

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

## RESTORATION OF HYDE PARK LAKES

<b>IN FAVOUR:</b>	7	written responses
	3	written responses generally in favour from the Department of Water, Heritage Council & Swan River Trust)
<b>PARTIALLY IN FAVOUR</b>	2	written submissions
<b>AGAINST:</b>	4	written submissions + Petition with 276 Signatures

**10 x Related Comments In Favour of Proposal**

- As a resident of North Perth for over 35 years I am very pleased to support a plan which will restore the lakes for the long-term. It is great to see that the plan is environmentally based and takes account for the changing climate.

I support the full implementation of the plan over the proposed 5-year implementation period and ask that the plan's implementation be a Council budget priority over the next five years.

As a minor comment, I ask that the Council strongly consider the planting of trees in Hyde Park and other parks that will provide food resources for Canaby's Cockatoo, a species which is now critically endangered.

- Although I do love the idea of a European park in the suburbs of Perth (I am a huge fan of the real Hyde Park in London), I understand that we cant sustain such a ideal in such a different climate that is Australia. It is clear that the layout of the park, which works well in European climates, is fundamentally disastrous to the health of the ecology in its current setting.

I was quite impressed with the option that was forwarded (a combination of 3 and 4 - Integrated wetlands I think). It was a well though out option that would benefit the park and the people who use it.

So I wanted to forward my congratulations. I imagine you only receive complaints for any good change you try and implement to an area. I hope in this case that it wont inhibit you from doing the right thing and making sure the development to the lakes is healthy, sustainable, inspiration and beautiful. My hope is that the integrated wetlands option is implemented soon. I'd hate to think that it is delayed or dismissed due to political agendas based on emotional responses.

- I wish to express my support for the proposed changes to Hyde Park detailed currently on signs within the park. It is good to see a solution has been found that will move the park towards more a healthy and sustainable wetlands model.
- I strongly support the water quality, habitat and amenity improvement objectives of the Masterplan and commend the Town of Vincent for tackling remediation of this important asset. The biofilter and treatment swale will be highly valuable in adding habitat and amenity to the park, as well as contributing to improvement of water quality.

If one of the objectives of the Plan is to improve the health of the lakes, then the catchment sources of contaminants must be addressed.

The proposed biofilter may remove approximately 68 to 101 kg/yr of TN. I strongly support the installation of the biofilter, as it will contribute to reducing the input of contaminants to the lakes and will provide additional benefits in terms of habitat creation and aesthetics.

Adoption of a catchment approach to managing pollution inputs to the lakes will result in more cost effective solutions. For example, numerous small scale biofilters (also known as rain gardens) and/or infiltration devices located higher in the catchment may return the best pollutant removal result for the resources expended. Biofilters can be incorporated into the road verge or median to treat road runoff at a local scale. Biofilters located in the catchment also reduce pollutant discharge to a water body by retaining flows.

Justification for lining the lakes should be provided. The Masterplan should clarify that the proposed lake lining is to meet aesthetic, not environmental objectives. Seasonal drying out of the lakes is important in minimising mosquito and midge breeding. The proposal should be referred to the Department of Health. Seasonal drying out of the lakes is also important to reduce algal growth and lake odours.

Greater justification for maintaining the water level of the lakes should be provided in the document, particularly in the context of climate change, falling groundwater levels and required conservation of water resources. The advantages and disadvantages of permanent versus ephemeral water body should be clearly outlined in the document, including water quantity and quality issues and costs.

- I would like to support:
  - The concept of revegetating with indigenous species.
  - Support any plans to reduce the number of non native deciduous plants which add to the nutrient load with their large volume of leaves in one season.
  - The proposal that part of the lake will dry out over summer supporting a more natural hydrological regime. I understand that the lake is fed by groundwater pumping and stormwater and the less groundwater that will be drawn to maintain water levels over summer the better.
- I strongly support Integrated Wetland Option for the proposed restoration of Hyde park lakes for the following reasons:
  - It is the best practice model for the lakes restoration. The alternative is trying to recreate a model that has failed in the past.
  - It is the better environmental outcome.
  - It helps promote environmental sustainability
  - Provides better habitat for fauna
  - It is cheaper, especially in the long run.

Whilst it is tempting to hang on to the past, we must recognise that our environment is changing (climate change) and we are part of the problem (falling water tables). Please aim high and choose the best practice model.

- The CBCG supports the Town of Vincent's adoption of Option 1 'the Integrated Wetland' option as its preferred lakes restoration option. The Integrated Option, is a reasonable compromise between maintaining areas of permanent water and hence recognising its heritage and aesthetic value as a European style waterbody, but while including substantial areas of ephemeral wetland through which surface water can be directed to allow in-situ water quality treatment capacity to ensure they will not have ongoing water quality issues and that water flowing from the lake, via either stormwater drains or groundwater flow, does not represent a risk to the Swan River, which receives such flows downstream. The Integrated Wetland option will mean the Hyde Park lakes restoration will represent an improvement in the catchment condition of the Claise Brook Main Drain.

The CBCG supports the inclusion and encourages the Town to retain the Treatment Swale for the purpose of further treating stormwater as enters the lakes and providing additional habitat values in the Hyde Park. The inclusion of a stream component also has related aesthetic values that enhance the landscape value of the park.

The integrated approach proposed by the Town can be optimised through community engagement and involvement. The group is particularly interested in the effectiveness of the proposed wetland treatment areas for improving water quality in the lakes and of stormwater discharging from the lakes in higher rainfall events, which discharges into the Swan River via the Claise Brook Main Drain.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Town for adopting the Integrated Option for redevelopment of the Hyde Park lakes that should result in sustainable waterbodies in the park with potential benefits for catchment water quality and habitat values.

## **2 x Related Comments Partially In Favour of Proposal**

- Prior to any changes to the Hyde Park Lakes Town of Vincent's Environmental Health Officers (in conjunction with other relevant personnel e.g. parks and gardens personnel) should conduct a through risk assessment of the proposed changes to the lake to determine the impact to public health. A risk assessment may prevent to cost to Town of Vincent for treatment and control of increasing numbers of mosquitoes, midge and algal bloom, as well as time and resources to deal with anticipated additional complaints arising from impacts.

Seasonal water body are preferable as compared to permanent water bodies to minimise midge and mosquito breeding.

Hard vertical edges are not preferable to mosquito and midge habitat and breeding.

Any land surrounding the water body should be relatively flat to reduce the survival rate of midge/mosquitoes.

Both water circulation and oxygenation prevents algal bloom. The greater the level of aeration the better, with multiple small fountains spread through out being better than 1 single large fountain.

Even though aquatic vegetation can take up any nutrients from the water hence reducing algal bloom, vegetation can provide the following:

1. Harbourage areas or habitat for midge and mosquito,
2. Restrict predators eating the midge and mosquito, and
3. Vegetation also become food.

Limestone hard substrates prevent the colonisation of midge/mosquito.

The Risk Assessment guide recommends that pre-treatment beds should be installed where the inflow of water (via piped stormwater) is situated to remove nutrients and suspended solids before they enter the water body. In closing it is a imperative for Town of Vincent to refer to the Chironomid Midge and Mosquito risk Assessment Guide for the Constructed Water Bodies"

- In summary, I would appreciate the removal of both of the proposed boardwalks identified at the western end of the western lake.

The reason for this position is, that the anti-social behaviour which already occurs predominantly late at night and often on weekends, would be concentrated at the points proposed for boardwalks.

In addition to the opportunity to remove the focal point for the concentration of anti-social behaviour, the removal of the two western most boardwalks will reduce associated expenditure.

#### 4 x Related Comments Against the Proposal

- I disagree with the Council's decision, and much prefer the Permanent Water Option. It is the superior plan if preserving the ornamental lakes is the aim.
- I note with considerable disappointment that the Council supported the Officer's recommendation and voted for Option 1 of the Hyde park lakes Restoration.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this position and support Option 2. I do not want the lakes turned into a swamp - that is the inevitable outcome of Option 1.

The lakes must be retained as year-round ornamental water bodies - to do anything else will significantly compromise the character and heritage values of the park. Perth has many natural wetlands, it does not have many parks like Hyde Park.

- We are writing to express our concern about the two proposals advertised by the Town of Vincent to restore the lakes at Hyde Park.

For most members of the public, 'restoration' of the lakes means restoring them to their original condition. That is, fixing the stone edging, taking appropriate action to ensure that water levels are maintained through the year, removing weeds from the islands and son on. Our central concern is that the two proposals publicised to restore the lakes focus almost exclusively on the environmental aspects of restoration, to the detriment of all others.

To our minds, there are three primary, and fundamental, competing ideals behind any restoration proposal. First, there are **heritage considerations**. The park is over 110 years old and the style of the park was originally planted, and has since been maintained, in the Arcadian style.

Second, there are **environmental considerations**. In recent years, the park's lakes have seen a growing loss of water and water quality. Although the loss of water has been (publicly) attributed to climate change, the real culprit has been a dramatic increase in the use of private bores which artificially lowers the level of the water table. Expectations about what water quality is 'acceptable' have changed in recent times so that the quantity and quality of the water in Hyde Park lakes need to be looked at in conjunction with other aspects of their restoration.

Third, there are **social amenity considerations**. Hyde park is unusual in Perth in that it attracts people like no other municipal park. This is largely because it has something that few other parks offer - large expanses of water, together with aerating fountains which together offer a heady mix for people, particularly in the hot summer months. Unfortunately, the proposed wetlands will not restore the water to the lakes. They will, in fact, merely disguise the drying out of the lakes each summer with plantings of native reeds.

We feel that all of the considerations outlined above are important, but only one has been aggressively and almost obsessively pursued in the process so far. For this reason, we feel it is necessary to highlight the importance of the other two.

To our minds, the **social amenity** of the lakes must be the one concern that takes primacy. This is a beautiful urban park with a history dating back to 1898. Aesthetically, the lakes are the centrepiece of the park. The proposal to transform the lakes in wetlands (either in full or in part) rather than restore the lakes is totally unacceptable.

Accordingly, we urge the Council to genuinely restore the lakes, by:

- Lining the lakes to significantly reduce water loss, and simply factor in the cost of any small top-up that is required in the hot summer months (Councils in other cities of the world such as Seattle are prepared to do this - why not Vincent?).
- Retaining the Arcadian landscaping on the islands that is integral to the aesthetics of the park.
- Retaining the stone edging (which is harshly described as 'hard walling' in the ToV proposals) around the lakes enabling people to get close to the water, yet providing a barrier to discourage people and domestic animals from walking out onto the islands to disturb nesting birdlife.
- The transformation of the lakes as outlined in the Master Plan is a significant deviation from this public commitment and one which I believe will not receive community support. Such a significant change in commitment, and consequently Hyde park, cannot be made without a more thorough community engagement process than providing a Master Plan for comment. Determining what type of recycling bin would be provided to the community received a grater level of community consultation than has been afforded to this shift in direction. Council needs to be fully informed of all the water management options and how these address social, economic, environmental and cultural values, and be informed of what the community wants. The Hyde Park master Plan does not do this in key opinion. Key gaps include:
  - A process of meaningful and high exposure community consultation and engagement to reveal the communities preference for the future of Hyde Park Lakes.
  - A complete review of options for managing the Lakes. For instance, the option of compensating backyard bore owners to stop using their bores was not scoped within this report.
  - Adequate weighting to social, economic and cultural values. The process of review appears to have been undertaken through a lens of environmental ideology.
  - Ignoring technological advancement in remediation options and the time value of money, meaning delaying a significant decision can actually reduce the cost of action.
- Petition signed by 276 signatories:  
We, the undersigned, wish to register our support to restore the Hyde Park lakes to their former beauty.
  - The Lakes: Line the lakes. Ensure they remain full of water year round. Do not make either of them into season wetlands. Turn the fountains back on.

- The edging: Retain and refurbish the natural stone edging all the way around both lakes. Do not replace any part of them with reed covered banks or boardwalks.
- The "Arcadian" landscaping: Retain the "Arcadian" landscaping throughout Hyde Park. Arcadian landscaping embraces both native and non-native species that conform to an "idyllic style" (e.g. the Plane trees and native Moreton Bay Fig trees) and on the island in the lake (e.g. native Palm trees, Weeping Willow, etc) and do not replace them with native vegetation.

Hyde Park is a unique green space. It is heritage listed on the State register to preserve these Arcadian values. It is the most popular community park in Perth because of its unique beauty and because these values have been preserved since 1898. Let's RESTORE the lakes, not turn them into a 'wetlands'. That was what Commonwealth funding was obtained for.