6.3 RESPONSE TO PETITION - LEAKE/ALMA STREET ECO-ZONING

Attachments: **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in response to a petition received by Council on 8 April 2025 in relation to the proposed Eco-zoning project at Leake/Alma Street Reserve:

1. **NOTES the comments received through consultation for the Eco-zoning project at Leake/Alma Street Reserve; and**

2. **REQUESTS Administration to implement Eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve in-line with the revised plan.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide Council with a response to a petition received on 8 April 2025 in relation to proposed Eco-zoning works at Leake/Alma Street Reserve.

DELEGATION:

Council resolved that a report be submitted to Council in relation to proposed eco-zoning works at Leake/Alma Street Reserve. Consequently, this matter is not subject to delegated determination.

BACKGROUND:

On 8 February 2011, Council Adopted in principle a Draft *'Eco-zoning' Parks and Reserves Implementation Plan 2011-2025* for areas within the City's parks and reserves which had been identified for potential conversion, from turf to native garden areas. Council further resolved on 2 April 2021 that the Chief Executive Officer ensure that future eco-zoning initiatives in public parks and reserves will involve prior public engagement with the local community and park users on the design and implementation.

On 8 April 2025, Council received a petition with 16 signatures as requesting as follows –

"That Council, in relation to the Leake Alma Road Reserve, instructs Administration that:

- *No further eco-zoning take place as it will further reduce accessible green space (noting that there are no other parks in the area).*
- *The City broadens its assessment and plan for future works by considering how the park is used, what best contributes to a connected and healthy community, and what will improve its overall amenity. Its current plan only addresses water saving measures.*
- *The City prioritise its spend on new play equipment (currently old and sometimes unsafe) and an improved maintenance regime (as its in relatively poor condition).*
- *This matter is taken seriously as the somewhat unusual and limited consultation performed to date unfortunately seems tokenistic."*

In receiving the petition Council resolved that a report be prepared for its consideration.

Following receipt of the petition, a report was presented to at the Council Workshop on the 15 April 2025 where it was determined that a site visit with interested Council Members be arranged to discuss the project.

DETAILS:

The City's Eco-Zoning Program has been running since 2011 and is in it is final year of the 2011-2025 Implementation Plan. Eco-zoning is the conversion of underutilised turfed areas into native garden areas and has numerous benefits including:

- Reducing the amount of groundwater required for irrigation as native plants have a lower water requirement than turf. This is essential to achieve the 10% reduction in groundwater usage by 2028 as outlined in the Gnangara Groundwater Allocation Plan.
- Increasing biodiversity and habitat, improving the health of our ecosystems.
- Reducing the application of fertilisers and soil amendments required for healthy turf.
- Improving overall aesthetics of our parks and reserves.

Although the Eco-zoning Program pre-dates many of the City's current Strategies and Plans, delivery of this program is essential to achieving the below environmental outcomes and actions:

Strategic Community Plan
Enhanced Environment Outcomes:

- Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and well utilised.
- We have improved our resource efficiency and waste management.
- We have minimised our impact on the environment.

Enhanced Environment Strategy
Water Outcomes:

- The use of scheme and groundwater is reduced and water capture and reuse is increased (10% reduction in groundwater allocation by 2028 – Gnangara groundwater Allocation Plan).
- The community is encouraged to understand the local water cycle and to value and protect receiving waters.

Urban Greening and Biodiversity Outcomes:

- The loss of urban vegetation and tree canopy is reduced, and the planting of additional trees and shrubs is increased.
- The community is encouraged to value biodiversity and supported to plant appropriate species of trees and shrubs.

Greening Plan
Enhanced Habitat and Biodiversity Actions:

- Preserve, enhance and expand existing areas of biodiversity value through supplementary planting.
- Connect existing areas of biodiversity value through additional planting of biodiversity linkages across the City.
- Prioritises the preservation and improvement of native habitat and biodiversity in all greening activities.

Implementation Process

A capital budget of $30,000 is allocated to the program each year. The number of individual projects varies from one to four per year depending on the size of each eco-zoning project.

The steps involved in implementing individual eco-zoning projects are outlined below.

Assessing the Location

Each individual project site is first assessed considering the following:

- Existing irrigation stations to maximise water savings through eco-zoning entire stations. In some locations this is best achieved through turning off entire stations to see where grass deteriorates.
- Current use of area and key stakeholders (e.g. sporting, passive recreation, road reserve).
- Incorporation of additional elements to increase useability of area including informal grave pathways, nature play elements and seating opportunities.

An eco-zoning plan is then developed based on the above assessment.

Consultation Process

Prior to 2021, consultation for individual projects varied depending on the current use of the location and key stakeholder/s. Generally, consultation was small scale and included communication with sporting clubs where relevant, letter drop to adjacent and nearby residents (inform) and occasionally on-site signage.

Alterations to eco-zoning plans were made where necessary following consultation and feedback.

Since 2021 all subsequent eco-zoning projects were advertised on the Imagine Vincent website and the level of consultation varied depending on the size and location of the project. Consultation periods are advertised via on-site signage, social media, City's website and e-newsletter.

It is important to note that meaningful consultation on projects can be difficult. Implementation of works is a set process (outlined below), plant selection must be Australian native and predominantly low growing, and design should align with existing irrigation systems to maximise water savings.

Generally, the most meaningful consultation is received through open comment sections of the consultation (as opposed to pre-developed surveys) whereby residents can provide suggestions to the design and any additional elements that could be included.

After close of consultation, feedback is reviewed and changes made to the plan if required. On-site meetings with concerned residents are also arranged to discuss the design and make amendments where required.

Consultation for the Program is not to determine whether or not eco-zoning is undertaken in a specific location, but to give residents the opportunity to provide input on the overall layout of the project site and any other suggestions they may have for improvements to the design.

Works Implementation

Once eco-zoning plans are finalised, works are implemented as per the below steps:

- Plant stock is ordered. This generally needs to occur prior to consultation to ensure appropriate stock can be secured.
- Areas to be eco-zoned are marked up on-site.
- Areas are treated with glyphosate to remove grass. Ideally there are two treatments prior to planting. This reduces the need for weed treatment in the early stages which can lead to non-targeted plant death.
- Areas are mulched by a contracted bobcat operator (approx. 10cm thick) using either purchased environmental mulch or mulch generated from tree pruning activities (depending on availability of 'free' mulch and size/location of project).
- Areas are planted with predominantly low growing Australian native plants. Each year one project site is selected to be planted with the community for National Tree Day.

Maintenance Requirements

When the eco-zoning program was first developed, it was assumed that the program would reduce maintenance requirements as it eliminated the need for regular mowing.

Experience gained through implementing the Program has identified that this is not the case. Generally, the first five years following implementation require increased maintenance due to regular weed control, pruning, replanting where required and occasional manual watering.

Once garden areas are established, maintenance requirements drop significantly. Regular weed control is only required on edges next to turfed areas and re-mulching is undertake every few years if required.

Most ongoing maintenance is carried out by in house staff. Weed control for some large projects is contracted out to assist staff in the first few years following implementation and contracted bobcat services are utilised for re-mulching.

Past Eco-zoning Projects

The below table details all eco-zoning projects including the proposed and actual estimated areas eco-zoned, reasons any changes and additional opportunities.

Overall, there has been a 1.5ha reduction in the actual area converted to that originally proposed. This is due to incomplete projects, closer assessment of the current use and community feedback.

There is, however, further opportunities to enlarge and enhance existing eco-zoned areas, as noted in the above table, as well as undertake additional eco-zoning and/or replacement of exotic garden areas at other parks/reserves not listed below.

Year	Location	Proposed Area (m^2)	Actual Area (m^2)	Reason for Changes	Additional Opportunities
2011/2012	Keith Frame Reserve	2,945	3,400	Increased - additional areas identified	Yes - remove additional underutilised turfed areas
	Loftus Street Median	3,400	3,400	n/a	No - entire area eco-zoned
2012/2013	Woodville Reserve	4,180	4,200	n/a	Possible - depending on future planning and reserve use
	Ellesmere Street Reserve	3,170	4,000	Increased - additional areas identified	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
2013/2014	Birdwood Square	5,900	5,900	n/a	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
	Charles / Vincent Street Reserve	344	350	n/a	n/a - entire area eco-zoned
2014/2015	Britannia Road Reserve	42,140	50,000	Increased – additional areas identified through perimeter pathway alignment	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
2015/2016	Kyilla Park	4,740	2,300	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use
	Mick Michael Reserve	2,270	1,000	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use
2016/2017	Menzies Park	4,720	1,400	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use
	Charles / Walcott Street Reserve	650	650	n/a	No - land no longer under City management
2017/2018	Les Lilleyman Reserve	6,470	6,500	n/a	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
2018/2019	Banks Reserve	9,530	11,000	Increased - additional areas identified through Master Plan	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
2019/2020	Brentham Street Reserve	7,130	5,000	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use
	London Street Reserve	1,035	1,300	Increased - additional areas identified on verge	No - entire area eco-zoned
2020/2021	Beatty Park Reserve	9,100	4,500	Significantly reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use
2021/2022	Anzac / Scarborough Beach Road Reserve	850	700	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
	Monmouth Street Reserve	500	0	On hold - fencing issue and future consideration of land	TBD
	Edinboro Street Reserve	1,840	1,600	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting
2022/2023	Charles Veryard Reserve	12,400	9,500	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Possible - depending on consultation and future reserve use.
2023/2024	Blackford Street Reserve	2,040	1,000	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	Yes - further enhanced through additional planting

	Scarborough/Bondi /Main Street Reserve	2,230	0	Cancelled - due to Main Roads project	No – areas no longer exist
2024/2025	Bourke Street Reserve	2,205	670	Significantly reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	TBD
	Leake/ Alma Street Reserve	1,150	TBC	Design changes based on reserve usage and previous eco-zoning of southern section (community budget submission)	TBD
	Road Reserves	* New Project	TBC	n/a	TBD
	Jack Marks Reserve	2,430	TBC	Reduced - based on reserve use & community feedback	TBD
TOTAL Area (m^2)		**133,369**	**118,370**		

Leake/Alma Street Reserve Eco-zoning

Leake/Alma Street Reserve Eco-zoning was listed in 2024/25 in the City's Parks and Reserves Eco-zoning Implementation Plan 2011-2025.

In this plan, Leake/Alma Street Reserve originally had 1,150m^2 identified for potential eco-zoning as shown below.

Figure 1: Original Eco-zoning Plan for Leake/Alma Street Reserve

The City received a 2017/18 Community Budget Submission to undertake partial eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve. This submission was supported by Administration and the southernmost section of the reserve, approximately 590m^2, was eco-zoned in September-October 2017.

As part of the Underground Power Project, Leake/Alma Street Reserve was identified as a location for Western Power primary equipment. Through Western Power investigations and consultation with relevant City teams, the northernmost section was selected as the location for the equipment.

The previously eco-zoned section of the reserve was deemed not suitable due to the presence of a high-pressure gas main, and the tree protection zones for existing mature trees.

Consultation on the equipment location was undertaken with affected residents. Feedback was received from only one resident.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

A consultation page was developed for three 2024/25 eco-zoning projects – Leake/Alma Street Reserve and two road reserve projects at Venables Parks and opposite HBF Park main entrance.

Specific to the Leake/Alma Street Reserve project, a simple plan was developed (Figure 2) following a site visit to assess the area and current turf condition. The plan indicated areas to be eco-zoned in the northern section of the reserve. Additional eco-zoning of the southern section of the reserve, in-line with the original plan, was not proposed due to the previous Community Budget Submission project.

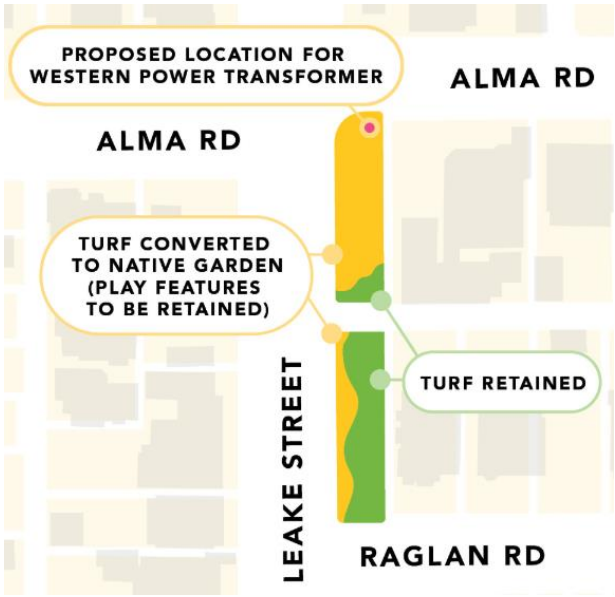


Figure 2: Consultation Plan for Eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve

Consultation for the projects was open through 4 to 24 March 2025. A news item was on the website and onsite signage were in place for the duration of the consultation (with QR code to Imagine Vincent website).

With reference to the Leake/Alam Street Reserve project, Parks staff arranged an on-site meeting with two residents on the 17 March 2025 and received several phone calls on the project. All residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation.

At the close of consultation, a total of 33 responses were received – 32 via the Imagine Vincent page and one via email. There were 183 unique views of the page (Aware) and 42 who clicked links etc (Informed).

Of the 32 responses received:

- 20 were in support of eco-zoning, nine specific to the project at Leake/Alma Street Reserve;
- 10 were unsupportive of eco-zoning, nine specific to the project at Leake/Alma Street Reserve;
- Five were partially supportive of eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve; and
- One was supportive of eco-zoning at Venables Park

Overall, the majority of responses received were in favour of the eco-zoning projects. All responses, with Administrations comments, are outlined below.

Survey Response	Administration Comments
Leake / Alma Whilst we appreciate move towards eco options, I think this is not the best approach. We were disappointed to see the grass area further down Leake turn into a gravel zone. This area is not used and looks unkept. Leake won a street of the year award for its tidiness; part of the appeal is the grass zone which is commonly featured in jacaranda posts throughout the year - it is a great attraction in October and November for this reason and I'm sure provide such needed foot traffic down Angove. The grass area is used for picnics, people painting the city, kids kick the soccer ball and footy, dogs walk through here. As a dog owner, I never use the gravel area next to the playground - it's a waste of space. My neighbours and I are strongly opposed to the eco-zoning plans. Please leave the grass area as is - it's the best part of the street and used daily.	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Personal preference on park aesthetics. Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned). Design incorporates seating in shade.
My family and I recently finished renovating our family home on Leake St across the road from Leake and Alma Road Reserve. The reserve, offers an idyllic, grassy playground for our young boys and our family dog. While preserving natural biodiversity and promoting eco- responsibility are commendable, it means replacing the grass with mulch hence disappearing the functional use of this reserve for families like ours. The reserve further down the street on the corner of Leake and Grosvenor has not been well maintained making it dirty and unsafe for our family to enjoy. Spending funding on improving the playground (with broken ground and tripping hazards) and the current eco-park would be a better use of funds. Open green spaces, such as the Leake Alma Road Reserve, are not just for recreation. They form an integral part of our social and mental well-being. So please consider the well-being and happiness of all residents and their needs from such shared spaces before carrying out any reconstructive work on the Leake Alma Road Reserve. Community green spaces need to retain their welcoming, open, and accessible nature to truly serve those living around them. Retaining more of the already established green area to the proposed plans or revising the plans all together to include improvements to the playground and current eco-park would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned). Eco-zoning provides benefits to the broader community, not just those with children and dogs. Budget specifically for eco-zoning and cannot be used to upgrade Playground.
Generally supportive of eco zoning primarily to reduce waste usage, aesthetics (grass is difficult to maintain during summer) and still retain benefits for the environment and having increased green space	**All three projects - SUPPORTED**
Leake/Alma Reserve. I understand the Council's goals of reducing water and maintenance costs of parks. In this case I believe the low plantings and hard paths may reduce the effectiveness of this Park as a place for people to actively use. In this area of North Perth, as it is hemmed in by Major roads, this is the only public green space available. Low planting treatments and hard gravel reflects heat and changes the space from a place where people might stop, meet, play or sit, to one of a transit zone. Run off from rain will also cause erosion, as had occurred elsewhere where this hard gravelling has been used. Would Council please consider the Pocket Park idea. Planting trees for canopy across the area (in addition to the ones already in place) and leave the grassed areas in situ. Tree canopy in our area is so poor and this space is a vital green zone	**Leake/Alma St – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED** Several other parks in within 500m of Leake/Alma St including Multicultural Federation Gardens, Hyde Park and Beatty Park. Eco-zoning does not increase run-off but reduces. Plan will incorporate small trees to increase canopy.
Regarding all. Waste of rate payers' money. No statistics regarding under use areas. Automatic reticulation of lawns will be replaced with a paid employee who sits in their diesel truck filling a huge tank of groundwater to go drive around the street using diesel to run another petrol-powered pump to hand water these plants which have replaced lawn.	**All three projects - UNSUPPORTED**
I support all of the eco-zoning projects. Lawn that requires irrigation is wasteful. There are plenty of larger reserves with grass where families can take their children to play. Introducing more native plants and waterwise gardens helps to make our streets beautiful and increases habitat for local wildlife	**All three projects - SUPPORTED**
Regarding the Leake/Alma Reserve. I'm a resident of Leake st and would like to say what a fantastic idea of revamping and transforming this area into a more ecofriendly and enjoyable space. I fully endorse the proposed sections of native planting and retaining some good, turfed space for enjoying the beautiful weather Perth provides. If i could add one more suggestion to continue this idea by not only retaining the play area but perhaps embracing this concept further by introducing a native play space for my kids to enjoy. I feel like the turf space will be used more by my kids once there is the native garden bed to provide a little bit more safety for what a busy street can sometimes be.	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED** Informal nature play elements to be incorporated to design.

Survey Response	Administration Comments
Leake/Alma Reserve	**Leake/Alma St – UNKNOWN**
I fully support these Eco-Zoning projects. Less grass and more native plants is far more sustainable as it provides valuable habitat and saves water.	**All three projects - SUPPORTED**
This relates to the Leake / Alma reserve - I'm absolutely not in support of the proposal. The eco zoning sign says the project is for the conversion of under used turf. This is not the case for the Leake / Alma reserve - it's a valuable community space which is used by residents daily. We live on Alma and come to the reserve every day with our dog and 19-month-old and value the space for them both to run and play as we have limited space at home. The proposal to turn most of the reserve to eco space would render those parts basically unusable - the eco zone down the road on Leake and Grosvenor is a complete waste of space in terms of functionality - it is not an appealing place for residents to use due to the mulch and hard gravel. I've never seen anyone use it and it's not particularly visually attractive. Id prefer the city focus its effort on that space to improve its functionality as it basically serves no purpose. I would support other work to improve the alma / Leake reserve such as fencing so there could be an off lead dog area / improved safety for young children or a revitalisation of the playground, or a small amount of native screening to obstruct the view of the new Telstra transformer.	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED**
Leake Alma- on the map provided it shows a strip of lawn retained on the section next to Raglan Road. I am happy this is retained but please retain a reasonable amount of lawn so kids can run around and kick a ball. It is a nice local little green strip close and accessible to the houses and it would be sad to see it go especially as block sizes are getting smaller	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED** Open turfed area being retained.
I support eco zoning at all three sites. I also request that the City of Vincent considers additional eco zoning at Brittania reserve. The grass at the corner by Brittania reserve and the car park specifically struggles to grow well and is not used for sports. Additional trees and eco zones planted inside the existing circular walk path would provide better shade and amenity to users as well as increase habitat and tree canopy	**All three projects – SUPPORTED** Britannia Rd Reserve has been identified for further eco-zoning in future years.
I support all three proposed eco-zones. In addition, I would like to suggest Britannia Reserve is an area which should be considered for future eco-zones. Since the construction of the circular path the reserve is utilised far more by exercisers, dog walking and others whose experience would be enhanced with eco-zones, the planting of trees for shade and more park benches	**All three projects – SUPPORTED** Britannia Rd Reserve has been identified for further eco-zoning in future years.
Providing positive support for these plans. Great to see underutilised turf being amended to have positive ecological outcomes. Outside the scope but they'd be greatly improved by a ban on outdoor cats too.	**All three projects – SUPPORTED**
Leake/ Alma Reserve I regularly use this this area to have a picnic with my baby twins and toddler. I particularly like the green grass area and Jacaranda trees. I would appreciate seeing the proposal designs before this goes ahead. Also, the many young families in the area would welcome a playground refresh which would add much more value to the space	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED** Open turfed area being retained, seating to be included.
We are building on the corner of Leake and Alma. We have specifically not included a grassed back yard under the assumption our kids could play across the road on the grass to kick a call. Please don't remove the grassed area. As lots get smaller and smaller, this grass becomes even more critical to communal play	**Leake/Alma St – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).
Leake/Alma Reserve - This is a great idea, as it's a space that is rarely used. I'm guessing that maintaining it requires a lot of resources and water, so converting it into an eco-zone is a good idea	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED**
I do not support the eco zoning plans for Leake/Alma Reserve for the following reasons: *There was no consultation with the people living in the area. * The reserve is constantly used ranging from: a) children playing football, cricket and enjoying the playground to people having picnic under the tree from the harsh sun. b) People walking their dogs on a soft grassed area. The above encourages residents in this area to meet and feel part of the North Perth community	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Consultation was undertaken. Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).
I often walk through Venables Park in Leederville and would prefer tall trees to be planted instead of bushes. Tall trees enhance safety by maintaining visibility and also help increase the tree canopy. As a woman walking alone and waiting to cross the road, I find that 1m-tall bushes create potential hiding spots, which feels unsafe. I can't comment on the other areas	**Venables – SUPPORTED** Low growing natives only.

Survey Response	Administration Comments
Leake Alma Reserve I applaud the increase in indigenous biodiversity that eco reserves seem to foster. Thank you for that. In that particular location I ask that you consider retaining more grass than is proposed. And consider keeping the replanting at shrub height. The reserve as it stands (open trees and grass provides a nice visual relief in an area that rapidly densifying. It is also used by lots of residents as a place to kick a footy with kids and walk dogs. I worry that we will lose this amenity with the proposed change. We played with our kids there regularly when they were small and I see lots of young families doing the same now. Please consider increasing the amount of grass in your plans	**Leake/Alma St – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED** Low growing native shrubs to be planted and minimal grass being removed (verge only)
Leake/alma I fully support the proposal, the less turf the better. Having lived on raglan road for 10 years this park is rarely used and is a waste of space and water.	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED**
Leake / Alma Reserve. Eco planting. As a local resident - I'd like to request that the grassed areas are left as the dominant element. Whilst I support waterwise native plantings - No-one has backyards or front yards around here anymore, and an open space of lawn is needed for activities like dog walking, playing with kids, socialising with groups of 4 or more. The Leake Alma Reserve is used for those activities every single day - without exception. By the elderly, by young families, by youth seeking a space out the house (Just normal local people). Please Do NOT take away this much needed open space from us. This precinct is locked-in by busy roads (Charles, Fitz and Vincent) and there are no parks easily accessible without crossing one of these deadly roads. The grass and shady trees also create a lovely cool space in an area that is increasingly pure concrete. Even though new houses built on subdivided blocks are supposed to have trees - none of them do. We need the visual space. We need the activity space. We need the cooling effect. We need the community space. People will not stand around and talk community matters in a pocket of eco-bush the way we do on the grass. Please seriously consider the benefits of an 'old-fashioned' grassed park	**Leake/Alma St – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).
For Leake St, I fully support, it's a great idea. I'm glad the play areas will be retained as we use them every day. I would like to see those play areas upgraded in future works. The playground (near Raglan) is very old and the ground is so uneven now, kids very often trip up. It's also lacking good shade for most of the day (up to about 2/3pm). The swings near Alma are also very old	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED**
Leake/Alma Reserve	**Leake/Alma St – UNKNOWN**
I am supportive of your eco-zoning plans in general but especially the Leake/Alma reserve as I am a resident of Leake St. I think we need more green spaces especially for establishing trees not water- guzzling lawns	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED**
Leake/Alma Reserve This is a great initiative. The bird and bee populations of the area are under increasing strain due to backyard infill and reduction of gardens and green space, this initiative will encourage the survival of this wildlife. This also maintains a great balance between the needs for young children to have playing areas while also being exposed to our native fauna and flora. Edging the areas with native plants will also improve the safety for the children with native plants being a barrier between the turf and roads. Many thanks for doing this	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED**
Leake/Alma Reserve I am strongly opposed to the proposed eco garden Part of the reason many of us bought into the street were the lovely extended *grass* verges I live closer to the existing one, it was a great disappointment when constructed and I'd like to see it returned to grass - I have brought up two kids who used to play there and were close to tears when they realised what was happening - literally nobody I know of is happy with it I know the primary reason is the proposed 10% reduction in water use, but in all of Vincent there must be better ways - or maybe Council could apply to the state for an exemption as Vincent hosts thousands of people from elsewhere in its parks - it's unfair that Vincent residents are penalised because their suburb is attractive to others Please do not go ahead with this and also seriously consider getting rid of the other one - the only fauna it attracts are cats and rats and there's plenty of bird habitat in people's back yards I have little doubt the first one was instigated by a neighbour who dislike kids playing there - it that a sound basis for change in Vincent?	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Personal preference on park aesthetics. Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).

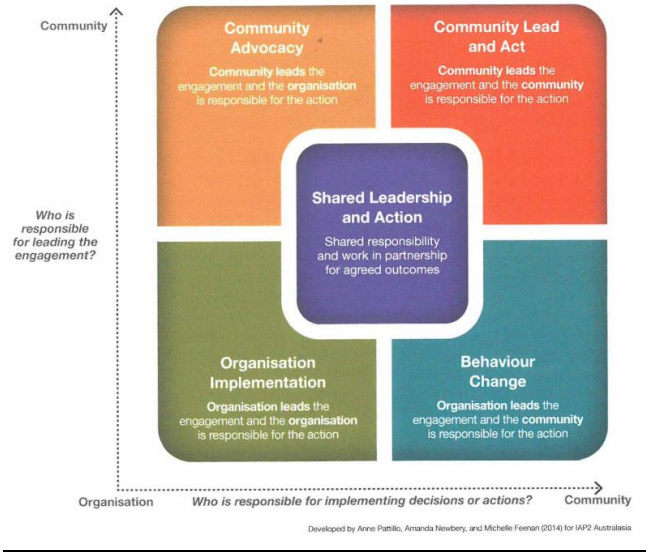
Survey Response	Administration Comments
I'm commenting in respect to Alma and Leake Street Reserve. My property is directly across from the Reserve. My concern with eco- zoning this area is the reduction in usable space as woodchips and vegetation will replace currently accessible areas. Within the area there are no other nearby public open spaces we can use. I am also mindful of the Alma Square development – we think this is a great project and will help revitalise North Perth but they should also have some good quality public open space nearby to enjoy. I am concerned with the lack of consideration and detailing in the current plan. The grass area should be kept wider so kids can play, the Western Power infrastructure can be sensibly placed at the corner of Grosvenor and Leake Street and the broad-brush use of wood chips should be significantly reduced so it is walkable/usable. I think its sensible for any plans for the Reserve to be properly designed / documented to help make sure it is successful long term and so local residents are fully informed and properly consulted. No formal consultation process is being performed - there is just one small sign in the park! The recently eco zoned public open space at the corner of Grosvenor and Leake Street which is directly to the south. This is a poor outcome as it is not used, has no usable amenity and has poor passive surveillance. Therefore, I think it is logical for the Western Power infrastructure to go there (I don't believe there is an engineering reason why this can't occur but am happy to see details and be corrected). In summary I would like to see the current remaining grassed area kept in full. Should the City of Vincent wish to spend money on the Leake Street Reserve I think improved amenities would go a long way for the wellbeing of local residents. This could be new swings, new playground, water fountain or potentially a bench with BBQ. I respect the City of Vincent's mandate to reduce water use but this remaining part of the Leake Street Reserve isn't the right area. Continued programs in other significantly larger public open spaces will have a much bigger impact on water reduction. The benefit of retaining/improving the local amenity along Leake Street greatly outweighs a marginal water reduction. I'm hopeful that common sense will prevail, and I remain available for any queries.	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned). WP infrastructure cannot be located in southern section. Design incorporates seating in shade. Budget specifically for eco-zoning and cannot be used to upgrade Playground.
I live on Leake St and fully support the proposed eco-zoning of Leake/Alma Reserve. The areas proposed for native planting struggle to grow grass. One area is under trees and in winter can get quite muddy as a result. Replacement with a native garden area would be a significant improvement. If there is any opportunity to incorporate nature play aspects (even just steppers or balancing logs) would be a fantastic addition next to the existing swings. The strip of native plantings along the road side of the main section of grass is also a great outcome. I have two young children and currently would not consider using this grass as there is no barrier to the road. The garden bed proposed is located on the section of grass which struggles due to the slope and existing trees. Due to this, there is very little loss of usable grassed area, however the benefit is considerable. The garden provides a barrier to the footpath and road and would be a significant improvement to the safe use of that stretch of grass, which will still be of a very usable size for ball games. These functional aspects aside, the introduction of more native planting is a positive outcome, promoting native and water wise gardens. We often walk through the garden further down the street and enjoy the different flowers throughout the year. Done well, I think it is a great opportunity to show the community how attractive and successful native gardens can be	**Leake/Alma St – SUPPORTED** Informal nature play elements to be incorporated to design.
RE: Leake/Alma Reserve I do not agree with the eco-zoning of this area as there is already too little grassed areas for public use in this part of North Perth especially for families to use, and going ahead would detract from the status quo. If the City of Vincent (CoV) want to eco-zone anything then they should only be considering the remaining turf on the southern corner of Ragland Rd and Leake Street which is not shown on the diagram. Existing grassed areas like this one is important to be made available for general use for the residents of North Perth and are not user friendly when taken up by native gardens. This grassed area is not under used, quite the contrary with daily use by the people of North Perth. There is already a thriving eco-system in the area with plenty of habitat and food sources for the local fauna species	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).
Leake/Alma I oppose the plan and prefer the lawn. I play with my grand daughter everyday on the lawn. The current eco area is not used With increase densification more grassed play areas are required	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).

Survey Response	Administration Comments
Leake/ Alma Street Reserve: Eco-zoning Eco – zoning is the conversion of under used turf areas into waterwise native gardens. I am supportive of this process as it does save water from areas that do not provide a large benefit from being watered. The key aspect of any eco- zoning is converting watered turf areas that are not used or hardly used. I am not supportive of the suggested plan to further eco- zone the remaining turf areas of the Leake/Alma Street Reserve for the following reasons. Utilisation The park is very heavy used by hundreds of people daily/weekly from very early morning to late evening. The only part of the park that is not used to its previous potential is the southern most part that has been eco – zoned. This part is avoided, walked around and commented upon in a negative manner which is justified given its condition. The entire width of the park is used with activities such as: • Sitting on grass under the shade of the trees and just resting or having a picnic. Which would be a mulched area with the planned eco- zoning • Playing with toddlers • People exercising on grass • Kids learning to ride their bikes • High school students chatting on the grass • Playing ball games, such as kick to kick football, passing the soccer ball • Throwing a frisbee, on grass • Conduct yoga classes, on grass • Walking your dog, and allowing your dog to “sniff” the trees. Not able to be done if mulch and plants surround the trees. Contrary to belief the trees are mulched, they are not; so proposed mulch between existing mulched trees is misguided. • Meeting place to socialise, often by dog owners and under the shade of the trees. Which would not be possible if park in eco-zoned. • Walking through the park and entering at different parts of the park. There is not a classic verge part of the park as is goes up to the footpath which is immediately adjacent to the road. So, it is not appropriate to eco – zone the “verge” like other parks, as it does not exist and the entire width of the park is used. Turf Condition The park has good to excellent turf. It is not covered in dirt and weeds; with the exception of the southern part of the park that has been eco-zoned. Happy to send photos. The northern part of the park, on the east side could have better turf but this is due to the turf being removed when the brick dividing fence was removed and a bobcat was used to remove the bricks and much of the topsoil along the fence; and no remedial work was undertaken to revert it back to its original state. The planned eco-zoning of turf area is actually the best part and in excellent condition, under the trees and adjacent to the footpath. So, targeting a turf area that is in good condition, not covered in dirt or weeds should not only be not prioritised but not considered at all. Proposed Western Power equipment It has been proposed that some Western Power equipment is to the placed at the northern end of the park. The placement of the equipment is not due till the end of 2025. It would make sense if the eco- zoning was to occur in the park to at least wait till after the equipment was in place. Why go ahead with eco – zoning in May/Jun 2025? Only to have to redo the area. Is this appropriate use of funds. Water Conservation They are many watered turfed areas in the City of Vincent that are purely visual or hardly used that could be eco-zoned if the primary goal is to reduce the use of groundwater; rather than targeting a well-used turfed public open space. An example is Venables Park; only a small triangle part (verge) is being eco – zoned when the entire west to the path part of the park could be eco-zoned, as it sloped and not walked on, sat on, or played on. Eco – zoning this part of Venables Park makes more sense, to contribute to water conservation, rather than Leake/Alma Street Reserve. Public Open Space A key objective of the public open space strategy is to maximise the value of open space. For the community to have improved access, amenities and functionality to open space. The proposed plan will reduce access, reduce functionality and reduce the benefit of the park. This will mean the park will be less used, and will not have the benefit of promoting social inclusion, and improved mental health and wellbeing. The Jacaranda Trees They are recognised as one of the best displays of flowering trees in a street, that draws people into the area, creating a more vibrant town central that contributes to the economy of the local businesses as people frequent shops and cafes, during their visit to see the flowering display. An activity that is recognised and supported. To have native shrubs and creepers around the Jacaranda trees diminishes the spectacle of the flowering trees and reduces the mental health and economic benefits the trees bring to the area. Completed Eco – Zoning I am aware that there is approach to eco- zone all the parks and reserves in the City of Vincent, to address the required reduction in water use, though this is not a requirement. I have seen many of these parks and the eco-zoning that has been conducted has been on areas within the park that were under-utilise and the amount of eco-zoning was minor and did not impact upon the visual aspects or functional aspects of the park. An example is Edinboro Street Park. It has a relatively small percentage of the park converted to native	**Leake/Alma St – UNSUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).

garden. The Leake/ Alma Street Reserve has already been eco-zoned with over 25% converted and a proposed 65- 75% of the remaining part of the park to be eco- zoned. It is an over kill to further convert a park that has already been eco-zoned. The immediate park/area has already contributed to water savings, increase in habitat and biodiversity. There are other parks that could and should be eco-zoned. Public Health Plan A key vision and objective that the City of Vincent is to trying to deliver is for people to feel happy, healthy, connected and supported. Primary to this, is to have parks and open usable spaces, where people can socialise, walk, do physical activity and be surrounded by open space (not just mulch, shrubs and logs); to increase their mental health and wellbeing. The proposed further eco- zoning of the park is doing the opposite. It has resulted in a neighbourhood that is dissatisfied, feels unsupported, not engaged or listened to. Community Consultation There really was no community consultation as per the Community Stakeholders Engagement Policy. Many people saw the sign in the park that said eco – zoning is on its way, and a done deal. They were not aware they could make any comments, and no survey exists to complete. I believe you need to conduct proper consultation that at the very least involves a letter box drop off for all the surrounding residents.	
I support increased provision of native plants in our public realm (and private property too). I have converted the verge in front of my property and across the road into native gardens. I also have a number of native trees and shrubs on my property. However, I have reservations about the plan to convert most of the grassed area at the Leake Street reserve into native gardens. My reasons are as follows. Council needs to reinstate and maintain existing gardens beds before creating new ones. Council should focus its limited council resources (funds and staff) on planting and maintaining new street trees - before converting green space to green space. Council should focus on creating NEW green space by removing the unnecessary and excess amounts of paved areas in the public realm. For example, on street verges and carparks. (It should also better control the paving of verges by private landowners). I am uncertain about how much water is saved by converting grassed areas into garden beds. The thriving gardens beds that I see in the City are still irrigated. Those without reticulated watering struggle. If food sources for local bird life is an objective for eco-zoning, why won't the city stop planting non-native tree species, and non local native species that don't provide food for bird life? The grassed area at LSR is useful for family activities such as throwing and kicking a ball and having picnics etc. The planting of more trees for shade, and maybe a limited number of medium sized bushes along the back fence line might be more appropriate for the reserve - not converting 90% into plant beds.	**Leake/Alma St – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED** Design does not take away for the useability of the open turfed area (verge only to be eco-zoned).

Administration met onsite with interested Council Members on 29 April 2025 to view the current layout of the open space and the potential impact of eco-zoning. The below changes were considered to address both resident desires to retain usable turf and eco-zoning areas in shade affected areas and boundaries interacting with traffic:

- Eco-zoning along the verges to be retained to provide a buffer between the reserve and footpath/road thereby improving safety for reserve users.
- The northernmost section of the reserve, where Western Power primary equipment is to be installed, will remain as is until the equipment has been installed. This will ensure that no new garden installations are damaged during installation.
- The existing sandpit will be renovated and shifted northwards (closer to the existing swings) to enlarge existing area or good quality, usable turf.
- A compact gravel pathway will be installed from the pram ramp in the northernmost section, running between the swings and relocated sandpit, ending in a new picnic table under the shade of the trees.
- Eco-zoning along the verge to the south of the large Jacaranda tree (in the southern section) will be slightly reduced to maintain area of shaded turf.
- Additional seating (informal logs and formal benches) will be incorporated.
- The previously eco-zoned area at the southernmost section of the reserve will be improved through mulching and additional infill planting.



Organisation Implementation

Organisations lead engagement and seek input, shape the policies, projects and services for which they are responsible. This is a familiar and traditional approach to policy development, project management and service delivery.

Tension: People feel forced leading to an unresponsive process.
Mitigation: Increasing the level of influence, and implementing a transparent, robust process.

Your organisation has the legitimacy to lead and implement

Communicate how community and stakeholder input has influenced the decision-making or implementation

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to receive a petition from the local community.

The Eco-zoning Project at Leake/Alma Street Reserve closely aligns with Council adopted strategies. Proceeding with eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve, despite some negative feedback from the community aligns with Council's adopted Appetite and Risk Tolerance Statement as follows:

Risk Category	Risk Appetite / Tolerance Statement	Descriptor / clarification
Sustainable future for our community	The City supports investments, activities and developments that result in a sustainable future for our community while meeting the current needs of our residents. It recognises that this may at times involve accepting some degree of risk and is comfortable with this, subject to always ensuring that potential benefits and risks are fully understood before planning is approved and that appropriate measures to mitigate risk are established.	There is often a payoff. Proposals need to consider the risks and rewards based on the promises made to the community. This has been envisaged with the City's Project Management Framework implementation and future actions.
Activities against ratepayer values & ethics	The City has a ***very*** **low risk appetite** for investments and activities that do not align with the City's values.	The City has set its vision, purpose and guiding values based on the interpretation of those of the community it serves. When entering into new projects, investments and proposals, these values must be considered as one of the key consideration sets.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032*:

Enhanced Environment

Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and are accessible for all members of the community.
Our urban forest/canopy is maintained and increased.
We have improved resource efficiency and waste management.
We have minimised our impact on the environment.

Connected and Healthy Community

Our community facilities and spaces are well known and well used.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following key sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024.*

Water Use Reduction/Water Quality Improvement
Urban Greening and Biodiversity

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

Increased mental health and wellbeing

Increased physical activity

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

A budget of $7,000 was adopted in the 2024/25 Capital Works Budget to implement further eco-zoning at Leake/Alma Street Reserve.

During mid-year budget review, the project budget was increased to $12,000 to enable inclusion of additional elements in the design including seating and informal nature play elements

COMMENTS:

The City's original Eco-zoning Program is in its final year of implementation. Past projects highlight the numerous benefits of this program not only for the environment but also for the community by providing varied opportunities to engage with and use our public open space.

The majority of the community is in support of eco-zoning. This is evident through the City's plans and strategies, developed in consultation with community, and past feedback on the program.

Most community objection to the Eco-zoning Program is due to a lack of awareness of the benefits of eco-zoning and traditional views that turf is more aesthetic and provides a more 'usable' space.

This highlights an opportunity for the City to improve community education on the benefits of the Program. This would include not just the environmental benefits, but also how native garden areas provide opportunities for the community to engage with and experience nature, which is particularly important for children and reflected by community preference for nature playgrounds.