



NATURE RESERVES PRESERVATION GROUP

KALAMUNDA WA 6926

www.nrpg.org.au

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To: Rhonda Hardy
Chief Executive Officer
City of Kalamunda

14 August 2018

Rhonda.Hardy@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Subject: Submission on Cambridge Reserve Landscape Concept Plan

Dear Rhonda,

Since this is a concept plan and, as such, is *"indicative only and subject to detailed design"*, this submission, on behalf of NRPG, will be brief. Should the proposal progress, we look forward to making a more detailed submission at the later stages, when more details are available.

In any development proposal, the main concern of NRPG is the retention and management of as much native vegetation as possible. We maintain the starting point for any development should be the existing natural assets of the location. Once these have been established, by comprehensive environmental assessments, the development should be designed around these assets.

Whilst this is rarely the case, comparing this indicative plan with the Google Earth image, we may see an attempt being made to incorporate portions of more vegetated areas into the plan. If this is indeed the case, we would urge the City staff and councillors to continue the process, in an attempt to retain as much as possible of the native vegetation

We see the main challenge being that of accommodating so many different activities within the plan. Given the proposed inclusion of an activity hub/playground, dog park, cycle paths, pedestrian paths, over-55 independent living units and an aged care facility, this will be extremely challenging. Add to this the prospect of *"option for additional parking"* areas and, pressures on retention of the natural assets will only increase. In the past, a perceived need for more parking spaces has invariably resulted in the loss of natural vegetation.

The natural features to be retained and/or enhanced, include: bushland (fenced), bushland (managed), bush re-vegetation and, open managed parkland. Environmental features to be constructed include stormwater catchment basin and associated wetland and the *"living stream"*. Until details of these are released for comment, we can do no more than express concerns, which will need to be addressed before the plan is finalised.

- **Fenced Bushland.**

The method of fencing the bushland will need careful consideration but, since other developments within the metropolitan area have done this successfully (as the illustration used shows), this should prove no problem. Ensuring sufficient funding is made available for repair and maintenance of the chosen fencing will be essential.

- **Managed bushland.**

Details of how these areas are to be “*managed*”, is needed, before any constructive comments can be made. Ensuring adequate funding for such management is essential. Given this funding, City of Kalamunda environmental and parks staff have the capacity to carry out this task and, there is the opportunity to use groups like the Green Army to carry out some of this work (as they have done with great success in the past).

- **Bush re-vegetation.**

Long-term funding will be essential for any revegetation projects. Adequate funding for preparatory and ongoing weed suppression should also be part of this. The comment “*revegetation is to be carried out using endemic and/or native species*” needs clarification. We would suggest the term “*endemic species*” or simply “*native species*” be used.

- **Open managed parkland.**

These areas should be seen primarily, in the context of their usefulness as green linkages, wildlife corridors and ecological stepping stones and, defined accordingly. The intention to limit irrigation to certain areas is supported.

South of the proposed over 55s site, there is a mixture of fenced bushland, managed bushland and bush re-vegetation. Whilst the landscape plan may look attractive, these areas need to be clearly defined and the reasons for their categorization stated.

We see this concept plan as presenting many threats to the biodiversity of this area, unless carried out with the utmost care. Before the project proceeds, the environmental values of the area must be assessed and the potential threats to those values gauged and guarded against. Should this project receive wide community support and continue, we also see it as an opportunity for the City to produce and implement a design reflecting community environmental values.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Fowler

President/Chair