



AGENDA

Lake Claremont Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, 5 November 2020

**I hereby give notice that a Lake Claremont Advisory Committee
Meeting will be held on:**

Date: Thursday, 5 November 2020

Time: 8:00am

**Location: Town of Claremont
Claremont Council Chambers
308 Stirling Highway, Claremont**

**Liz Ledger
Chief Executive Officer**

DISCLAIMER

Persons present at this meeting are cautioned against taking any action as a result of any Committee recommendations until such time as those recommendations have been considered by Council and the minutes of that Council meeting confirmed.

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- 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**
- 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**
- 3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
- 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 be confirmed.

5 REPORTS OF THE CEO

5.1 LAKE CLAREMONT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2019-20 PROGRESS REPORT

File Number: GOV/00051-03, D-20-40271

Author: Jared Bray, Coordinator Parks and Environment

Authoriser: Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. **Proposed Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2020-21** [↓](#) 
2. **Lake Claremont Action Items List** [↓](#) 

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee (LCAC) on tasks and activities that have been completed in relation to the management of Lake Claremont and the surrounding parklands.

BACKGROUND

Activities which are identified in the Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2020-21 (Attachment 1) relating to the Lake Claremont Management Plan have been completed at the Lake Claremont precinct, this also includes projects which have been completed and any action items identified in previous meetings. Such activities relate to the following key headings;

- Turf Management
- Weed Management
- Litter Management
- Park Infrastructure
- Tree Management
- Water and Soil Management
- Fauna Management
- Flora Management
- Projects
 - Update of Indigenous Education Feasibility Study – July 2020
 - Action Items

DISCUSSION

See below a brief update on each activity:

Turf Management

No Update

Weed Management

In accordance with prior advice and Council direction, there is a continued reduction in the use of Glyphosate at Lake Claremont and more broadly within the district.

In August FOLC and ToC undertook a hand weeding trial to support this reduction in the use of Glyphosate.

FOLC secured funding to employ a 2/3 hand weeders twice a week over the Spring/Summer months. FOLC had set areas that they were targeting through this process with the Town managing the hand weeding in other agreed areas at the Lake with their regular contractors.

In August, this program was adequate in controlling the weeds and the Town received positive public response for these efforts.

In September, the Town however had to return to glyphosate spraying at the Lake due to the growth rate of weeds in some areas. This will need to continue to be undertaken until the heat of summer inhibits weed growth. Additional hand weeding will be used to assist in the combat of weeds and to reduce the use of chemicals.

The Lake bed

The Lake bed was not inundated with water this year due to a reduction in seasonal rainfall. This has resulted in the emergence of the weeds earlier than anticipated. Council officers will monitor and accelerate the Lake Bed weeding program as required.

Other Weeds and Controls

A new woody weeds program is also being developed with some immature woody weeds being removed at the Lake currently.

In early September, mulch was spread along the red paths at the eastern buffer by FOLC and a group of volunteers to help with weed suppression. This is part of a bigger ongoing mulching spreading program by FOLC alongside paths around the Lake.

The Tamarix tree stumps are being retreated on a regular basis to ensure they don't regrow and again take hold in the bushland around Lake Claremont.

Litter Management

No Update

Park Infrastructure

Works are commencing in respect to a plan for a new nature playground at Stirling Road Park.

Tree Management

A recently fallen tree has been retained on site to form part of a future play area. Care is being taken that these fallen trees that are becoming an ever more present part of 'nature' style park areas, are secure and pose no threat to users before they are retained.

Viewing areas have been maintained in areas around the lake, with new viewing areas created in the south east of the Lake.

Water and Soil Management

No update, town is still awaiting a report from the consultants in respect to this matter.

Fauna Management

6 European bee hives found in remnant bushland area during the last period – all are being relocated (this is a constant theme across the Town with the Town involved in, or facilitating the removal of hives on an almost daily basis).

Camera monitoring of cats and foxes – captured vision of a cat and a fox.

As a result of this, a Fox trapping event was undertaken – unfortunately no foxes were captured. In discussion with the contractor it was determined that it was highly likely this was a roaming fox from nearby bushland.

Council officers constructed a turtle underpass on the eastern buffer, because the water table is low and fringing vegetation is quite a distance from the edge of the water and raven predation of young turtles is high.

The Town is also creating new educational posters about a host of issues from dogs off leas and water birds.

Flora Management

Yams were planted on the island and in planter boxes at FOLC shed during the last period.

Projects

Update of Indigenous Education Feasibility Study – July 2020

This is subject of a separate report within this agenda (see report 5.4).

Lake Claremont Action Items list

For a list of action items from past Committee meetings, which had officially not been captured in Committee resolutions, please see Attachment 2.

PAST RESOLUTIONS

Lake Claremont Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7 May 2020, Resolution 007/20:

That the Committee notes the progress of the Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2019-20.

FINANCIAL AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocation.

POLICY AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy and statutory implications.

The following documents are relevant to the Lake Claremont area.

- Lake Claremont Management Plan 2016-21
- Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2019-20

COMMUNICATION / CONSULTATION

Consultation to members of the community in respect to Lake Claremont has been undertaken via the Town of Claremont website www.claremont.wa.gov.au, the distribution and availability of Friends of Lake Claremont newsletters and Town Notice Boards located at Lake Claremont.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Environmental Sustainability

We are a leader in responsibly managing the built and natural environment for the enjoyment of the community and continue to demonstrate diligent environmental practices.

- Take a leadership in the community in environmental sustainability.
- Protect and conserve the natural flora and fauna of Lake Claremont and the Foreshore.

URGENCY

None

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority decision

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the progress of the Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2020-21.

Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2020-21

Lake Claremont Maintenance and Capital Works Program (Updated October 2020)

Activity	By Whom	Where	Frequency per annum	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Turf Management															
Broadleaf weed control	Contractor	Parklands	As Required	x	x	x									
Fertilising and soil tests	Contractor	Parklands	1												
Weed Management															
Wetland Areas weed control	Contractor	Lake Claremont Lake Bed	1												
Dryland Areas weed control	Contractor	Dryland natural areas	8	x	x	x									
Review Weed Control Program	ToC		1												
Hand Weeding (Contractors)	Contractor	Bushland	2	x	x										
Weed Mapping	ToC	Bushland and Parklands	12												
Mulching	Contractor & Volunteers	Bushland	2												
Litter Management															
Bin cleaning program	Contractor	All parks	1												
Dog Poo Bag Replacement	ToC	All Parks	52	x	x	x	x								
Asset Management															
Wood Oiling Program	Contractor	Wooden Decking and Assets	2												
Asset condition audits	ToC	Bushland and Parklands	1												
Tree/Vegetation Management															
Significant Tree Inspections	ToC	Bushland and Parklands	1												
Tree inspections	ToC	Parklands	52	x	x	x	x								
Tree works	Contractor	Parklands	As required												
Tree pruning	ToC and Contractor	Parklands	As Required												
Tree Pest Treatments	Contractor	Bushland and Parklands	As Required			x									
View Corridor Pruning	ToC	Lake Buffer	4		x										
Maintain Fire Access Paths	ToC and Contractors	Bushland	1				x								
Park path clearing program	ToC and Volunteers and Contractors	All Paths	12	x	x	x	x								
Vegetation Tubestock Planting	Volunteers	Approved Locations as per Map	1	x											
Direct Seeding	ToC and Contractors	Bushland	1												
Fungi Mapping	ToC	Parkland and Bushland	2												
Update Species Planting Database	ToC		1												
Revegetation Fencing Inspections	ToC	Parkland and Bushland	1												
Seed Collection	Volunteers	As required for revegetation	2												
Finalise Planting areas for two seasons	In House & Volunteers		1												
Water/Soil Management															
Water Sampling	Contractor	As per Water Sampling Plan	2												
Macroinvertebrate Sampling	Contractor	As per Water Sampling Plan	2												
Water & Invertebrate Report	Contractor	As per Water Sampling Plan	1												
Sediment Sampling & Reporting	Contractor	As per Sediment Sampling Plan	1												
Drain Outfall Inspections	ToC	Before major rainfall events	6	x	x										
Erosion Prone Area Inspections	ToC	After major rainfall events	6												
NIMP Plan Review	ToC	Golf/Scotch/Cresswell	1												
Fauna Management															
Bush Bird Box Inspections	ToC	As per map	1												
Bat Box Inspections	ToC	As per map	1												
Duck Box Inspections	ToC	As per map	1												
Duck Nest Platforms Inspections	ToC	In lake bed	1												
Bird Counts	Volunteers	Everywhere	4			x									
Feral Animal Monitoring	ToC and Volunteers	Everywhere	52	x	x	x	x								
Dog Patrols	ToC	Everywhere	52	x	x	x	x								
Update seasonal Signage	ToC	Swans, Turtles, Snakes, etc	4			x									
General Management															
Update Noticeboard	ToC	Lapsley Road Playground	12	x	x	x	x								
Prepare Reports	ToC	Office	6		x		x								
Prepare Agenda	ToC	Office	6		x		x								
Preparing Volunteer Work Program	ToC	Office	2	x	x										
Capital Works Program															
Revegetation fencing	Contractor	2020 Planting Site	1	x	x										
Limestone Path Repairs	Contractor	Bushland	2												
Dog Agility	Contractor	Parklands	1												

LCAC meeting date	Item	Action to be taken	Officer Responsible	In Progress/ Completed	Action Taken
09-Aug-18	7.1 Lake Claremont Operational Plan Progress Report	Alfred Rd drain: SK to speak to Nedlands to put in side traps? Water quality to be checked before it enters the lake.	AS	In progress	Martyn Glover advised that they have installed enough soak wells and pits (nearly forty units) in 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years in the Lake Claremont storm water catchment area. Saba spoke to Andrew Dickson (Manager Parks, Nedlands) who confirmed that they had not done any water quality monitoring in the last seven years for the drain outlet from their catchment in Alfred Road (leading to the lake). To be taken up by City of Nedlands Councillor?
07-Feb-19	6.5 Water quality at Lake Claremont	THE AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT That the Committee; 3. Recommend to Council that the following matters be considered for implementation to improve water quality at Lake Claremont; a) Review the result of water quality tests arising from the Henshaw swale in order to ascertain if this has had any benefit in respect to filtration; b) Consider the incorporation of a form of water treatment into the Stirling Road central drain; c) Consider creating a channel through the wetland from the inlet of Alfred Road drain to the open water in the middle of the lake to prevent the stagnation of water in this area; d) Consider removal of any growth of floating invasive weeds from the Lake (e.g. Bacopa monnieri) as part of its Weed Control tender; e) In future water quality assessments, consider analysing samples for dissolved organic nitrogen as well as other nitrogen species; f) Encourage Turf managers within the catchment to undertake SERCUL's Fertilise Wise training; g) Encourage the Town's health and environmental officers to become familiar in the ecological control of mosquitoes through SERCUL's Mozzie Wise education programs; h) Continue to ensure that accumulated pollutants (e.g. sediment and gross pollutants) are regularly removed from nodes in the stormwater network, such as the gross pollutant trap connected to the Stirling Road central drain; and i) Provide a report to the Committee regarding aeration of the Lake to improve water quality.	AS	In progress	Matter is yet to be presented to Council, further consideration of water quality matters and possible aeration of Lake should be considered conjointly. Item to stay on LCAC action items list until such time as a solution is proposed and deemed acceptable.
02-May-19	6.2 Aeration of Lake and Improvement of Water Quality	That; 2. The Council review the effectiveness of the Cedus Oil Traps in regards to its suitability for purpose and detrimental impact on the Lake, and investigate alternate options as required.	AS		Yet to be resolved. Will need to stay on action list until such time as a solution is proposed and deemed acceptable
02-May-19	Aeration of Lake and improvement of water quality	Use of sub surface bubblers, solar powered air units or other options to increase oxygenation in water at Lake – possible partnership with University Cooperative Research Centre.	AS		No progress made on this matter
02-May-19	Aeration of Lake and improvement of water quality	Research opportunities for use of Phoslock via DEWR.	JR	In progress	Initial discussions held with DEWR by Bushcare Officer. This has not progressed and will be followed up by Bushcare Officer.

01-Aug-19	Lake Claremont Operational Plan 2018/19 & 2019/20 - Projects	"Kelpie lady": Dogs running through FOLC planting areas. AS to speak to other relevant Director re "dog off lead" signage/ public education through Town/ Is there an opportunity to develop and distribute pamphlets to improve education of dog owners with respect to off lead areas	AS	In progress	Off lead area signs installed. This could be supported by an education program via the Rangers Department. Matter raised with Manager of Rangers, awaiting feedback.
01-Aug-19	Presentation on water quality at Lake Claremont	A Kasarla to send a systematic research proposal to AS. AS to take proposal up with CEO and discuss distribution of literature and studies re the Lake water quality to UWA to assist their work	A Kasarla AS		No documents received to date.
01-Aug-19	Presentation on water quality at Lake Claremont	Look into methods Queensland is using to get real time water sampling data.	JB	in progress	currently doing some research and looking into benefits, could be quite costly, current data indicates that real time data may not be required due to the quality of water entering the lake.
07-Nov-19	Update on WESROC culling of birds and if it will happen.	Nick to follow up with WESROC group.	NK	in progress	See above
07-Nov-19	Environmental & Indigenous Education Centre at Lake Claremont	Organise report/ feasibility study	JB/JR	in progress	Brief written, project taken on by Bushcare Officer and now well underway. Should be complete by January
13-Feb-20	Fauna Management - fauna survey	Get costings to undertake <u>fauna survey</u> . Can students be involved in survey?	AS		To be considered as part of the Management plan review.
13-Feb-20	Fauna Management - cats	<u>Cats</u> : how many are registered? Cat free zone around the lake? Article in Flourish.	AS	in progress	Cat Act will be discussed at meeting on 13 August 2020
13-Feb-20	Grass trees	Look into burning grass trees?	JR	In progress	Grass tree mgt plan currently being developed. Had to postpone, should be ready for first meeting 2021
13-Feb-20	Pamphlet - dog exercise area at lake	Can we include: pick up after your dog as the waste goes into the lake?	AS		Dog pamphlet has been reviewed. It is a generic pamphlet and includes all dog exercise areas under the control of the Town and all prohibited areas. Also included that dog owners must pick up after their dogs. Printing of 1,000 copies currently on hold until Council decides the fate of Claremont Oval, as this will effect two different matters. Over the past few months 25 cautions have been issued, with 4 infringements for repeat offenders.
13-Feb-20	Info about "Seasonal Wetland"		JB	In progress	Working with marketing to get some approved seasonal signage made up for the notice boards. Spoken to marketing need to create draft for approval
13-Feb-20	Entry sign to dog exercise area at Alfred Rd end	Report for next meeting on proposed treatment for site?	AS		No progress to date
13-Aug-20	Weed areas at Lake as mentioned by Karen Wood (grassed area north of lake etc)	Jared to speak to contractors	JB	In progress	will be treated during October
13-Aug-20	Camp set up in bushland (between Myera St & Strickland St)	Jared to ask Field Officers to remove	JB	complete	inspected and cleaned up
13-Aug-20	Review of Lake Claremont Mgt Plan (LCMP)	Workshop with Committee to be held to discuss existing Plan and format for the review	AS		
13-Aug-20	Contact details of Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force	IC to forward contact details to Cr Smyth	IC	Completed	
13-Aug-20	Queensland Fruit Fly	Look into letterdrop re Queensland Fruit fly?	NK?	Completed	Letter drop being organised by DPIRD
13-Aug-20	City of Nedlands reports August 20 & May 20	Attach both reports to August 20 minutes	IC	Completed	

5.2 MID TERM BUDGET REVIEW - IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**File Number:** GOV/00051-03, D-20-39623**Author:** Andrew Smith, Director Infrastructure and Financial Management**Authoriser:** Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil

PURPOSE

To identify and recommend items for possible funding as part of the Council's mid-term budget review to be completed in early 2021.

BACKGROUND

Clause 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management Regulations 1996 provides that;

Between 1 January and 31 March in each financial year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year

In accordance with this provision, the mid-term budget review is initiated immediately after the January break and is presented to Council in February/March each year.

DISCUSSION

The mid-term budget review seeks to identify where the actual expenditure or income within a budget period has materially varied from the budget as adopted, and where this variation will result in a significant material variation to the projected closing position of the Council as at 30 June in that year.

Traditionally the mid-term budget review identifies under expenditure (or increased income) that has occurred since budget adoption, and will most often result in additional funds being available for allocation by Council to projects that were unable to be accommodated in the adopted budget, or to fund new initiatives that have since become apparent.

To respond to these potential additional funds being made available, the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee traditionally considers forming a recommendation to Council with proposed additional projects and initiatives that might be considered for funding as part of the overall mid-term budget review process.

Whilst no certainty can be provided in respect to the estimated closing position as at 30 June or if the current budget is 'tracking' in line with the adopted budget, this should not deter the committee from forming a recommendation in respect to project/s or allocations beyond the mid-term budget and prior to 30 June 2021.

It is recommended that priority is clearly articulated if multiple projects are recommended by the Committee, to provide clear intent of priority in the event that there is greater competition for funds than there are funds available for redistribution.

For Members advice, the following capital items are provided within the current adopted 2020/21 budget;

- Fencing revegetation site Lake Claremont \$25,000
- Limestone path repairs \$40,000
- Claremont parkland Dog Agility Area \$30,000

PAST RESOLUTIONS

7 May 2020;

That the Committee requests Council consideration for an allocation of \$25,000 in the 2020/21 budget for fencing of the approved and funded revegetation planting areas on Alfred road within the Lake Claremont Reserve.

FINANCIAL AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Financial allocations will be limited by funds made available through the mid-term budget review.

POLICY AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Clause 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

COMMUNICATION / CONSULTATION

None required

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**Leadership and Governance**

We are an open and accountable local government; a leader in community service standards.

- Manage our finances responsibly and improve financial sustainability.

URGENCY

As the next Committee meeting is not scheduled to be held until February 2021, if the Committee wishes to put forward proposals for funding consideration in the mid-term budget, then this will be required at this meeting.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends the following projects and initiatives for funding in the mid-term budget review, subject to funding being available, in accordance with the following order of priority.

5.3 DEVELOPMENT OF AN ART STRATEGY - LAKE CLAREMONT

File Number: GOV/00051-03, D-20-39674

Author: Andrew Smith, Director Infrastructure and Financial Management

Authoriser: Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Discussion Paper - Public Art at Lake Claremont [!\[\]\(0aff635c4179ba9e710b00f4b01d3b20_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(29658d981ebdf5edc259074cbf6110e0_img.jpg\)](#)

PURPOSE

To consider the development of a set of criteria to inform the development of Public Art Strategy within and in connection to Lake Claremont, inclusive of appropriate locations, themes and other matters as considered relevant.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held on the 1st of September 2020, Council considered a report to approve the installation of a mural art work on the side wall of the FOLC shed, by renowned naturalist artist Brenton See.

The proposal was both initiated and supported by FOLC.

Despite the matter being extensively debated at Council, ultimately no decision was made as the resolution required an absolute majority of Council to be approved (due to the expenditure of funds) and the motion in support of the project only received 5 votes (out of the 6 required).

During debate a number of Councillors, and as contained in the ultimately unsuccessful motion, expressed an interest both in;

- Referring the matter to the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee for advice, and
- That the revised Lake Claremont Management Plan include consideration of a provision for an art trail and development of a Public Art Strategy.

Since this Council meeting, the Town has also been approached from a benefactor wishing to install another donated art piece at Lake Claremont.

Whilst the details in respect to this specific art piece in question are still under discussion, discussions with FOLC and Councillors has highlighted that if further art installations are to be considered, then the means by which such art pieces might be considered needs to be resolved, including the appropriate location for art pieces within the Reserve, appropriate themes for art installations at the Lake, the number of art pieces envisaged, and how such will function as part of a broader art strategy across the Town.

Whilst it is recognised that the Council had suggested that the Management Plan consider the provision for an art trail as part of the Management Plan review, this provision provides no greater clarity, and given the extent of specific items and subject matter that will need to be considered within the Management Plan review, leaving this issue to be resolved as part of those broader discussions may not result in the amount of time required being able to be allocated to this specific subject.

DISCUSSION

Following discussion with representatives of FOLC, it was determined that a discussion paper be developed for initial consideration of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, in the hope that it may be recommend to Council for future consideration (in some form) and enable the development of an art strategy that would inform the future installation of art pieces within the Lake Claremont Reserve.

The discussion papers aims to;

Provide baseline information to use as a discussion paper, leading to the Town developing a Public Art Strategy for Lake Claremont. It suggests a number of objectives and requests for proposed locations for public art, which is to be presented to stakeholders to collect feedback and assist in providing direction for the development of a strategy, to be adopted by Council.

It is also acknowledged that simultaneous to this discussion paper being developed, officers of the Town are holding initial meetings with representatives of FOLC to discuss key issues and matters that would populate the eventual art strategy and inform many of these issues.

PAST RESOLUTIONS

None applicable

FINANCIAL AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocation.

POLICY AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Council Policy PE 403 provides some framework by which public art is funded and administered however does not provide any guidance in respect to the development of such a trail.

COMMUNICATION / CONSULTATION

Given the community usage and interest in the Lake Claremont precinct by different user groups, it is appropriate to include some form of consultation, including possible Indigenous consultation given the cultural significance of this location.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Liveability

We are an accessible community with well-maintained and managed assets. Our heritage is preserved for the enjoyment of the community.

- Develop the public realm as gathering spaces for participation, prosperity and enjoyment.

People

We live in an accessible and safe community that welcomes diversity, enjoys being active and has a strong sense of belonging.

- Recognise and celebrate the Town's history and culture through arts and events.

URGENCY

No specific urgency, however given recent offers of public art, having some clarity as to the Council's position on this matter would be beneficial for both Council officers, as well as those persons offering to make such donations.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority decision of Council (*More than half the elected members present are required to vote in favour*).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledge the presentation of this discussion paper and endorse the following steps being undertaken to develop an art strategy for Lake Claremont;

In conjunction with stakeholders:

1. Review and finalise objectives of the strategy
2. Develop a map of appropriate locations for any future artworks
3. Identify projects opportunities, funding and develop a timeline
4. Prepare draft Public Art Strategy for Lake Claremont

Town of Claremont

Discussion Paper - Public Art at Lake Claremont



Photo: Wonga Wetlands Public Art 2013

*Celebrating and enhancing the natural
environment through visual art*

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Introduction

This document is intended to provide baseline information to use as a discussion paper, leading to the Town developing a Public Art Strategy for Lake Claremont. It suggests a number of objectives and requests proposed locations for public art, which is to be presented to stakeholders to collect feedback and assist in providing direction for the development of a strategy, to be adopted by Council.

This Plan relates to the Town's Strategic Community Plan – Claremont Ahead 2023 under the following key Goal areas;

Liveability

'Develop the public realm as gathering spaces for participation and enjoyment'.

People

'Recognise and celebrate the Town's history and culture through arts and events programs.'

Overview about the Lake

Lake Claremont is a Conservation Category Wetland with considerable conservation value and is a prominent landscape feature within the Town's boundaries. It supports abundant life, both above and below the water.

It is a well-used public space, supporting recreational use and well as environmental education and preservation. It has been revitalised through the tireless work of many volunteers and supported by the Town.

The management of the Lake is guided by an operational plan with works undertaken by the Town in conjunction with the Friends of Lake Claremont. The operational plan overseen by Council with advice from the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee.

Around the world precious places such as Lake Claremont are a valuable community asset and economic driver.



Artist: Tony Pankiw

Management of Public Art

Public art projects are covered under the Town's Public Art Collection Policy PE403, specifically those related to the percent for art scheme.

The process for managing the projects is detailed in the Public Art Collection Work Procedure.

The Town can acquire artworks through the following processes:

- Commission (through an EOI or tender process)
- Acquisition (through the Annual Art Award)
- Donation / Gift

Guiding Principles

The overall intent of developing a Public Art Strategy is to clearly guide and communicate the implementation of suitable visual art projects to the Lake Claremont area. The objectives (for discussion) could be:

- *Celebrating and enhancing the natural environment through visual art*
- *Create opportunities to educate on the importance of the Lake Claremont precinct*
- *Build civic pride in our public places*
- *Create unique experiences that encourage tourism and support local economic development*



Artist: Peter Hill

Proposed Locations

The locations for artworks will need to be identified at this stage in the process before developing the strategy. Given the environmental sensitivity of the area, those areas not deemed appropriate due to these sensitivities will need to be excluded from the onset.

Discussions with the Friends of Lake Claremont and the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee in relation to locations will be held to determine sensitive areas and suggested areas, before presenting the strategy to Council for endorsement.

Next Steps

In conjunction with stakeholders:

1. Review and finalise objectives of the strategy
2. Develop a map of appropriate locations for any future artworks
3. Identify projects opportunities, funding and develop a timeline
4. Prepare draft Public Art Strategy for Lake Claremont

Examples and Links



Images of public art in natural wetlands and sensitive environmental places obtained from:

<http://understory.com.au/>

<https://wintonwetlands.org.au/visit/landscape-art/>

https://www.blogto.com/arts/2014/09/the_top_10_public_art_installations_in_toronto/

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/alburycollection/albums/72157647378125196/>

<https://www.artlabaustralia.com.au/services/public-art>

5.4 ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND INDIGENOUS CENTRE - LAKE CLAREMONT**File Number:** GOV/00051-03, D-20-40545**Author:** Andrew Smith, Director Infrastructure and Financial Management**Authoriser:** Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:**
1. Terms of Reference - Study [↓](#) 
2. Feasibility Report - Final Draft [↓](#) 

PURPOSE

To update Committee Members with respect to the recent study commissioned (internally) towards the proposed development of the Environment, Education and Indigenous Centre at Lake Claremont.

BACKGROUND

At previous meetings of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, Committee members have been advised that a study was commissioned (internally) to investigate the possible development of an Indigenous, Educational and Environmental Centre at Lake Claremont.

Following that advice, the Bush Care Officer has completed the initial study and findings and these are provided for Committee consideration.

DISCUSSION

The study was undertaken by the Town's Bush Care Officer, guided by the attached Terms of Reference. This document sought to both consider existing such facilities (to identify both opportunities, best practice, as well as potential threats) as well as the engagement of stakeholders identified to the project, who were thought could contribute both in terms of how the centre might operate, what it might include (or exclude), how programs might be delivered, and how the centre might be resourced (both from an initial capital as well as ongoing operational perspective).

The resultant document has endeavoured to capture this information, identify challenges and also propose a 'next step' solution to enable the proposed centre to continue to evolve as a concept.

The content of the study is largely dependent on the feedback received from existing stakeholders, as well as staff and volunteers at specified existing centres. As such there is obvious diversity in some opinions, and conflicting ideas, often dependent upon the perspective of the individual.

It is proposed that as a result of these initial findings, the Committee seeks to arrange a facilitated workshop, with all stakeholders invited to attend, to discuss the project and to determine how this might evolve into a formal development proposal or project that can ultimately be presented to Council for approval, and to funding agencies for support.

PAST RESOLUTIONS

Not applicable

FINANCIAL AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the development of "*a community hub where the community can learn about, celebrate and support local Indigenous culture and the natural environment*" is an Objective within the Town of Claremont Corporate Business Plan, this Objective remains unfunded within the Council's Long Term Financial Plan or the current budgets.

POLICY AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Any proposal for this project to progress to funding will require a detailed development plan to be created including anticipated development costs and resourcing models, so that these can be

considered in budget processes and are able to be used to support funding applications (if applicable).

COMMUNICATION / CONSULTATION

Initial consultation has occurred with stakeholders, however more broad based community consultation will be required once the scale and location of any such development is known.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Environmental Sustainability

We are a leader in responsibly managing the built and natural environment for the enjoyment of the community and continue to demonstrate diligent environmental practices.

- Take a leadership in the community in environmental sustainability.

URGENCY

No urgency in respect to this matter.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority decision of Council (*More than half the elected members present are required to vote in favour*).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee requests support for the holding of a facilitated workshop with Committee Members and stakeholder representatives, to discuss the potential development of an Indigenous, Education and Environmental Centre at Lake Claremont.

Terms of Reference

Study into the Development of an Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre

Overview

The Council's Corporate Business Plan for 2018-2021 provides that one of the outcomes sought by the Plan under **Objective 4.3: Protect and conserve the natural flora and fauna of the River Foreshore and Lake Claremont**, is to;

To create a community hub where the community can learn about, celebrate and support local Indigenous culture and the natural environment.

Thus far this outcome has not been achieved, and the development of the Community Hub is also not reflected in the Council's Long Term Financial Plan, or funded as any stand-alone study within the current 2019/20 approved budget.

This means that without intervention or development of this Study, the outcome sought by the Corporate Business Plan will not be realised or even considered in greater detail by the time the Plan expires in 2021. It should also be noted that whilst listed in the Corporate Plan, its absence in either the Long Term Financial Plan or being funded as stand-alone study may reflect some dissention in respect to the importance of the project amongst stakeholders and Councillors.

The purpose therefore of this study is to further populate the discussion with respect to this proposed facility, without giving any firm expectations that this in any way commits the Council to the delivery of development of this facility, whilst also achieving the following outcomes;

- Better understand the requirement for such a facility,
- Understand the role of its stakeholders in the facility,
- Understand the opinions of these stakeholders with respect to this facility,
- Understand how the facility might be developed,
- Where it might be located,
- What the cost of development and operation of this centre might be,
- What services and functionalities this facility might provide, and
- How such a facility might be managed or operated.

Background

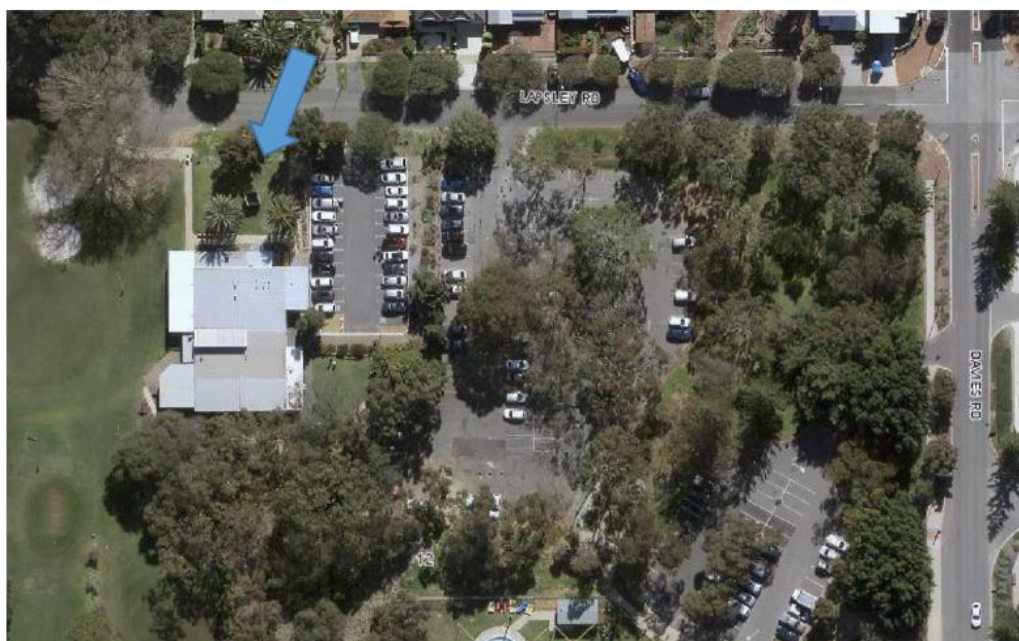
A review of the corporate and other associated documents has revealed that there is very limited information in respect to this proposed facility, other than the general statement in the Town's Corporate Business Plan.

Despite this, it is understood that the premise and role of this facility is quite well known amongst some stakeholders, although it is unclear as to whether each stakeholder shares the same opinion, or if there are some variations in respect to their understanding or expectations with respect to the project.

Most importantly in developing this Study, the engagement of stakeholders will be a critical element of this process in clearly defining how, what, where and why this building is being built.

Location

Whilst referred to as being part of the Lake, it is understood that the current location proposed for the facility is adjacent to the Lake Claremont Golf Course on Lapsley Road;



The difficulty with this property is that it is currently subject to a commercial lease between the Town of Claremont and lessee of the Golf Course, so understanding both how such a facility (if located at this site) would integrate with the Golf Course, public toilets and the aspirations of the Golf Course lessee is also critical to this project.

It must also be considered that the Study may simply conclude that the facility will need to be located at this site when the current lease expires (negating any concerns of the lessee), or that another alternate location is more suitable.

Stakeholders

As mentioned, a critical element of this study is engaging stakeholders in order to develop a more complete and thorough understanding of this proposed project, its vision, how it is to operate and the role and function of each of these stakeholders (and who they represent) both with respect to its management, operation and funding as the project evolves.

Thus far the following stakeholders have been identified as being possibly associated with this project, and therefore should be included in any discussion or survey;

Friends of Lake Claremont

- President – Nick Cook 0401 376 085, nickcook321@yahoo.com.au
- Email contact@freindsoflakeclaremont.org

Scotch College

- Contact - David Kyle, david.kyle@scotch.wa.edu.au

Christchurch School

- Neil Saggars, nsaggars@ccgs.wa.edu.au

City of Nedlands

- Contact – Councillor Kerry Smyth, cr.smyth@nedlands.wa.gov.au

Aboriginal Elder

- Iva Hayward Jackson 0420 466 361, nyungah64@gmail.com

FORM

- Lynda Dorrington lynda.dorrington@form.net.au

In addition the Town of Claremont would be represented in this Study by the following person;

- Cr Bruce Haynes, Chairman of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, Bhaynes@claremont.wa.gov.au

It is also recognized that during these discussions further stakeholders may well become identified, and if considered appropriate the Study should expend to include the engagement of these stakeholders to ensure that the full understanding is obtained.

Funding

In considering this project, it must also be recognised that the Long Term Financial Plan for the Town of Claremont does not include this facility as funded capital project. As such, any proposal will both be a new addition to this Plan, but will also need to clearly articulate how the facility might be funded, both during the construction phase, and beyond construction during its operation and management.

The Study should therefore endeavor to identify possible funding sources (both from already existing examples of similar such projects) and from available State and Federal Government funding opportunities.

Private funding or sponsorship may also be considered appropriate for this type of project, and companies such as Alcoa (and others) may have funding programs suitable for consideration for this purpose.

In respect to operation beyond the construction phase, stakeholders should be asked their opinion in respect to management, if the facility will be fee paying, or how income will be generated to offset running and maintenance costs.

Management

Whilst the project is thus far considered as a Town of Claremont initiative, further supported by how this study is being developed, this Study may reveal options for the management of both the project itself during its evolution, design and implementation and also beyond its construction.

The Lake Claremont Advisory Committee and the Friends of Lake Claremont are considerable success stories individually, so there may be an opportunity to consider a Board approach to management of the facility, with stakeholders and partners contributing to its management through a delegated committee for some other structure.

Other Examples

The most recent example of a comparative facility is the development of the Canning River Eco Education Centre;

<https://www.canning.wa.gov.au/places-and-events/places-to-learn/canning-river-eco-education-centre>

Its objective is listed as providing “*sustainability and environmental education through its fieldwork and programs to support children, adults, schools, community groups and the general public.*”

This particular facility opened in 2008 was developed through a joint working group comprising the Department of Environment of Conservation, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Housing and Works, Swan River Trust and local community representatives.

Given the proximity and relative age of this facility, this may be an ideal starting point to ensure that the draft survey effectively captures the information that should be sought from stakeholders within the survey.

Piney Lakes Education Centre

Another example of a comparative centre that should be investigated for comparison is at Piney Lakes, located in the City of Melville.

Whilst operating for a considerably longer period of time than the comparative centre in the City of Canning, the Piney Lakes Centre has some elements that are comparable with the broad intent of the centre for Claremont, so may be of benefit as a reference.

A link to the centre and the programs offered is available via the following link;

<https://www.melvillecity.com.au/waste-and-environment/piney-lakes/piney-lakes-education-programs>

Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre

In 1984, the WA Gould League (WAGL) was successful in having the Herdsmen Lake Wildlife Centre built and was appointed manager of this facility by the State Government.

WAGL has leveraged Department of Education sponsorship with other education stakeholders, such as the Catholic Education Office WA, the University of WA and through Federal and State grants.

In addition the WAGL supplies award-winning science and Aboriginal education learning experiences to the WA school community.

<https://www.wagouldleague.com.au/>

Tasks

1. Meet with representatives of the;

- City of Canning Canning River Eco Education Centre;
- Piney lakes Education Centre, and
- Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre

Discuss;

- Functions and role of this facility
- Management strategy
- Funding models (Both for capital development and operation of center post construction)
- Centre partners, programs or strategies undertaken through the center
- Staffing and other financial resources provided by the City of Canning

2. Based on the feedback and information received from the City of Canning, update or modify the draft questionnaire to suit the purpose of the exercise and to illicit the appropriate information from stakeholders.

3. Engage stakeholders through the use of the draft questionnaire (as amended).

4. Compile the information as obtained from the engagement of stakeholders

5. Develop a broad report in respect to this proposed project using key heading including (but not limited to);

- Function
- Purpose
- Stakeholders
- Funding Partners
- Location
- Management of Facility

Draft Questionnaire**Proposed Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre**

The following questions are proposed to illicit sufficient information from stakeholders so that a full and proper understanding of the proposed project can be understood, including the relevant opinion, expectation or role of the stakeholder in respect to this proposed project;

1. Are you aware of the proposal to consider the development of an Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre?

2. What is your understanding as to what such a facility would (or should include) ?

3. Are you aware of any proposed location for this proposed facility?

4. Provide the stakeholder with a location plan for the proposed facility.

Do you consider this location is suitable for the proposed facility and its intended purposes?

[illegible]

Study into the Development of an
Environmental, Indigenous and Education
Centre at Lake Claremont

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Purpose of this study

This is a preliminary study into the development of an Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre at Lake Claremont (EIDC). Lake Claremont is situated approximately ten kilometres south west of Perth and is located within the Municipality of the Town of Claremont.

This study aims to provide a broad understanding of the following aspects for this potential development:

- To better understand the requirement for such a facility
- Understand the role of its stakeholders in the facility
- Understand the opinions of these stakeholders with respect to this facility
- Understand how the facility might be developed
- Where it might be located
- *What the cost of development and operation of this centre might be*
- What services and functionalities this facility might provide and
- How such a facility might be managed or operated

The purpose of the centre

The aims and objects from the Town of Claremont Corporate Business Plan 2018-2021 and the Lake Claremont Management Plan provide a broad vision for the proposed Lake Claremont Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre for this study.

The Town of Claremont Corporate Business Plan for 2018 -2021 provides that one of the outcomes sought by the Plan under **Objective 4.3: Protect and conserve the natural flora and fauna of the River Foreshore and Lake Claremont** is to:

To create a community hub where the community can learn about, celebrate and support local Indigenous culture and the natural environment.

The Lake Claremont Management Plan 2010 has the following aims which, in addition to Objective 4.3, states:

- *That the Town of Claremont, in conjunction with the Claremont Museum, undertake research on the history of land use of the lake and its environs with a view to providing suitable interpretative material in the form of signs brochures to enhance visitor experience and appreciation of the historical, cultural and social significance of the area.*
- *That an educational/awareness program be developed jointly with the Council and the Water Corporation to help land holders within the catchment area of the lake to reduce the water use to the minimum requirement and make them aware of the consequences of excessive ground water use.*
- *Town of Claremont considers a change of name of the area to include an appropriate aboriginal name.*

Whilst the Town's Corporate Plan reflects this project as an Objective, this is not reflected in either the Long-Term Financial Plan or the current financial budgets (either as a capital project or funding towards studies or consultancies).

It should also be recognised that the development of this centre is not articulate on any approved master plan or long-term redevelopment plan for the Lake Claremont Reserve. As a result, any proposal to develop within the reserve will require engagement of a variety of stakeholders including Indigenous representatives, residents and the Friends of Lake Claremont.

It is also recognised that in order for this project to be seriously entertained by the Council, it will require investigation and assessment to provide clarity as to what it might involve, how it might be developed, operated and what programs and outcomes might be delivered as a result of its development.

This study therefore seeks to consider all matters that might inform this discussion and enable the Council to ultimately make an informed decision with respect to this project.

Significance of the location

The area in which Lake Claremont is located was originally a large wetland complex which was abundant in plant and animal life. Aboriginal people called the location 'Mooroo', living there for many thousands of years up until the 1940's, when they were evicted during a 'beautification' program.

There remain profound cultural links for aboriginal people to this area.

In the 1900's, the Lake Claremont area was planted with orchards and market gardens and became a favoured destination and picnic spot. The area was later used as a refuse dump and then eventually a golf course. Over the past 20 years the area has been rehabilitated and revegetated by the Friends of Lake Claremont and the Town of Claremont. The area has become a Conservation Category Wetland and is protected under the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992. Lake Claremont has been recognised by the Government of Western Australia – System 6 Study and is prominent in the Government of Western Australia – Bush Forever Report (2000). The site is also subject to protection under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The Need for the Centre

Lake Claremont has deep cultural significance for the local Nyungar people, and they have expressed an interest in sharing with the community.

Lake Claremont has a unique history, geography, and ecology, and provides an example of exemplary conservation management and revegetation of a wetland complex on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Local Claremont schools want to engender stewardship and understanding of 'their' natural areas and have students learn about and participate in conservation management and truly appreciate the local Nyungar heritage/practises and perspectives.

Scientific evidence and industry experience suggest that immersive education experiences like outdoor classrooms, Nature play and Nyungar Science programs that bring children into direct contact with nature are vital for meaningful and impactful understanding of these issues and perspectives. Extended time spent in nature is increasingly lacking in most school children's lives. This 'nature deficit' is impacting on children's cognition and mental and physical health (e.g. <https://www.natureplaywa.org.au/programs/nature-playgrounds/benefits>).

Through the undertaking of this study, acquired anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a high demand for outdoor nature programs like those at Kings Park and Nearer to Nature, currently occurring over the metro area and beyond.

There are already a significant number of well-established environmental education centres and programs across the Swan Coastal Plain, telling the 'stories' about the modified wetlands, the endemic flora and fauna of these places and the impacts/uses of humans, including the need for reducing water consumption and the impacts of high nutrient run off.

In assessing the proposal to develop an education centre at Lake Claremont we need to address the following questions:

- Do education centres remain as the most effective way to create needed behaviour change and deeper appreciation of environmental issues?
- What lessons can be learned from those already in place?
- Can education and learning at Lake Claremont be delivered through other methods and the use or integration with existing nearby centres?

Initial anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the existing Environmental Centres (Piney Lakes Education Centre, Canning River Eco Education Centre, Herdsman Lake Centre) are facing funding cuts and needing to diversify and extend their core business to remain viable.

A consequence of these funding restrictions is that previously operated education programs are being reduced in their scale and content, resulting in them delivering an often non-competitive product in an already over supplied market.

Initial findings have suggested that whilst Environmental education is well catered for in the vicinity of Claremont, Indigenous Science and Cultural education is far less available and may provide a natural gap in the market place.

During this study, a number of the existing Environmental education providers expressed an interest in supporting tailored programs and outreach at Lake Claremont aimed at surrounding schools and the community. Leading providers such as Kings Park, Nearer to Nature, and Birds WA have also suggested that real environmental education outcomes and developing increased stewardship and appreciation of the natural environment is more effective in outdoor classrooms. They believe this is the most 'feasible and effective option for students and the community' *to learn about, celebrate and support local Indigenous culture and the natural environment.*

As such, the way education programs are delivered needs also to be considered in this assessment.

During consultation with Iva Hayward-Jackson, an Indigenous Elder, it was advised that programs that allow for learning about Aboriginal culture and science are largely impossible to do in a building with outdoor classrooms in country considered to be a far more effective approach.

It is also important to consider that there are already education programs currently occurring at Lake Claremont - FOLC currently operate 'Night Chats' and a 'Year 10 Community Service' school program for Christchurch and Scotch College schools. Would the development of a centre therefore seek to replace these program, or relocate them to the new facility, or can the centre be delivered through the existing infrastructure and in conjunction with the form of existing education programs.

It has also been suggested that the development of a new centre might provide the opportunity for the display of the Indigenous history and white settlement relating to the Lake, however in considering this interpretive element it also needs to be considered that:

- Funding for Interpretive Centres is difficult to secure
- The Freshwater Bay Museum will provide the venue for many such historical displays, including the Wadjuk Trail, which includes connection to Lake Claremont.
- Research during the design phase of the Freshwater Bay Museum concluded that modern museums or displays have to continually change to reflect new content, otherwise the display becomes stale and the centre relies only on new customers with little chance of repeat business.

Education Centres and Nature Programs near Lake Claremont

Education Centres and nature programs near Lake Claremont include:

1. Herdsman lake
2. Kings Park
3. Bold Park
4. Harry Butler Institute
5. Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre
6. Canning River Eco education centre
7. Nearer to Nature
8. Wildflower Society
9. Birds Australia

The existing Centres have been individually assessed with respect to:

- Their location, role and function
- Management and funding model, and
- Any potential for a relationship with the proposed Lake Claremont Centre

Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre

Location and content

The Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre is located on the edge of Herdsman Lake and provides an opportunity for the community to interact with the research being conducted there. Activities run by the centre include bird walks, information nights, night stalks and wildlife excursions.

Management and funding

The Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre is run by part-time staff and was once funded by the Department of Education. Due to funding cuts the WA Gould League now manages the centre.

The Gould League website states *“the WA Gould League manages the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre within the [Herdsman Lake Regional Park](#). The staff positions at the Wildlife Centre are a partnership between the WA Department of Education and the WA Gould League. The staff report through the Department of Education's North Metropolitan Regional Office and takes direction from the Council of the WA Gould League. The Centre Manager is responsible for promoting the Gould League, developing and coordinating the environmental education programs and for raising awareness of the State's flora, fauna and wildlife conservation.”*

Kings Park

Location

King Park Botanical Gardens.

Management and funding

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Content

Kings Park Education provides hands-on, inquiry-based education programs for students from Kindergarden to Tertiary. Programs highlight *“the unique plants, people and places of Western Australia and the role we can all play in a sustainable future. All programs are delivered by qualified educators in line with the Western Australian Curriculum. Self-guided excursions are also available”*.

Suggestions and recommendations for partnership with the Town of Claremont

The Kings Park education manager stated during the engagement process that their research has concluded that *‘real environmental education outcomes and developing increased stewardship and appreciation of the natural environment is more effective in outdoor classrooms’*.

The Kings Park Education Manager has suggested that an outreach program facilitated by them on behalf or in partnership with Town of Claremont would be more feasible in respect to costs, considering their experience and longevity in this sector. They have also offered to tailor programs for Lake Claremont within their already existing programs.

Similar such outreach programs have been supported by other local governments and ‘Friends Groups’ – with some grants available for one-off programs.

Bold Park

Location

Bold Park.

Management and funding

Bold Park is managed by Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA or Authority). The BGPA receives significant funding from the State Government of Western Australia, with additional revenue generated through various commercial activities.

Content

At Bold Park, declared an A Class reserve in 1998, volunteers offer seasonal guided walks which showcase a stunning array of native plants and animals and bring to life the Park’s fascinating biodiversity, geology, turbulent history and current conservation projects. At Reabold Hill there is a boardwalk leading to the highest natural point on the Swan Coastal Plain, with informative interpretive signage.

Harry Butler - State-of-the-art environmental education

Location

Murdoch University - Bibra Lake.

Management and funding

According to the Harry Butler website *'\$25 million in Federal funding has been announced for the creation of a world-first facility to transform environmental education in Western Australia. The Harry Butler Environmental, Education Centre will bring together researchers, students, private industry and the wider community to learn and explore the benefits that economic development can deliver to protecting our natural environment'*.

Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre

Location

City of Melville.

Management and funding

The Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre is a venue available for hire by the local community and is a place for environmental education. They aim to promote environmental awareness, respect for Nyungar Boodja and encourage positive behavioural change towards sustainable living practices.

Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre has two function rooms and a grassed amphitheatre available for hire by the local community. The centre aims to minimise its impact on the local environment by using alternative sources of energy and reducing waste. The facility is Local government funded.

The Centre is currently undergoing a feasibility study in respect to its role and service delivery. The use of part-time staff means that the centre has had limited resources to create programs and therefore their programs are not encouraging strong levels of attendance.

Content

Sustainability education programs

Canning River Eco education centre Canning River Eco Education Centre/café (CREEC)

Location

Canning River Regional Park.

Management and funding

Project developed as a joint State - City of Canning initiative.

The centre is currently staffed with 2 part-time staff due to a recent decrease in operational funding. The Department of Education initially funded an Education officer and an Education program for 2-3 years after the centre opened, but this has now ceased as in the case of Herdsman Lake.

The City is currently considering re-development of the centre, including considerations such as flexible spaces with movable walls for exhibitions, offering memberships, locating a Waste Officer at the Centre, creating a resource centre, offering partnerships with small business including providing

natural spaces where people can work either in the form of alternate office accommodation or incubation.

Content

Aims to provide Environmental education on the banks of the Canning River, an interpretation gallery and resources.

Nearer to Nature now runs the school program, which is very popular.

Staff at CREEC do bookings, support the Nearer to Nature program and manage the resources that are used in these programs.

Nearer to Nature – Parks and Wildlife Land

Location

Based in the Perth Hills Discovery Centre.

Management and funding

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions - Parks and Wildlife

Content

According to the website the Nearer to Nature program *'provides opportunities for children of all ages to take part in hands-on, experimental learning in the natural environment. They offer programs from diverse locations in the Perth metro area and beyond'*.

Suggestions and recommendations for partnership with Town of Claremont -

The Centre has advised that they would potentially like to partner with the Town of Claremont, with an initial test program being held during a school holiday and growing the program and interest from there.

They would have the Town promote the programs, similarly in the way they run programs at Piney Lakes, Canning Eco Education Centre and the City of Joondalup.

Wildflower Society of Western Australia

Location

Perry Lakes, Floreat.

Management and funding

Not-for-profit group.

Content

Promoting the conservation and enjoyment of wildflowers in WA.

Uses various sites for meetings and excursions and training and information days.

Suggestions and recommendations for partnership with ToC

Expressed no interest in accessing the Education building at Lake Claremont at this stage.

Birds of WA

Location

Peregrine House, Floreat.

Management and funding

Not-for-profit group.

Looking for new premises along with the WA Naturalists group.

Content

Birds of WA offers a wide variety of activities for members and the general community, excursions, education, monthly meetings, projects and photography. Their office has field guides and bird brochures and more.

Suggestions and recommendations for partnership with ToC

Looking to outreach to the broader community and to promote an interest in birdlife, they are already active at Lake Claremont and keen to partner with Town of Claremont if the new centre or programs provide opportunity.

Stakeholder Perspectives

In addition to the location of any such centre, it is recognised that the centre's success may well rely on the ability of the centre to engage with stakeholders, develop programs that best meet the target audiences, attract funding, and develop the most appropriate model in respect to resourcing and staffing.

Whilst it is unclear as to the extent of involvement any of the below stakeholders may have in the proposed centre, initial discussions were held to ascertain their thoughts on such a facility, the programs that might be delivered and what role (if any) their group or body might have in respect to such a development.

Stakeholders List

1. Scotch College
2. Christchurch School

3. City of Nedlands
4. Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC)
5. Aboriginal Elder - Iva Hayward Jackson
6. Claremont Golf Course – Nigel Williams (not confirmed at time of writing)
7. WESROC (not confirmed at time of writing)
8. FORM (not confirmed at time of writing)
9. Counsellor Bruce Haynes – Chair of Lake Claremont Advisory Committee

Questionnaire questions and discussion points

Each stakeholder was presented with a questionnaire (see appendix 1) and asked to express their ideas and visions and understanding for the centre.

Overall, there was general support for the idea of an education centre/program, but no expressed desire to provide management or funding towards such a facility.

The ideas expressed below are those by each of the named stakeholders, the author of this study has endeavoured to summarise the ideas and opinions as offered by each stakeholder during these discussions.

Scotch College - David Kyle

Suggested location and content for the Lake Claremont Centre

Considers the best place for the Centre would be the Eastern Bank of the Lake. The school would be willing to contribute with archives and resources, documenting the changes in Swanbourne and Claremont over time.

Suggested Funding sources

The school would consider funding proposals based on the final form of the proposal.

Christchurch School

Suggested location and content for the Lake Claremont Centre

Would like an inclusive and accessible interactive world class education facility. Would like to see student/staff involvement in consultation and planning for the centre and the use of technology to make experiences 1st class. Involve a student-led committee to advise and develop learning experiences.

Covering historical lineage and indigenous links, Government and community involvement so far, Flora and Fauna, native and introduced species, current management issues and ongoing solutions, vision and projects working towards this

Consider suitable locations to be southern end, near golf centre, and the northeast corner with modification of road access.

Management

A possible ongoing roster of volunteers to assist visitors. Much of the centre could/should be self-led interactive, with volunteers on hand to assist or facilitate groups.

Funding

Possible funding partner with support for joint applications to Lotterywest or others.

Friends of Lake Claremont

Suggested location and content for the Lake Claremont Centre

The members of the FOLC board support the idea of an Education Centre and believe the Golf Course to be the best location considering its proximity to the Lake and the infrastructure already in place there.

They would be happy to help provide materials for the interpretive aspects of the centre and to provide promotion but are not willing to staff the centre in a volunteer capacity, as their core business is the management of natural areas around the Lake and not as education facilitators. They would like to see ToC staff to run the centre in either a full-time or part-time capacity.

They believe the centre should include history, changes of Claremont (indigenous and European/post European settlement), cultural changes over time, ecological/environmental changes (effects of climate change) and multiple age appropriate material. Specific ideas include that the centre should act as base for guided walks, place of static and interactive displays, with potentially the use the rooms for Night Chats.

Management

Management and upkeep through revenues, perhaps with provision of office space for other businesses and/or other ToC staff i.e. Council rangers or WESROC staff.

Funding

FOLC are happy to be a conduit for funding through one-off nature-based programs and other activities.

FOLC may also be willing to support funding applications with references and specific material. However, FOLC would not be able to fund the centre within its current remit, and the funding agencies FOLC uses tend not to support infrastructure not directly involved in environmental restoration.

Notes

FOLC already run education programs with the resources and infrastructure that already exists. FOLC run 'Night Chats' from the tennis club rooms which is suitable for this purpose. They are not looking to change this arrangement. They also support the Duke of Edinburgh program and support a year 10 boy's community works program weekly at the Lake.

Aboriginal Elder - Iva Hayward Jackson

Suggested location and content for the Lake Claremont Centre

The FOLC shed is already a suitable place with space for the storage of any artefacts or resources and has a gathering space under the Paperbark trees.

Concerns in respect to the building of another 'show case' Aboriginal education has to do with using nature, culture and the local community. It has got to do with the connection to land and the water.

The project could instead consider building an addition to the FOLC shed, so we can hear the rain on the tin roof. We could use the outside space – put down jarrah logs, carve into them, create a meeting place, put down kangaroo skins, sit out under the night sky. Paint the outside of the shed.

Content

An Aboriginal education program is really about providing a spiritual introduction to the country for 'newcomers'. In delivering indigenous programs, it would be preferred to employ the local indigenous community.

If a program is land based and nature based, we are more comfortable. It is more authentic. We can use the rehabilitated remnant bushland and wetland around Lake Claremont. This is more precious than ever. We can extend on that and increase the ecological health.

We could use some signage in the bush and maybe some paths to certain places.

Showcasing Boodjar (country), culture, dreaming, truth telling, Aboriginal science, the beauty of how the ancients lived on this place. That there were people from the upper Swan, the river and the wetland.

Showcasing living aboriginal Science – the complexity, the interconnectedness. How and when food was caught, how the ecosystem was protected, how this occurred for thousands of years.

Management

Nyungar-led indigenous programs

Councillor Bruce Haynes

Several years ago, Scotch College was keen to build either an EI Centre or an early childhood centre near the Golf Clubhouse.

The small plot immediately to the north of the Golf Clubhouse seems to me to be the only viable location. It is under the control of the ToC, close to parking and toilets (thus avoiding the cost of providing toilets but thereby increasing the operational issues of school groups using public toilets). It could be located east of the playground/BBQ and that has a larger area and parking but further from facilities. A suggestion was put forward to locate it near the FOLC shed but I regard that as out of the question as being inaccessible and requiring a dedicated toilet block.

Such a small facility would have the limitation of not easily being able to cope with school groups of 60 or 90 students at a time, as Herdsman does. That is one reason for a close cooperation with whatever Herdsman and the Claremont Museum evolve into being post CV19.

As a baseline expectation, I assume the Centre would provide WA Curriculum related courses for schools in both environmental and indigenous education. The latter being provided by appropriate qualified indigenous staff/contractors and be both designed specifically for school needs and on the basis of initiation by the local indigenous community.

It would also provide specific courses for university students and support for university researchers.

In addition, it would provide incidental public education, either by way of specific open access programs or contracted by other organisations. FOLC Night Chats could be a regular offering and supplemented as desirable by the Centre.

Apart from form organised offerings, the Centre could provide incidental education on demand by visiting members of the public, viz static displays, on demand video presentations on specialised topics (e.g. edited videoed Night Chats), or chats with the on duty volunteer. It is possible that the Museum might find it appropriate to develop courses, displays and resources that are more appropriately delivered/housed at the Centre.

Probably, the most significant factor in deciding what the Centre might do will depend on the nature of engagement by Scotch College in the first instance and other local schools in support.

I assume the Centre would be part of the ToC organisation, much in the same way as the Museum. However, I have seen the Museum change from a volunteer run organisation to a professionally staffed operation with significant salary consequences. That is why I am keen to see cooperation between the Museum, EI Centre, Herdsman and (possibly) Star Swamp. I would hope that advertising, booking and financial operations could be handled centrally for all these centres, thus reducing the work and cost and increasing effectiveness.

The EI Centre would need a ToC officer in charge (whether part or full time would depend on how operations evolve) but staffing for the following functions to be as indicated

- SCHOOL COURSES: qualified teacher - either Scotch College or volunteer roster
- INDIGENOUS EDUCATION: Qualified appropriate Indigenous contractors
- CENTRE OPERATION: Volunteer (FOLC?) for maintaining opening hours
- INCIDENTAL WALKS/COURSES: Volunteer (e.g. FOLC, BirdLife, Wildflower Society, etc.)

Until we have something more in the way of a firm proposal is it hard for me to identify sources of funding. I think we should look to the State/Commonwealth for initial construction costs but develop a model that is sustainable on local resources. Herdsman has shown how reliance on the State for operational funds is problematic.

I think a meeting of potential stakeholders would be a useful step at some stage in this preliminary process of developing a report that could go to the LCAC for recommendation to Council in the mid-year Budget review.

Summary of Initial Findings

Location

Whilst there were several sites suggested during stakeholder discussions, in respect to the possible location of this Centre, many of these related to the relationship between the stakeholder and the

proposed location. So, whilst some preferred the site adjacent to the Golf Club, others preferred alternate locations in proximity to a specific school, or adjacent to the FOLC shed.

Each site has benefits and drawbacks, particularly related to facilities, access and parking.

When assessing options for the location, proximity to a funding partner may need to be considered as one of the elements that informs the final decision.

Research of existing centres has shown that there has been a considerable drop in patronage and interest in such facilities beyond the initial development phase. Developing business models that provide the ability to vary the program will be essential in having a long-term sustainable model for development.

Whilst a program based on the delivery of an education curriculum may provide the source funding or fee structure to offset facility costs, such arrangements are rarely long term, so the centre will need to be able to operate and exist without such funding if required.

The inability to provide such flexibility and diversity of funding has resulted in a number of the centres now having to reduce programs, reduce staffing and considerably change their delivery models.

Function and Role

It is clear from the feedback received from stakeholders, as well as the experiences shared by existing centres and their staff, that there is a wide array of ideas and options that might inform the function and role of the centre.

Whilst there were some consistencies in respect to these roles and functions (such as education) other uses such as historical displays, or indigenous education require greater investigation as to how these might occur, who the target audience is, and in the case of indigenous education, if the development of a 'centre' is required at all, or if this can be accommodated through existing facilities.

Funding

Whilst there was a limited number of 'offers' received for funding towards the proposed facility from any of the stakeholders, this is not indicative of any lack of interest, but perhaps more related to the lack of clarity as to what is being intended to be built or how it will be operated at this early stage.

Research in respect to existing such centres has however revealed that whilst funding was often sourced both for the initial capital contribution and in some cases ongoing operational costs, operational funds have largely dried up and many centres, having been developed on the basis of having such funding available, are now being forced to completely review their operations and in some cases materially change the role that the centres play in order to generate the income required to offset operational costs.

This in particular is a cause for some concern, as many of these centres were designed and resourced on the basis of providing educational programs, often as part of school curriculum, however it is clear that this has not remained as a constant, and the funds anticipated to be generated from these activities appear to have significantly reduced.

In respect to funding, it is unclear as to what funding remains available for such centres (through State or Federal Sources). Whilst traditionally it was considered reasonable to design and conceptualise a new facility, and then seek funding based on this proposal, it is evident that many funding programs have a limited shelf life and are often terminated or completely changed in terms of their priorities and directions over time.

As such, maintaining a constant understanding of what funding is available through both State and Federal sources, and considering varying the 'centre' to meet funding pre requisites may be something that has to be genuinely considered if the project is to be competitive as a funding application.

There are of course other funding options, including private investment or other arrangements with large companies, educational institutions or others. Such proposals may generate the funding required but can only legitimately be consider once the details of the project are fully understood and the development proposal is fully understood and articulated.

Conclusion

Whilst this study has aimed to collate a wide array of information and the thoughts and opinions of a varying group of stakeholders, it is clear that there are several items that need to discussed in greater detail, and through which may inform how such a centre might be developed, where it might be located, how it might be funded and how it may be operated and resourced.

It is therefore suggested that a facilitated workshop is held, with all stakeholders invited to attend, to discuss the project and to determine how this might evolve into a formal development proposal or project, that can ultimately be presented to Council for approval, and to funding agencies for support.

Appendix 1

Questionnaire**Proposed Environmental, Indigenous and Education Centre**

1. Are you aware of the proposal to consider the development of an Environmental, Indigenous and education Centre?
2. What is your understanding as to what such a facility would (or should include)?
3. Are you aware of any proposed location for this proposed facility?
4. What do you consider to be the best location of the centre?
5. What role do you consider your agency would (or should) have with respect to the proposed facility (if any)?
6. Do you consider that your agency would be a funding partner with respect to this proposed facility, or act as a conduit to obtain funding through another party?
7. Do you have any expectations or opinions as the manner of the management of this proposed facility, its staffing or operation?
8. Do you have any additional feedback in respect to this proposed project?

6 OTHER REPORTS

6.1 FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT

File Number: GOV/00051-03, D-20-41467

Author: Isabelle Cadman, Administration Officer Infrastructure

Authoriser: Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Friends of Lake Claremont Update - October 2020 [!\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1_img.jpg\)](#) 

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receives the Friends of Lake Claremont Update for October 2020.



Friends of Lake Claremont Ltd. Quarterly Update: October 2020

Progress - Current Grant Projects

FOLC continue to assess grant funding opportunities for a range of potential projects.

Hand Weeding.

FOLC have received a \$20,000 Commonwealth grant to engage hand weeding contractors. GreenSkills commenced in August. Focus is on Remnant bush and wetland buffer.

FOLC have recently (October) won a \$15,000 SALP grant for hand weeding in 2021

Grant Applications

Application has been made for a \$1500 grant from RealEstate.com sponsored by Simon McGrath. If successful the funds will be used to purchase 3 x trail cameras for the purpose of fauna and feral monitoring.

FOLC will be applying for a grant from Plantrite to fund infill planting in 2021

Recurring Projects on the Ground

FOLC Busy Bee – 2nd Sunday of the Month: BusyBees continue to be well attended as well as attracting new members. Focus has been on hand weeding.

Year 10 Community Service Program: Most Friday afternoons Feb. – Oct. Focus has been on mulching path edges and hand weeding

Adopt a Spot: Individuals adopt a kitchen sized plot of the park to keep rubbish and weed free all year. Mostly at 2019 planting site.

Monday and Friday Morning Weeding Group: Continuing manual weed control. We now have 2 small groups running twice a week. Focus is now on the remnant bush and wetland buffer.

Planting: Planning for 2021 is underway with draft plant order compiled for infill planting

FOLC/TOC collaboration; FOLC and TOC continue to discuss framework for future collaboration.

FOLC have had stakeholder meetings with TOC fire Ecologist (consultant) regarding future fuel management and revegetation plans.

Yam Project

FOLC are collaborating with TOC and Traditional Custodian Iva Hayward Jackson to reintroduce the native Yam to the site. Yam planting completed. Approx 50 yams planted on island near Creswell (this site was chosen because it was not contaminated by landfill) and a planter box at FOLC shed. FOLC are putting together a short film to document the project

Current membership number: 181+



FOLC Events

Night Chats at the Lake – Monthly talks (4th Tuesday every month) recommenced in August. At capacity every month

Walk and talk with Scotch College Pre-primary (August)

BHP Corporate Day- FOLC hosted BHP in September in partnership with VWA.
Mulching path edges and weeding

FOLC member David Free conducted a guided bird walk for our members in late October

Planning is underway for a 1 day ‘workshop’ with Millennium Kids to be held on Nov 15

Publicity

FOLC Newsletter: Circulated to Committee members

Newspaper Articles: WSW article on Raven predation of turtles (September) link below
<https://www.perthnow.com.au/community-news/western-suburbs-weekly/preying-ravens-blamed-for-lake-claremont-turtle-deaths-c-1289124?fbclid=IwAR2tSqCKMspl3JZ4qIGx28xy8iwrkd93GileWCv4qu8GrPyl6NudMKEpEp4>

Website: www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org Recently upgraded to handle online membership renewals.

FaceBook: 1326+ followers

Fundraising

Royal Show cancelled 2020

Other Business

FOLC Board has approved \$5,000 in additional funding for hand weeding contractors.

FOLC have taken on 5x Duke of Edinburgh candidates. 2x CCGS students and 3x Perth Modern

FOLC and TOC collaborated on the construction of a “turtle tunnel” located near the Henshaw drain. It is hoped this will provide some protection from Raven predation as the turtles leave the wetland to nest.

FOLC were approached by a PhD researcher in Canada studying the predation of turtles by Corvids (Ravens). Lake Claremont will feature as a case study in this global research. PhD research paper is in final drafting stages.

Meetings with TOC: operational meetings between TOC and FOLC will now be twice yearly.
Last meeting 20 October

6.2 LAKE CLAREMONT BIRD CENSUS FOR SPRING 2020

File Number: GOV/00051-03, D-20-41471

Author: Isabelle Cadman, Administration Officer Infrastructure

Authoriser: Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receives the Lake Claremont Bird Census for Spring 2020.

6.3 CITY OF NEDLANDS PROJECTS - UPDATE

File Number: GOV/00051-03, D-20-41475

Author: Isabelle Cadman, Administration Officer Infrastructure

Authoriser: Liz Ledger, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

For the City of Nedlands Councillor Delegate to give an update on the City of Nedlands projects which are of interest to the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the updates on the City of Nedlands projects.

7 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE APPROVED BY THE PRESIDING PERSON OR BY DECISION OF MEETING

9 FUTURE MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 February 2021, 8:00AM

Thursday, 6 May 2021, 8:00AM

Thursday, 12 August 2021, 8:00AM

Thursday, 18 November 2021, 8:00AM

10 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE OF MEETING