

CLAISE BROOK CATCHMENT GROUP

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Jim Chesterman
WAPC Land Asset Management
469 Wellington Street
Perth, Western Australia 6000

15 September 2006

Dear Mr Chesterman,

Thankyou for forwarding the landscape plan and works program for the river foreshore between Banks Reserve and Bardon Park. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Claise Brook Catchment Group has previously provided verbal feedback to the Town of Vincent on the draft landscape plan, which I understand was forwarded to you, and are pleased to provide written comment. Catchment group members have visited the area and discussed the landscape plan at our May meeting.

The Claise Brook Catchment Group strongly supports the restoration of indigenous vegetation along the river foreshore adjacent to the dual use path, the removal of exotic plants and the protection of the existing areas of indigenous vegetation, particularly the samphire and sedges between the small lakes formed in the former claypits and the river. We support the provision of a small grassed area for recreation but consider that the grassed area should be a reasonable distance away from the wetland pools.

The catchment group encourages the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to consider ways of involving the local community in the restoration of indigenous vegetation to the area. Our group has found that involving the local community in planting increases local understanding of the benefits of using indigenous vegetation thereby increasing local support. Participants in community plantings often become local "watchdogs" who keep an eye on the area when they return to see how "their" plants are doing. Our group unfortunately does not have the resources to organise a community planting, however our members would be happy to participate in a community planting.

The catchment group realises that the removal of all weeds and the restoration of the indigenous vegetation is a major undertaking that is likely to take several years. We consider it is important that the following matters are addressed during and after the restoration process.

Our members are concerned that some of the existing exotic species are currently providing valuable habitat for birds, frogs and other fauna in the area and if wide-scale vegetation removal is undertaken, fauna may suffer. We suggest that a staged approach be taken for weed removal and replacement with indigenous vegetation, to allow fauna to take refuge in remaining vegetation until the replacement vegetation has grown sufficiently to provide replacement habitat.

We also consider that weed control will be a major issue on an ongoing basis, and strongly urge that a comprehensive weed management plan is prepared identifying likely invasive weeds, when and how they should be controlled, and identifying the responsible agency for weed control. The plan should also include recommendations for ongoing plantings of indigenous vegetation to reduce the likelihood of weed infestations.

We have previously written to you regarding the importance of retaining the jetties in this section of the river to provide a controlled means of access to the river foreshore, thereby discouraging

people from trampling foreshore vegetation which could lead to erosion. We hope that at least one the jetties will be retained and be accessible from the cycle path.

We understand that the recreational path was designed not to hinder water movement between the land and the river, however we have noticed water pooling around the recently constructed carpark below St Anne's hospital and suggest that this runoff of water from this large hardstand area needs to be managed appropriately.

The opening of the recreational path has significantly increased the number of people using this section of the foreshore. It is important that a management plan be prepared to identify how issues that are likely to arise from increased usage of the foreshore will be managed. We suggest that the management plan should be submitted to the Swan River Trust for approval. We would also be happy to provide comment. The management plan should ideally address the following:

- Protection of fauna;
- Protection of existing areas of valuable indigenous vegetation (such as the samphire);
- Protection of water quality in the natural springs and wetland pools;
- Prevention of the development of acid-sulphate soils;
- Maintenance of vegetated and lawn areas, particularly in relation to nutrient management;
- Prevention of foreshore erosion;
- Weed management plan (mentioned above);
- Recommended species for further planting;
- Litter;
- Impact of feral animals on fauna, including dogs, cats and foxes;
- Managing conflict between path users;
- Creation of unofficial paths through vegetated areas;
- Vandalism, particularly of vegetation;
- Maintenance of jetties;
- Monitoring program (including water quality within the wetland pools and fauna);
- List of local community groups to consult with on a regular basis (including Banks Precinct Action Group, Claise Brook Catchment Group, North Metro Catchment Group, Environment House, Maylands);

It is very important that if and when control of the foreshore is returned to the local authorities (Vincent and Bayswater), responsibility for all matters raised in the management plan are very clearly stated and accepted prior to handover. The North Metro Catchment Group may be able to undertake the water and fauna monitoring of the site on behalf of the responsible agency.

If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate in contacting me on 9228 6916 (or contact our Catchment Coordinator on 9227 9514).

Yours truly

Warren McGrath
Chairperson

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Banks Precinct Action Group, City of Bayswater, Environment House Maylands, John Hyde MLA, North Metro Catchment Group, Swan River Trust, Town of Vincent