



TOWN OF CLAREMONT
FORESHORE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MINUTES
27 FEBRUARY 2019


Liz Ledger
Chief Executive Officer

Date 1 March 2019

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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7 REPORTS OF THE CEO

7.1 UPDATES AND ITEM FOR DISCUSSION - FORESHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

File No: PRK/00137
Responsible Officer: Andrew Smith
Director - Infrastructure
Author: Andrew Head
Manager Parks and Environment
Proposed Meeting Date: 27 February 2019

Purpose

To provide updates to the Committee on pertinent items and matters that have been raised for discussion by Committee members during the prior period.

Background

Updates or information have been requested in respect to the following items by members of the Committee during the prior period;

1. Updates on progress of drainage of Bethesda and Claremont Yacht Club car parks.
2. Access to federal grants for remedial foreshore works.
3. Update on rubbish collection by the local schools.

Discussion

Bethesda Development and drain of Overflow Water to the Swan River

The Bethesda car park stormwater drainage was designed as part of their overall development application (DA) submitted to the Town of Claremont and ultimately the Western Australian Planning Commission for final approval.

The drainage system from the roof of the buildings falls to a group of soak well, located within the car park area. This system was designed to cater for a 1:5 or 1:10 rainfall event.

During larger rainfall events in 2018, overflow from the soak wells flowed directly into the river. Following concerns being raised in respect to this issue the Town made contact with both Bethesda and the Swan River Trust to ascertain the extent of the issue and to try and develop a design solution.

The original conditions of approval as issued by the Western Australian Planning Commission required that overflow water in events greater than the capacity of the soak wells could manage, was to be directed into the local government's stormwater system at this location.

Unfortunately, the Town does not have a connection to its storm water system in this location, resulting in no solution to the problem being provided during construction.

Since this issue has been raised, the Town has sought and obtained 'as constructed' drawings of the drainage systems from Bethesda which have been forwarded to the Swan River Trust and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The Commission has since agreed to review the drainage systems, and working with the Swan River Trust determine an outcome that responds to this issue.

Since providing a copy of the 'as-con' drawings to the WAPC, no response has as yet been received in respect to the possible solutions to this issue.

Claremont Yacht Club Car Park drainage issues

Recently the Yacht Club resurfaced their car park adjacent to the River. As part of this work, no provision was made for suitable drainage systems to be incorporated into the design resulting in water from the car park flowing directly to the River.

Once this matter became known, meetings were held between the Town, officers of the Yacht Club and the Swan River Trust in an attempt to resolve this issue. At these meetings the Town sought commitments from the Yacht Club to install drainage swales in the car park to redirect storm water.

The Yacht Club indicated that they had a preference to install an expensive pump system that would capture the water and pump it to a higher point and connection to the existing Yacht Club drainage system.

Unfortunately due to a change in key personnel at the Yacht Club, the commitments given at this meeting did not eventuate, and the issue remained unresolved.

In order to try and resolve the problem, further meetings were held between the Town and the Commodore of the Yacht Club, during which agreement was given to the installation of drainage swales.

The Yacht Club has subsequently appointed a civil engineer to design an appropriate system and submit this for the Town's approval and discussion are currently ongoing between this civil engineer and officers of the Town's Engineering Department.

Claremont Yacht Club Car Park - Installation of Trees and Bollards

The original Development Approval (DA) issued by the Town to the Yacht Club for the car park redevelopment, included the requirement to install several new trees within the car park area and to install bollards on the western side of the car park to restrict vehicle access.

Following these matters being raised by officers of the Town, the Yacht Club has provided details of proposed plantings and the installation of bollards as follows;

- Two Freshwater Paperbark on the river line (one on the western and one on the eastern corner),
- An Agonis on the eastern corner, and
- Five new Saltwater Paperbarks along the car park edge.

The design submitted also includes the bollards on the western side for restricting vehicle access and gravel beds to channel the first flush of stormwater into planted swales to strip hydrocarbons and nutrient load.

Federal Grants for Remedial Foreshore Works

The Town is consistently reviewing available grants to assist with the delivery of designated programs. In respect to Federal Grants officers check the register/database located at <https://www.grants.gov.au/>, which provides scope to both review individual grant programs as well as search within search parameters for particular types of funding.

Unfortunately there does not appear to be any grants currently listed in the Federal Grants database for the types of works identified for the local foreshore.

During the period in review, officers of the Town also met with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in January to discuss the new round of the riverbank grants for 2019 which will be opening shortly.

Officers of the Department provided feedback on the last application and advice in respect to what additional information should be included with any future grant application. The Town is proposing to submit an application for the sand management plan (SMP) as part of this next funding round.

Operational works which are identified in the SMP will be the subject of future riverbank grant applications.

Rubbish Collection by local schools

In December a letter was sent to both Methodist Ladies College (MLC) and Christchurch Grammar School (CCGS) seeking interest in them registering a site for Clean Up Australia Day in March and the ongoing adoption of the foreshore as an area in which to clean up plastics and litter.

Christchurch Grammar School has advised that it is interested in participating in both activities and co-ordinating a program with students in an ongoing capacity.

This program will involve regular beachcombing by students after storm events to collect plastics and litter to help keep that section of foreshore clean and tidy.

Past Resolutions

Foreshore Advisory Committee Meeting [5 December 2018], Recommendation 12/18

That the Committee recommends reapplying for the Riverbank Grant funding in 2019-20 for the development of a sand management plan for Freshwater Bay, with matching Town of Claremont money in 2019-20 budget.

Financial and Staff Implications

Resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocation.

Policy and Statutory Implications

Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995

Local Government Act 1995

And the other relevant document is: WESROC Foreshore Management Plan

Communication / Consultation

Letters to relevant stakeholders as required

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.

- Provide clean, usable, attractive and accessible streetscapes and public spaces.

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.

Leadership and Governance

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

- Continually assess our performance and implement initiatives that drive continuous improvement.
- Develop and build partnerships that support the Town's vision

Urgency

Progress update requiring no action

Voting Requirements

Simple majority decision of Council required.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Ms Brittain, seconded Cr Tulloch

That the Committee notes the progress of the various program activities relating to the Foreshore.

**CARRIED(15/19)
(NO DISSENT)**

7.2 ALGAE BUILD UP AND COMPLAINTS – SWAN RIVER

File No: PRK/00137
Responsible Officer: Andrew Smith
Director - Infrastructure
Author: Andrew Head
Manager Parks and Environment
Proposed Meeting Date: 27 February 2019

Purpose

In recent weeks, the Town has begun to field complaints from members of the community in respect to Algae build up along sections of the river foreshore, and the detrimental impact this is having in respect to odour.

This report considers this issue, the policy position of the Swan River Trust and what options might be available for the Town of Claremont to consider.

Background

On the 28th January the Town received an email from a resident regarding the above and the concern over the odour created by the build-up.

Following receipt of this complaint, officers of the Town made contact with the Department of Biodiversity, Diversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to discuss the issue and to gain an understanding of the current policy position of the Department and under what circumstances they will take remedial action to remove build-up of seaweed on the river foreshore.

Discussion

Every summer, as nutrient load builds up and as temperatures increase, the conditions in the Swan River become ideal for the growth of algae. The algae is free floating (not anchored to the river bed) and so when certain tidal (low) and wind conditions (South Easterly) prevail, it results in this weed being washed up onto Freshwater Bay shoreline between the Yacht Club and Claremont Jetty.

Weed load in the river can only be ideally minimised by reducing nutrient inputs across the entire river system (Swan, Canning and Avon Rivers and their tributaries) or by increasing the stormwater inflow to flush the excess nutrients out.

Generally these weed build up events are short lived and clear up when wind directions change and high tide events allow the build up to be washed back into the river.

When build up reaches a point where recreational activities and access to the river is affected, there is a detrimental impact to residents and recreational users, or when the Town receive a number of separate complaints a request is sent to the DBCA for their consideration and action.

Previous experience with officers of the Department has suggested that the Department prefers to retain the weed in place for a number of reasons, including;

- Food source for the birdlife (Invertebrates/insects)
- Mechanical removal of weed can result in premature and reduced protection from erosion of the foreshore.

The Town also conducts water sampling in the river at three sites to ensure water quality and public health isn't compromised by these types of events, and those results are provided to the Department of Health, who are the agency responsible for determining if health warnings regarding a recreational water body is required.

The Department of Health also provide advice on seagrass odour which can be found here - https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Hydrogen-sulfide-and-public-health this advice states as follows;

"If the hydrogen sulfide is the result of sea grass deposition and decay then usually it only acts as a nuisance.

Deposition occurs on some beaches during winter in particular and often is removed naturally by subsequent storms. Prolonged accumulation can generate an odour problem for nearby residences or passers-by especially if the deposit is being disturbed or when there are light onshore winds.

This does not normally present a potential health risk except for very large amounts of sea grass and major disturbance such as periodically occurs at Port Geographe".

Contact with officers of the Department has been made and the Town has requested a site visit with their officers to review current weed load accumulation and advise if action can be taken to remove excess weed.

Further advice to members of the Advisory Committee will be provided as it becomes available. In the interim, officers will maintain contact with those residents who have raised their concerns in respect to this matter.

Financial and Staff Implications

Resource requirements are in accordance with existing budgetary allocation. No specific provision has been made for the removal of accumulated sea weed on the river foreshore.

Policy and Statutory Implications

*Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995
Local Government Act 1995*

*And the other relevant document is
WESROC Foreshore Management Plan*

Communication / Consultation

Letters can be provided to relevant stakeholders as required if further education is determined as being needed, or there are works programmed to occur in respect to this issue.

Strategic Community Plan

Liveability

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- Continually assess our performance and implement initiatives that drive continuous improvement.
- Develop and build partnerships that support the Town's vision

Urgency

Progress update requiring no action

Voting Requirements

Simple majority decision of the Committee required.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Tulloch, seconded Mr Brereton

That the Committee notes the status of weed accumulation on the Swan River Foreshore and the intent to further update Committee members following on site meetings with officers of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Tulloch, seconded Mr Brereton

Recommends that the Council inspect the build-up of weed, litter and other washed up material next to the yacht club in conjunction with the DBCA, SRT and Yacht Club.

Reason: prevailing currents and winds do not seem to be impacting the build-up of material at this location.

**CARRIED(16/19)
(NO DISSENT)**

