

15/11/22

Feedback Summary

Chapman River Estuary Reserve

Action Plan 2022-2025



Introduction

This document lists and responds to the feedback received for the draft Chapman Estuary Reserve Action Plan. The draft Chapman Estuary Reserve Action Plan was advertised for public comment on Friday 29th July 2022, with a two week window to receive submissions. An Online Survey was created to receive comments.

The draft Reserve Action Plan was advertised by:

- Media release by Social Media and City website: Friday 29 July 2022
- Survey opened 29 July 2022 and closed 9am Monday 15 August 2022
- Hardcopies were available at Civic Centre front reception and also at the Library
- Advertisement in Mid West Times: 3 and 10 August 2022
- Advertisement in Geraldton Guardian: 5 and 12 August 2022
- Targeted stakeholders were emailed a copy of the draft plan by NACC and invited to provide comments.

Fifty submissions were received via the online survey, and four submissions were received by direct email.

The table below lists the actions in the draft Chapman Estuary Reserve Action Plan, within each category; Environment, Social and Planning & Tenure. The first column lists the Action, the second column describes the nature of the submission. To retain anonymity, each submission has been summarised, with the key ideas or themes categorised by the action in the Reserve Action Plan that it relates to. There is also feedback listed, that does not relate directly to an Action. This has been listed at the end in 'Other'.

Feedback from the fifty-four submissions that indicate support of, or in opposition of, has been counted and listed against each action.

The third column shows CGG response to the feedback received, and the fourth column provides a recommendation for amendment to the draft Plan.

Environmental Values

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
E1 Rabbit control	<i>3 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Undertake rabbit control on north bank, south bank and west of Nazareth house.	These areas are consistent with the feedback from Community Workshops and Reserve Action Plan.	Note submission.
E2 Weed control	<i>5 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Education of spreading weeds is important.	Education around weeds can be captured in the communication plan, and information updated on the City website.	Note submission.
E3 Investigate Storm Water Infrastructure	<i>4 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Educational signage regarding water quality.	Signage has been installed by the City for water quality.	Note submission.
	Low maintenance and cost effective solutions.		Note submission.
	Needs to reference to the stormwater outfall near Kempton St carpark.	This section of drainage can be included in investigations.	Note submission.
	Sedimentation basins to minimise erosion.	This would be an option to be considered in investigations.	Note submission.
E4 Fencing	<i>6 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Majority support fencing around TEC.	TEC areas would be a high priority for fencing.	Note submission.
	Some support fencing to close trail along property boundaries on south side between bridge and Nazareth House.	Fencing is already in place to close off sections in this area.	Note submission.

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
E5 Monitoring of Threatened Ecological Community	<i>5 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Monitoring TEC including rubbish clean up	CGG can continue to work with community and support clean up days.	Note submission.
	Education on where people should or shouldn't be walking around TEC	Education around the importance of TEC can be included in the signage and communication plans.	Note submission.
	Explanation of TEC- ie. it is listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.	This is correct.	Note submission.
E6 Participate in "Reel it in" program	<i>8 submissions indicated opposition to this action.</i>		
	Majority feel that the bins won't be enough to reduce fishing line littering. Potential designated fishing locations with the bins. Unfair to rely on volunteers to empty fishing bins. Suggestions to prune dead branches in fishing areas to reduce risk of line getting caught.	Recommended fishing locations can be incorporated into signage with bins and pruning of overhanging branched undertaken.	Note submission. Amendments will be made to Action E6.
	Ban all fishing around the Estuary.	Local Government does not have the regulatory power to ban fishing.	Note submission.
	Suggestion of new fishing pontoons at 'fishing locations'.	Feasibility of a boardwalk will inform the suitability of similar type of pontoon infrastructure.	Note submission.

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
E7 Opportunities for revegetation	<i>6 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Revegetation using native species.	All revegetation projects will use appropriate local native species.	Note submission.
	Include pontoon area at Frederick St for a rehabilitation site – vehicles should be excluded from this track.	The City is aware of the erosion issues near the Pontoon site.	Note submission.
	Plant native species along private property boundaries along south side of river.	All revegetation projects will use appropriate local native species.	Note submission.

Social Values

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
S1 Develop Heritage Agreement	<i>5 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Opportunities to engage aboriginal youth.	The City welcomes opportunities to engage with aboriginal youth.	Note submission.
	Conduct a Heritage Survey of the Chapman River Regional Park. A Heritage Survey should be the basis of the cultural Heritage Management Plan.	The City is engaging with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation to develop a process for an agreement.	Note submission.
S2 Trail closure/ maintenance/ upgrade	<i>3 submissions indicated support for, and 18 submissions indicated opposition to this action.</i>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Years of history of walking the complete looped trail - Will lose that connection to nature - Not fair to restrict access to the community - Not a nature walk if have to detour along roads - Boxthorn prunings have been dumped on the trail to deter the public. - Closure of trail will reduce antisocial behaviour and reduce erosion 	Consensus has not been reached on the issue of closing off the trail on the South side between Charles and Chapman Rd. While there is strong desire within the community to continue to use this area as a walk trail, the trail intersects private property with no re-alignment option. If fenced, this would in effect close the trail.	Amendments will be made to Actions S2 and S4 to better reflect community desire.
	Suggestions that higher priority given to protecting private property owners instead of environment & public access.	Closure of the trail will allow for rehabilitation, and greater environmental resilience.	Note submission
<p>Suggestions to negotiate with private property owner to acquire land to widen foreshore.</p> <p>Suggestion to place covenants on private properties to allow public access.</p>	There are no planning instruments available to the City to acquire private property for the purpose of widening the foreshore reserve, without significant financial implication and risk.	Note submission	

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
	Private property owners should construct fencing to reduce anti-social behaviour.	Private property owners are entitled to fence their property along their boundary, which would in effect close the trail.	Note submission
S3 Signage	<i>6 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Currently lacking consistent signage for rules and education	The signage plan for the Estuary will remove inconsistencies.	Note submission.
S4 Investigate the feasibility of a boardwalk	<i>7 submissions indicated support for, and 3 submissions indicated opposition to this action.</i>		
	-Raised platform will reduce trampling of native plants and reduce erosion. -More structured pathways would be more enjoyable, making these areas more accessible for all. -Reduced trampling and erosion will protect both environmental and cultural values. -Waste of City funds -Would create another fishing spot -Would reduce numbers of wildlife again	A consensus has not been reached to determine desire for a boardwalk feasibility study.	Remove this action.
S5 Develop communication plan	<i>4 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Include media statements about fishing line and birds.		Note submission.
S6 Install/renew seating	<i>3 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	Additional/new picnic table at pontoon area	This request will be considered in line with fishing areas.	Note submission.

Planning & Tenure

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
P1 Investigate Reserve Status/creation of 'Regional Park'	<i>6 submissions indicated support for this action.</i>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change of name to include “reserve” will hopefully encourage community to not treat the area as a playground - Will assist in environmental and heritage preservation - Will assist in educating visitors of the area - May create a change of thinking to how we treat the area. 	Agreed.	Note submission.
	Include vesting of UCL in the City for management.	Planning section will be amended to state this explicitly.	Note submission. Amend action
	Ambiguous wording and merges zoning issues to include larger Chapman River Regional Park with Estuary.	The wording for this action is ambiguous and will be reworded.	Note submission. Amend action.
	Land tenure should be made more transparent.	Tenure information is shown in Figure 1 of the Reserve Action Plan and is publicly available on Landgate Mapviewer.	Note submission.

Other

Action	Nature of submissions	CGG comment	Recommendation
Other	Include online surveys for those not able to attend workshops.	An online survey was available for the draft Chapman Estuary Reserve Action Plan.	Note submission.
	Documentation of online survey responses should be provided.	Responses from all stakeholder consultation has been incorporated into the Workshop reports.	Note submission.
	In the reference for GRFVS, change DPLH to WAPC.	Reference incorrectly attributed.	Uphold submission. Amend reference.
	Community engagement process captured limited demographic, excluding many sectors of society and key stakeholders.	Workshops were widely advertised on social media, and in newspapers. State government agencies, other external organisations, and community groups were emailed directly.	Note submission.
	Install habitat pontoons.	This idea would need further consideration and research.	Note submission.
	Include Fox control	Fox sightings in this area are rare. Regular fox control is not recommended, and risky in an urban area. Management can be undertaken for individual foxes as required.	Note submission.