

Cussen Park Environmental Management Plan - community feedback 'what you said' document

Comment From	How often do you use Cussen Park?	What is the main reason you use Cussen Park?	Comment Number	Comment	How the feedback was considered
community member 2016/10727	23-30 times per year	walking tracks and wildlife viewing	1	more irrigation water used to maintain water level during dry spells	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
			2	stocking with native fish for recreational fishing	Noted
			3	signage to direct trucks and cars to use the car park instead of our nature strip as parking	Carpark signage to be reviewed
			4	signage to prevent back packers from setting up camp.	Camping sign has been replaced.
community member 2016/12754	not answered	not answered	5	This is not how it works and should work. Matter of a non urgent matter are continually raised with Greg McKenzie between meetings - relating to section 3.6 All non-urgent issues are to be raised in the monthly Advisory Committee meetings	Noted
			6	The provision of a suitable wetting and drying regime is critical to wetland management in the park	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
			7	Include Little Red Flying Fox in 6.9.1	Amended
			8	10.5 insurance/Idemnity - this section is not relevant to this plan and should be removed	Council's risk management department have recommended for section 10.5 to remain in the plan
community member 2016/12220	twice daily	For walking exercise, walking a dog and enjoying the environment (both flora and fauna) that this unique park offers.	9	We have been quite happy with the management of Cussen Park in the past years	Noted
			10	The Committee of Management have done an excellent job in maintaining the standard.	Noted
			11	We agree that Margaret Street should remain as a gravel road as any sealing of this road would most likely result in increased traffic flow with drivers trying to avoid the S bends on Thomson Street. Thomson Street is already a speedway with many vehicles exceeding the 50kmh speed limit. A sealed Margaret Street would almost certainly have the same issue as Thomson Street. Also, and very importantly, the corner of McNamara Street & Thomson Street has a very limited view of traffic approaching from the left (north west) along Thomson Street. Also many pedestrians use Margaret Street as an entry and exit point for Cussen Park. Birds also regularly cross this road from one lagoon to another. From our view, the issue of dust generated by motor vehicles using Margaret Street is a relatively minor one.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
council department 2016/12579	3-4 time per year	Work and family outings - both for wildlife watching and exercise	12	Thorough and detailed overview of all management option and requirements.	Noted
			13	Are there any timeframes proposed for the Grasses Management Strategy?	A budget bid has been put in for the 2016/17 budget.
			14	Signage is not listed in the original list in Section 7.	To be amended
			15	Spacing between 7.6, 7.7 and 7.8 is not consistent.	To be amended
			16	Should consideration of path connectivity be given to any new urban development? (Saves having to apply for additional budget further along)	Noted

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			17	Discussion with Council Communications team recently regarding QR codes is that they are dated and probably wouldn't be considered as an option for future signage.	To be amended
			18	A viewing tower sounds amazing; has any consideration been given to who may manage this as an ongoing asset?	Will be dependant on budget and funding opportunities
			19	Overall a good plan, with easy to read formatting and layout.	Noted
community member 2016/12764	not answered	not answered	20	The development of an environmental management plan for Cussen Park is a positive step in efforts to enhance the value of this important community asset	Noted
			21	Overall the management plan sets out a clear philosophy for the Park and its management, which is supported. The overriding objective of the park should be to increase the amenity and liveability of the Tatura township, thereby enhancing the well-being of the community. It is recommended that these concepts be incorporated into the vision and philosophy for the Park.	Noted
			22	Adaptive management is a recognised approach to managing complex natural systems, and is appropriate for the park. It is important, however, that adaptive management is undertaken in a structured, evidence based manner.	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
				a. A clear objective should be developed for management of each area, and the actions that are expected to achieve this objective identified.	
				b. At the same time as the management actions are developed, a monitoring and evaluation program should be designed, so that data can be captured to enable the effectiveness of the management actions to be evaluated and if necessary modified.	
			23	Establishing clear objectives and monitoring and evaluating management interventions don't appear to have occurred in all cases to date. The recent trial of a drying regime in the Margaret St Pond is one example of this lack of clear objectives, with no supporting program logic or monitoring plan.	To be considered
			24	The recognition of multiple objectives to be factored in to the management of the pond is welcomed	Noted
				Maintaining a fixed water level will enhance the overall amenity of the area, whilst delivering important environmental and stormwater management outcomes, and is strongly supported.	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
				The implementation of drying phases is not proposed in the management plan, which is welcomed. Frequent drying is not considered appropriate for the Margaret St Pond.	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
				Recent experience suggests that maintaining the water level in the range 200 – 250 mm below the crest of the downstream weir is more likely to achieve the objectives for visual aesthetics, odour and pest plant and animal control, rather than the range of 250-300 below the crest mentioned in the Plan. It is recommended that the target water level be amended accordingly.	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
			25	The proposed retention of Margaret St as a dirt road appears to be intended to support safety for wildlife and walkers using the area. There are a number of issues associated with this proposal:	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration

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			25	i. The assumption that retention of a dirt road will keep traffic volumes low is questionable, and anecdotal evidence suggests that traffic volumes on this road are increasing.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
				ii. The safety of wildlife and walkers would be best ensured by controlling the speed of vehicles using this road. The current road configuration does little to control vehicle speeds.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
				iii. This unsealed section of road is causing dust problems for local residents living to the east of Margaret St. Approximately 60 residents recently lodged a petition with Council to seal this road. As the petition noted: “Margaret Street was historically a little used local access street, however with the continuing development of Tatura, traffic volumes on this road have increased significantly. This increased traffic is raising constant dust clouds which are being blown by prevailing westerly winds into residential areas east of Margaret Street. This is creating significant inconvenience, nuisance and additional cleaning requirements for local residents. It is noted that in many rural areas, sections of roads have been sealed to control dust problems near houses, and it is appropriate that the streets within the Tatura township are also sealed to control this problem”.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
				iv. In storms, runoff flows directly from this dirt road into the wetland. The sediment loads and increased turbidity from this unmade road are highly likely to have negative impacts on water quality and the ecological health of the wetland.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
				Rather than seeking to constrain the ability of council to respond to the legitimate needs of the community, it is strongly recommended that the management plan should clearly set out that the objectives for this section of roadway, which appear to be that the safety of wildlife and walkers is protected.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
				A number of treatments, such as sealing the road and incorporating traffic calming devices like speed humps would achieve this outcome. Speed humps would be far more effective in discouraging vehicle use and controlling speeds to safe levels than the current arrangements, and sealing the road would address dust concerns and reduce polluted run-off into the wetland.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
			26	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Management Plan for Cussen Park. The draft plan is well written and provides the community with a clear basis for providing comment. We believe that the recommendations we have provided above will add further value to the Plan. We would be happy to meet with Council staff at any time to discuss these comments or provide further inputs.	Noted
community member 2016/10964	not answered	not answered	27	Since 1985 I have watched the area deteriorate from a visually pleasing, effective waterway to a overgrown fire hazard that’s choking the towns stormwater system	Noted
			28	encourage noxious weeds like combungi to flourish in the towns drainage course	Noted
			29	stinking stagnet water	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway

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			30	The pondage is their to support the town and should take priority due to its significance to drain the area effectively. The best benefit to Tatura residents is the knowledge that their stormwater is capable of being dispersed without any blockage	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
			31	Immediate works such as desilting and clearing the pondage are imperative	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
community member 2016/13985	monthly	walking/scenic	32	Suggest development of a play area for children to encourage more families to use the Park - I notice that Park users are mainly older people.	Cussen Park promotes nature based play and passive recreation
Community member 2016/13989	winter - too many snakes in summer	walk, exercise dog	33	This report lists management roles and responsibilities but in my opinion it has been let fall into a state of disrepair.	Noted
			34	Should be a strong connection with schools in the area.	The Cussen Park Advisory Committee often organise community educational events at the park
community member 2016/13617	Daily	Exercise, recreation	35	The Plan, overall is a well considered document, put together over many years and much consultation. The 3 items I wish to address relate to the Margaret Street Pond.	Noted
			36	Water depth has been a burning issue for some years. According to the Plan the water is supposed to be at a roughly constant level. This has not always been the case. Constant manipulation of water levels at inappropriate times of the year has resulted in the mess that is there now - the build up of organic matter. The situation has improved over the last 12 months, but lets keep it that way. Some active intervention may be required to repair the damage.	Will be addressed through Margaret Street Pond upgrade design which is currently underway
			37	The sealing of Margaret Street should happen, along with a walking/bicycle track to separate cars from pedestrians and bicycles. In its current state the road contributes to dust and contaminated run-off into Cussen Park. The argument that reducing traffic will protect wildlife (presumably waterfowl) crossing the road is a complete Furphy. See Point 7.8. I use that street daily as a pedestrian and I rarely observe wildlife crossing the road. If there is wildlife crossing then it is never below tree canopy height, well out of reach of even the tallest vehicle.	Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
			38	The development of the east bank of the Margaret Street pond is of great concern to us. Our property adjoins the eastern side of the pond. We have maintained the east bank along our property for 22 years. There have recently been poorly communicated proposals for this land, and apart from filling in a culvert, not much action. We are completely in the dark about what is proposed - the suggestions have ranged from pushing over a couple of trees to a full blown walking track. We don't see the need for a walking track on the east bank when there is access on the west bank. We are also concerned about privacy and security, with unknown members of the public wondering through poorly defined public/private land with hardly any surveillance.	Access for maintenance will be required to this area.
GMW 2016/13236	N/A	N/A	39	Thank you for providing GMW the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Management Plan for Cussen Park. I have consulted with our internal departments and GMW would like Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) to consider the following:	Noted

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			40	The extent to which the proposed management of the park has any bearing on the 6/5 and 7/6/5 channels which are adjacent to the park, in terms of operation, access, potential for decommission. GMW suggests that information regarding channels 6/5 and 7/6/5 how the new Environmental Management Plan for Cussen Park will/wont impact on these channels is included.	Noted
			41	Request GMW Connections to provide advice to GSCC about future plans for the 6/5 and 7/6/5 channels. GSCC may consider requesting information from GMW Connections of any future plans for these channels, to enable GSCC to consider what this might mean to the future management of the park.	To be considered
			42	Acknowledge the role that Cussen Park plays in treatment of stormwater. GMW suggests that stormwater treatment is mentioned in the context of the park providing potential water quality benefits	Noted
Community Member 2016/13222	Varies between 2-5 times per week	As exercise and relaxation. Adventure, environmental and wildlife observation activity with the grandchildren. Also picnic in the area.	43	3.4 This also needs to work in the reverse in that there is no reference to closeness of trees to adjacent landholder's fence line and management of falling limbs. Risk Management of these trees have not been previously or currently effectively managed and limbs continue to cause damage when falling on fences. See Request Status (ID432678) 12th June 2007	Noted
			44	5.4 Reference needs to be made to the Park Street storm water discharge point which can be blocked by sediment as it enters the lagoon to the north of the observation deck.	Noted
			45	7.8 Is there research that records numbers of wildlife walking or in low flight across Margaret Street? This street is designed for vehicles and should be sealed for access to those wishing to use most direct route to destination. Signage with reduced speed would lessen impact on wildlife Lack of footpath could be rectified, however, there is plenty of space to the east side of the road.to walk safely. There is no mention of protection of wild life on Ross Street adjacent to the park where water is accessible on both sides of the road for wildlife. Should this road (Ross Street) remain unsealed to slow the traffic also?	Flora & Fauna assessments are listed as an action in the action plan of the management plan. Comments on Margaret Street have been forwarded to works/infrastructure for consideration
			46	8.1 Consideration should be given to appropriate buffer zone, which should be in the area designated as Elizabeth Street. The cycling and walking path referred to in the document is not where Elizabeth Street would be. The aerial view Fig 1 and Fig 2 show Elizabeth street as included in Cussen Park. The boundary should be to the east west boundary continuation of the private property and not include the land designated for Elizabeth Street.	Noted
GBCMA M16/25128	N/A	N/A	47	Need to be very clear about objectives of different areas within Cussen Park e.g. Margaret St pond is a different wetland category to the main pond, and the northern loop. What is the purpose of each? Once defined, manage to that objective. Are we prioritising birds? Vegetation? Community? Highlight the different species that use each area, and use different color on maps. E.g. Margaret st pond is a refuge for fauna.	To be considered

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			48	Document sent through on the different wetland categories (e.g. type 3 to type 6). These definitions can provide guidance to how often to wet/dry, and for how long to achieve the objectives of the wetland.	To be considered
			49	Using data to back up decisions better than using anecdotal evidence. 'Our past experiences indicate...' – adapt to local conditions, based on best available science.	To be considered
			50	Grassland management extremely difficult. E.g. Wallaby grass very dependent on site conditions – won't grow when not in suitable conditions. Low success rates in region for rehabilitating grasslands – can be very expensive, time consuming and still achieve poor results (e.g. Naring TFN grassland NE of Numurkah). Often recommend planting grasslands once other vegetation is established – could plant herbs and shrubs into section 6, and back plant grasses later on when weeds less of an issue. Contact grassland specialists (Doug Robinson TFN, Paul Foreman Bendigo, Tim Barden Koonawarra seeds Echuca) – GMA utilises these for advice, rather than in house.	To be considered
			51	Can use uni students to conduct vegetation and fauna surveys.	Noted
			52	Add threatened species to species list attachment. Birds, frogs, bats, possums.	To be amended
			53	Delivery outlet info for Cussen Park.	To be considered
			54	Reedy Swamp EMP for examples.	Noted