



Werribee River Association

PO Box74 Werribee VIC 3030

www.werribeeriver.org.au

WRivA - working for the Werribee River Since 1981

Monday 9th March 2015

Towards a 'Wyndham Open Space Strategy 2040'

The Werribee River Association (WRivA) has been identified as a key stakeholder in the project via email received on Tuesday 24 February 2015 from TRC Tourism, who is acting for the City of Wyndham.

The Werribee River Association has been engaged in a significant number of issues in the two week period given 24 Feb – 9 Mar, and consequently found the timeline was very short.

WRivA also noted that two opportunities will be available for comment as mentioned in the email of 24 Feb, and looks forward to further contact.

No.	Topic	Paper reference	Issue	Comment from WRivA	Recommendation from WRivA
1	Population Growth	P.10	Urban design losing backyards	Communities and children are losing connections with nature, and opportunities to take risks or gain experiences.	Ensure planning provides wild places and experiences Ensure wide corridors exist on waterways and places Ensure corridors are not left as bare mown grassed areas without vegetation, as litter invades waterways, soil dries out and erodes, regeneration is hampered, & no shade is allowed for pathways
2	Population Growth	P.11	Spaces adjacent to schools	Schools are underfunded with space and money to meet standards discussed.	Use advocacy to lift standard of school infrastructure and funding
3	Population Growth	P.11	Developer led spaces	These spaces often reduce biodiversity and wildness	Ensure WRivA or community bodies have input to the planning process for those sites
4	Walking & Cycling	P.12	Pathway networks	Shared paths networks offer much to the community	Ensure paths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have shade for users • are not too close to valuable habitat or waterways • have vegetative litter barriers near waterways • do not allow vehicles to access corridors

5	Physical activity & health	P.13	Accessing open space	Physical, mental and social well-being	Ensure views are enhanced by not allowing inappropriate building too close to waterways and precious places
6	Conservation & Heritage	P.15	Heritage	All open spaces play a role in conserving values. Previous reports have recommended protection of stands of trees but still they have gone.	Ensure Wyndham does not lose valuable natural features which exist now. Ensure Wyndham's 'Significant Tree Register' is brought to completion quickly, and allows community input on an ongoing basis.
7	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Heritage	The Werribee River is a 'significant community asset'	Ensure the community has a role in the planning of spaces which have conservation and heritage value
8	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Heritage	The Werribee River is a 'significant community asset'	Establish a signage project which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explains expected behaviours explains significance of areas
9	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Heritage	The Werribee River is a 'significant community asset'	Create local laws which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibit removal of firewood prohibit vehicular access onto certain reserves and spaces
10	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Heritage	The Werribee River is a 'significant community asset'	Proclaim the Werribee River valley as a linear park
11	Conservation & Heritage	P.34	Heritage	Significant historic places	Ensure conservation values are enhanced by preservation of heritage places e.g. Cobbledick's Ford homestead
12	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Improvements	WRivA notes the aim of extending and improving open spaces & infrastructure	Ensure this is not done at the expense of waterways or significant habitat which supports wildlife such as platypus. Ensure mowing does not allow litter to enter waterways. Ensure stands of riparian vegetation are not narrowed further to degrade their current status. Ensure WRivA or community bodies have input to the planning process for those sites
13	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Improvements	Some spaces now left in poor condition	Ensure other strategic arms of Council protect these places for the benefits they offer the community e.g. K Road Cliffs

14	Conservation & Heritage	P.26	Improvements	Streets and roads can connect precious places for biodiversity	Ensure indigenous plantings are in streetscapes
15	Conservation & Heritage	P.36	Conservation of mature trees	These provide habitat for bats, birds, and insects.	Ensure old trees form the basis of new plantings which will enhance neighbourhoods and provide biolinks or refuges.
16	Stormwater & Drainage	P.16	Topography	Basalt plains need recognition	Ensure features of the basalt plains figure in naming and themes of areas where appropriate
17	Stormwater & Drainage	P.16	Topography	Wetlands or stormwater basins are windswept low profile places	Ensure views are enhanced and habitat improved by strategic plantings. Ensure litter control in drainage channels and near waterways and wetlands is enhanced by strategic plantings.
18	Stormwater & Drainage	P.16	Topography	Increasing amounts of stormwater affect waterways and valuable spaces	Use advocacy or other practical measures to implement ongoing water quality monitoring to avoid unattractive blue-green algal outbreaks in waterways and wetlands e.g. Werribee Zoo
19	Stormwater & Drainage	P.28	Topography	Allowance for stormwater infrastructure affects waterways and valuable spaces	Ensure views are enhanced and habitat improved by strategic plantings. e.g., President's Park Ensure litter control in drainage channels and near waterways and wetlands is enhanced by strategic plantings.
20	Stormwater & Drainage	P.16	Topography	Increasing amounts of stormwater affect waterways and valuable spaces	Ensure the Saltwater Coast development stormwater does no further damage to precious salt-marsh habitat for international migratory birds

Yours sincerely,



John Forrester
 President WRiVA
 Mob: 0401854560
werribeeriver@gmail.com