns were identified and discussed. This information was then used to create the concept plan presented to this meeting.

This plan far exceeds the original idea of just providing a design for a lookout feature as it became abundantly clear that the whole space needed to be considered to create a plan for an outcome that would truly benefit the community.



This was decided from the AshfieldCAN's experience of designing the space at Gary Blanch Park.

Our experience taught us that spending time doing the community consultation was important and that we wanted to be able to respond to community feedback and encourage people and groups to engage and support the concept.

We believe we have done this.

It is a plan that can be done in stages and none of it is overly complicated.

It is a plan that offers a vision for a passive local park.

It is a plan for a park that is designed essentially for local community to walk to.

It is designed as a dry park, but this can of course be changed.

It has been designed with bush fire risk considerations.

It has been designed to encourage a quiet and contemplative use of the space.

It has been designed to maintain all the view for local adjoining residents

It has been designed to create a planted buffer between residences and the active areas of the park.

It has been designed to find a solution to just having a space in our community that is nothing more than a contaminated site.

It has been designed with passive play elements in the space to make the space interesting e.g. the human sundial, stepping logs and stones, seating and path ways.

It has been designed to include signage and interpretative information.

It has been designed by and for the community.

The site offers an amazing opportunity to make use of a view over the wetlands below and can be used to educate people with use of interpretive signage.

The AshfieldCAN want to encourage and support other groups such as the BPG being involved in the construction of the park.

The AshfieldCAN believes that if this land is developed into a park that it would be better served by being under the management of the Town of Bassendean for ongoing maintenance and for developing ongoing community engagement with the space.

We understand that the WAPC cannot commit to more complex management arrangements and considering the location being above the Ashfield Flats at the same level of the residential area the site can be treated differently to the Ashfield Flats themselves with its huge range of complex issues.

The AshfieldCAN can only commit to the first stage of the plan at this point in time which is the Lookout feature and surrounding garden but hope that more than this can be realised. This concept plan can work as a blue print for the future development of the space.

The Lookout A Reflective Community Space overlooking Ashfield Flats

SITE WISHLIST

- The Lookout Feature
- Native Gardens
- Seating
- Informal Seating
- Stepping Logs or Rocks
- Other playful elements
- Trees
- Signage – Wetland/Ashfield Flats
- Signage – Local Fauna (birds/frogs/insects etc)
- Signage – History, local stories
- Signage – Astronomy
- Signage – Landmarks
- Artworks
- Bike Parking
- Disability Access
- Private Nooks
- Memorial/Reflection (pets, people)
- Viewing Binoculars
- Sun Dial /Human Sun Dial
- Drink Fountain
- Primary Pathways – Crushed limestone
- Secondary Pathways – mulch or gravel
- ?
- ?
- ?

The Lookout A Reflective Community Space overlooking Ashfield Flats

ISSUES/CONCERNS/FEARS

- Litter and Rubbish
- Loss of views
- Dog mess
- Parking
- Noise
- Bush Fire Risk
- Anti-social behaviour
- Impact on Flats from people going down from the Lookout
- Vandalism – plants being removed
- Safety issues caused by steep embankment
- ?
- ?

Attachment No. 7



Mr Ross Parker
Senior Projects and Policy Officer
Western Australian Planning Commission
140 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Parker

RE PART FORMER LOT 663 HARDY ROAD ASHFIELD, NOW KNOWN AS LOT 821 ON PLAN 40943, 52 VILLIERS STREET BASSENDEAN

I refer to your letter to the Department of Water Environmental Regulation (DWER) dated 9 February 2018 regarding the proposed management of the abovementioned site.

Following inspection of the site by DWER on 12 February 2018, review of historical information on file and consultation with the Department of Health, DWER has concluded that the site is suitable for its current use as regional open space (from a contamination perspective) provided a site management plan (SMP) is prepared for its ongoing management.

The SMP should detail how the site is to be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure the grass cover remains intact and no visible asbestos-containing material (ACM) is present on the surface of the site, collection and disposal of any visible ACM and maintenance of the stability of the embankment to ensure the fill and any ACM remains contained. The SMP should also set out how inspections and maintenance actions are to be documented.

As the site is deemed suitable for its current use, DWER has classified the site as *remediated for restricted use* under section 13 of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (the Act). Formal notice of the classification will be provided to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) in due course.

The site classification sets out restrictions on use of the site, which include no change to a more sensitive land use and no disturbance of the fill. Should any disturbance of the fill be proposed in the future, a site-specific health and safety management plan would need to be developed to manage handling of any excavated material, air monitoring and post-disturbance validation.

Regarding the proposed construction of public seating at the site, the WAPC propose to install a concrete slab on which the structure can be fixed to avoid soil disturbance for footings. DWER agrees this approach is suitable and has no objection to the WAPC approving the development on this basis.

If you have any further queries, please contact Senior Contaminated Sites Officer, Naomi Telford, on 6364 7154.

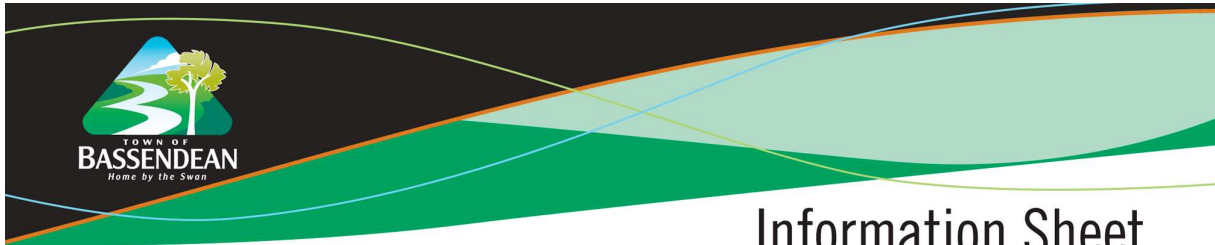
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Miller', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Miller
**SENIOR MANAGER
CONTAMINATED SITES**

2 March 2018

Attachment No. 8



Responsible Cat Ownership

In November 2013 the *Cat Act 2011* came into full effect to ensure responsible cat ownership and to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the community.

As a reminder, this means that all cats over the age of 6 months must be micro-chipped, sterilised and registered with the Local Government where you live.

In addition, cats are required to wear a collar and registration tag, at all times. This will ensure your cat is easily identifiable and therefore can be returned to you if it gets lost. If your cat is wearing a collar and registration tag, people in your neighbourhood will also know the cat is owned and is not a stray cat.

Keeping your cat and our wildlife, safe

Cats that are allowed to roam freely have been known to wander several kilometres from their home, often on a daily basis. Whilst out roaming they are at risk of injury and disease, not to mention their potential impact on our neighbours and wildlife.

By nature, cats are instinctive hunters and although owners are taking care of the needs of their pets, instinctive hunting will still occur. Even well fed cats roaming at night may hunt and kill possums, other small native mammals and reptiles. Birds are often targets at dawn and dusk when they are most active.

Keeping your cat indoors or in a built for purpose cat run will also protect it from fights and the subsequent infection and disease, and also eliminates the risk of your cat being run over or going missing.

Nuisance cats

Much of the feedback received from residents about stray or roaming cats is that they kill wildlife, wander on roads, mark their territory by 'spraying' on people's homes and belongings and fight with other cats. This behaviour is creating a nuisance and potential health issues for neighbours and wider community members.

Containing your cat to your property is the only way to ensure your cat is kept safe and is not creating a nuisance for your neighbours or other residents of the Town, both human and animal.

If a cat is creating a nuisance for you in the Town, the Rangers can help you with our cat-trapping program. If you know who owns the cat, please consider having a chat to them first, in the interests of good neighbourly relations. If this is not possible or you think the cat is a stray, give the Rangers a call on 9377 7480 and we can give you some tips to deter cats or organise one of our humane cat traps for you.

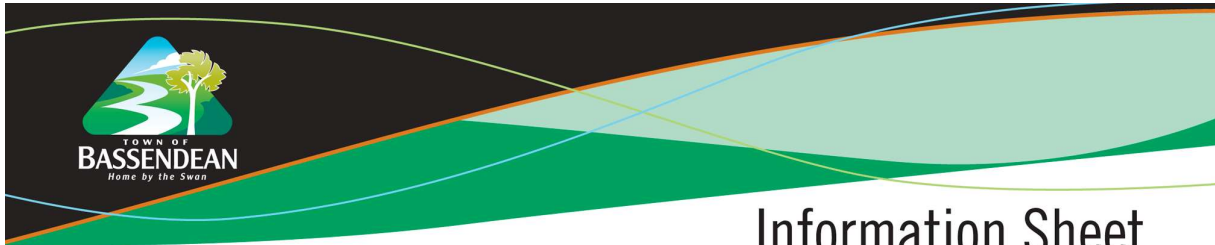
Tips for responsible cat ownership:

- Ensure your cat is sterilised, microchipped and registered with your Local Council,
- Ensure your cat wears its collar and registration tag so it is easily identifiable, bells on the collar are a great addition,
- Ensure your cat stays safe and doesn't create a nuisance, by containing it to your property, especially at night, dawn and dusk.
- Surrender your cat to an animal shelter, cat haven or the RSPCA if you are unable to care for your cat any longer.

Further information

If you are a cat owner and your cat goes missing, if you would like more information on how to be a responsible cat owner, or other tips on how to keep your cat safe and contained to your property, call the Rangers on 9377 7480.

Attachment No. 9



Ranger Services Information Sheet RS1

Dog Behaviour in a Public Space and Dog Exercise Areas

For the enjoyment and safety of everyone, when walking your dog in a public space such as along the street or in a park or reserve, you must keep it under effective control. This means keeping your dog securely tethered or close to you and not allowing it to wander or bother other people, animals or wildlife.

Even though your dog is being playful, others may feel uneasy with its behaviour. Remember, some people do not like to be approached by unrestrained dogs.

Dogs are not under effective control if they:

- Chase or disturb any person or wildlife
- Act in a threatening or aggressive manner
- Cause damage to flora

EXERCISE AREAS - DOGS MAY BE OFF THE LEAD IN THE FOLLOWING RESERVES:

Council has identified the following Dog Exercise areas:

Bassendean - Carman Way Reserve, Anzac Terrace Reserve, Ireland Way Reserve, Palmerston Square Reserve, May Holman Reserve, Pickering Park, Troy Street Reserve, Parmelia Way Reserve

Eden Hill - Freeland Way Reserve, Mary Crescent Reserve, Padbury Court Reserve

Ashfield - Gary Blanch Park, Ashfield Reserve between Guildford Road and the line of the fire track on the reserve.

Please note that in regards to Ashfield Flats Reserve, the majority of this land is managed by the Department of Planning. Ashfield Flats Reserve is listed as Bush Forever Site and in the Directory of Important Wetlands. To protect wildlife and bird breeding sites, ensure that your dog does not wander and is kept under effective control at all times.

Please note, dogs must be kept on a leash on land that has been set apart as a children's playground, a car park or an area being used for sport or other activities, as permitted by Council, during the times of such use.

DOG PROHIBITED RESERVES:

Council has resolved that dogs are not permitted at any time on Point Reserve, Bassendean.

Picking Up After Your Pet

To be considerate of others the Town of Bassendean request that you pick up your dog's faeces and dispose of the waste in a bin

To assist you achieve this, the Town employs a number of techniques to reduce the impact of dog litter on the amenity of public open space, safety and the environment. These measures include public education, enforcement, dog litterbins and pooch pouches strategically placed throughout the Town.

Picking up after your pet - POOCH pouches are a great way of always ensuring that you have the means to clean up after your dog and keep our environment and waterways healthy and safe.

Dog faeces contain many pollutants such as phosphorus that cause the spread of toxic blue/green algae, so harmful to marine life. It also has toxins that are contained in some zoonotic diseases one of which can lead to blindness in children.

Dog Litter Bins

Throughout the Town, you will find litter bins strategically placed to ensure dog owners are able to dispose of the used pooch pouches on their walk.

Having these bins available throughout the Town with stands that have pooch pouches readily available close-by has ensured reserves, popular walking routes and dog exercise areas are free from faeces on the ground and further preventing this from entering our waterways and harming our environment.

Whilst the Town encourages dog owners to take their dog on daily walks, pet owners are required, in accordance with legislation, to clean up after their dogs by collecting the faeces and placing it into a waste bin when they get home or in a public litterbin.

Council has undertaken a number of initiatives and concerted education campaigns to help reduce the amount of uncollected faeces. These educational initiatives are at all times coupled with enforcement of the legislation.