

WACRA June 2020 Newsletter

COASTAL PATHWAY

Thank you to those members who provided us with feedback regarding the Coastal Pathway.

The following is our submission to the Government on the Proposed Linear Path Coastal Pathway Stage 1 from Third Street Semaphore Park to the northern Boundary of the Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve.

Our Association have broadly canvassed views from our members and supporters and we approve the proposed plan for the Coastal Pathway with five recommendations that we request be taken into consideration:

1. That the pathway between Third Street to Mirani Court be located as far east to the home boundaries as possible providing a 'wide buffer' between the high-water mark and the pathway.
2. The section of pathway between Mirani Court and the Northern Boundary of the Coastal Reserve along the western edge of the existing lawn area should meander in preference to a straight-line path. We recommend the pathway should include two 'Resting Hubs' allowing for viewing and slowing down bike traffic.
3. All non-native coastal plants with invasive root structures be removed from the dune section and replaced with coastal plants to eliminate any structural damage to the pathway.
4. All existing coastal plants be in harmony with the local environment and preserved with care and sensitivity.
5. Very clear signage is located in obvious view to all users. The introduction of a by-law to minimise bicycle speed on the pathway.

SUGGESTED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

We have become aware that the Casuarina species between Third Avenue and Mirani Court are non-coastal and invasive and need to be removed and replaced with suitable native coastal vegetation in a staged process ensuring a non-destabilisation of the existing dunes system.

WACRA COMMUNICATION WITH COUNCIL

The following letter is from Paul Sutton, CEO of Charles Sturt Council, regarding questions our members had regarding Council operations.

Please find detailed responses to each of your questions below:

1. **Revisions to Council's Strategic Plan in the light of COVID-19 and the opportunities for community participation in their development and implementation?**

Council has just recently closed community consultation for our Community Plan and Annual Business Plan documents and that feedback is being summarised and will be presented to committee (ABP) on 1/6/20 and then to Council the following week. Most of the feedback that was received did reflect the current COVID-19 situation and that will be considered by Committee and Council. The Community Plan will then be used to provide the direction for Council's other strategic documents. Council regularly consults with our community on a range of plans and projects and we would value any feedback from WACRA on those documents at the relevant time.

2. **Will there be an opportunity for a resident's forum on a post COVID-19 City of Charles Sturt?**

We have been collecting our community's vision for the future as part of our Community Plan in 2020 and have been engaging with our residents and businesses during COVID-19. Similarly, to Adelaide City Council's "Recover + Reimagine" we will be connecting with our community and seeking input, ideas and ways to improve our City moving forward. Council has already put in place a range of support measures for clubs, businesses and residents. There will be an opportunity to contribute to this in the coming months in a variety of ways. An in-person forum is not planned, however online digital connections will be launched, as well as ways people can contribute via other methods.

3. **Specifically, what is planned for the \$97.4m on proposed expenditure for capital works?**

The \$97.4m capital works are identified and endorsed by Council through our Long- Term Financial Plan and our Annual Budget process. Key projects include:

1. The development of the West Lakes Hub (library and community centre) in the WEST development. This has a total value of \$8.2m. Designs are in progress with construction commencing early in the new financial year.
2. The reconstruction of the West Beach Rock Wall Northern section will continue. The central section was completed in 2019/20 (with some landscaping still to be completed after the Northern section). Works for the Northern section will continue in 2020/2021 as well as the reconstruction of the beach access ramp which is currently out to tender. Furthermore, Council will contribute \$1.6m to the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club upgrade project. Council will contribute 33% of the total construction cost with the balance to be provided by Surf Life Saving Australia (56%) and the West Beach Club (11%)
3. The Woodville Road Streetscape Stage 1 is underway and includes design as well as underground powerlines and watermain alterations. Stage 1 (2020/21) is \$795k with a total project value of \$10m.
4. Stage 1 (design) for Military Road and Main Street streetscape is underway. In 2020/2021 will see the commencement of the preliminary works including the undergrounding of power lines. The total project value is \$14.08m.
5. Flinders Park changeroom renewal with a total cost of \$819k. This includes \$224k contribution from the State Government and \$130k of cash in kind from the club, totalling \$465k contribution from Council.
6. Renewal of the River Torrens Linear Park Bridge Upgrade with a budget of \$1.8835m.
7. A \$2m contribution to the Rehabilitation and Restoration of the River Torrens at Breakout Creek. The total project cost is \$12m with State and Federal funding of \$8m (\$2m Federal and \$6m State).
8. A \$2m stormwater lateral upgrade at Clovelly Avenue to mitigate flooding.
9. Road and Path Renewals in 2020/2021 alone is \$13m with key road reconstructions for Hawker Street, Lamont Street, Welland Avenue and Glengarry Street.

All major projects with up to date information can be viewed on the CCS website under major projects [https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/development-and- infrastructure/major-projects](https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/development-and-infrastructure/major-projects).

The 2020/21 budget was recently out for consultation and contains the full budget listing for 2020/21. This can be viewed at <https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/annual-business-plan-202021>.

There are many other projects that ensure Council's assets are renewed in line with our Asset Management policies and deliver benefits to our Community. Having this \$97.4m expenditure over the next two years ensures there is a steady pipeline of work for our economy.

4. **What are plans to proceed with the final stage of the construction and greening of Breakout Creek Wetland given the government's commitment to fund the project via local government. What opportunities for employment for CCS residents? What will become of the horse exercise yard on the northern side of the river at the end of Military Rd, given that it is currently used as a full-size arena with temporary yarding facilities?**

Breakout Creek Stage 3 is now a fully funded \$12 million project with Council recently securing a \$2 million State Government grant toward this project in addition to funds provided by the Australian Government and those being contributed by the City of West Torrens. The project is being delivered by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board (soon to transition to Green Adelaide).

Presently, design work is underway to further develop the concept plan.

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board have advised that the horse exercise yard area is part of the redevelopment area and it will not stay as a horse exercise yard. They advised that on-ground works will commence in December of this year and the project will be completed within 18 months. A community update from the NRM Board will be announced soon.

Our economic analysis of the project identifies that given the project value of \$12 million, the corresponding creation of direct jobs is estimated at 37 jobs. From this direct expansion in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in the gain of a further 29 jobs. The increase in direct and indirect output and the corresponding creation of jobs in the economy are expected to result in an increase in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are estimated to further boost employment by 17 jobs.

Total employment, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to increase by up to 83 jobs.

5. **What is council doing to follow up climate emergency declaration? Our Climate Emergency Team is keen to see a public forum to explore options. What is the future role of Role of AdaptWest and what funding is there for AdaptWest in the new strategic plan?**

Following Council's declaration of a climate emergency in December 2019, staff have been developing a draft strategy for rapidly reducing carbon emissions from Council operations. This work is well underway, and it is anticipated that the draft may be presented to Council for their consideration in July/August of this year.

It is envisaged that a community-focussed carbon emissions reduction strategy will also be developed – how this is formed is still under consideration.

Thank you for your offer to contribute to these processes. We have noted your interest and will contact you directly to invite WACRA's input at the appropriate time, please also take any opportunity to participate in the various broader consultation opportunities.

The AdaptWest program is continuing to progress the climate change adaptation agenda across western Adelaide. Areas of focus have included; implementing urban heat mitigation strategies including increasing urban greening efforts on council land and trialling 'cool roads' pavement treatments. The AdaptWest program is included in the draft budget for 2020/21 and if adopted by Council will continue to implement actions from the AdaptWest climate change adaptation plan. Please refer to the AdaptWest website (<https://www.adaptwest.com.au/>) for further details on the regional program.

We would welcome an opportunity to present to your group (either virtually or in person) on the AdaptWest plan and its implementation. If that is of interest to you and your members, please contact Anna Rogers on 0415 388 545 to discuss further in further detail.

6. **What is the current status of Antunes drain on to Henley Beach? Are court proceedings in train? What is Council's role?**

This matter is in the hands of the Department for Environment and Water for action under the Natural Resource Management Act 2004.

The City of Charles Sturt are in regular contact with the Department but have no current role in these actions.

7. **Where are we up to in relation to Coast Park? What discussion have council had with DPTI re the current draft proposal for the section north of Tennyson Dunes and more crucially what is planned for the southern section? What is happening with the Judicial Review and what is the anticipated end date for that process?**

A report was provided to Council at its meeting of the 25 May 2020 and can be viewed on our website.

The report explains that the State Government is now taking steps to progress the project and has commenced consultation on the Northern section between Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve and Third Avenue Semaphore Park.

Minister Knoll's letter (included in the report) also states that they have started investigations on options for the Southern section and intend to complete that section also. Council is keen to for the project to progress as quickly as possible and through its consideration of Minister Knoll's letter has reaffirmed its continued support for seeing the project completed. As such Council has responded to the State Government via a public consultation process indicating our continued support.

Council have had very limited conversations with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure as the Department is managing their project approach. We have provided them with all documents that have been publicly presented to Council and access to previous engineering surveys to assist.

The Judicial Review is in relation to the Public Consultation Policy from 2018. A further formal mediation with the plaintiffs is scheduled for mid-July. The mediation session convened by Justice Lovell in February was cancelled by the CEPG a day or 2 before it was due.

8. **Public consultation policy. Can you confirm that the decision of Council on April 27 was to ensure a new Public Consultation Policy can be introduced without public consultation?**

The Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, via a variation to the Local Government Act dated 8 April 2020, provided Council's the opportunity to amend their Public Consultation Policy's without the requirement for public consultation.

Accordingly, Council utilised this provision to adopt a new policy, in which some minor amendments had been made to distinguish it from the previous policy and reduce potential legal risk.

In particular, the changes altered some areas of the policy that had created potential legal ambiguity. Importantly however it included more specific wording in accordance with Section 50 (3) of the Act, by inserting the requirement 'to provide interested persons with a reasonable opportunity to make submissions in the relevant circumstances. This requirement was not specifically referenced in the previous policy and hence the new policy has been strengthened to ensure the policy reflects council's intent that people have the opportunity to be heard.

While this opportunity was presented by the Minister's variation to the Act, it is Council's intention that any future revisions or amendments will be subject to public consultation.

9. **Keeping communities connected after the suspension of Messenger newspapers. Is Council considering the impact of this in terms of community cohesion and access to current local information and awareness of community issues?**

Yes, we are – our focus is on connecting our residents and businesses across our City with us and with each other.

We have a variety of communications channels and platforms including our quarterly publication Kaleidoscope, our monthly eNewsletter, our website, our social media channels, My Local Services App, plus much more.

During COVID-19 we have trialled the use of Australia Post to share hard copy information with our residents and have increased the level of information provided across areas like our libraries, Ageing Well, Compliance and Customer Contact teams.

The focus on providing information and sharing with our community through diverse channels in order to reach our 105 different cultures, our span of age demographics and the different interests and passions of our community remains an important focus for the City of Charles Sturt.

10. **SA Planning and Design Code - there has been a delay declared and a large petition before Parliament opposing introduction of the Code in its current form. What is Councils current position and what action has been taken to support this?**

Council considered and endorsed a submission on the State Planning Commission's draft Planning and Design Code for Phase 3 at its meeting on 24 February 2020. The submission was sent to the Commission on 26 February 2020.

A link to Council's submission was previously provided to one of your members, Paul Laris on 28 February 2020 for information. A further link to the submission is provided below:

https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/507020/Item-4.01-Draft-Submission-by-the-City-of-Charles-Sturt-Phase-3-Draft-Planning-and-Design-Code-Appendix-B.pdf

In terms of the Code's implementation, Council understands the Minister for Planning has amended the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, which has removed the deadline of 1 July 2020 for full implementation of the Code, enabling the timeframe to be set by proclamation in the South Australian Government Gazette. It is our understanding that the implementation for the Code (Phase3) for metropolitan councils is now September 2020.

11. Can we please have an update on the current situation re waste collection? WACRA supported Council's bid to have the Local Government Act amended to allow a more ecological approach and we were asked by Minister Knoll to assist him in gauging community support for any changes.

We appreciate WACRA's continued interest in and support for service improvements in this area. As a Council we remain very interested in the option of weekly organics collections when combined with less frequent collection of waste bins. We see this as a critical opportunity to improve services to our residents, and push forward our recycling efforts, while supporting South Australian composters and the South Australian horticultural sector more broadly (who are users of compost products) while not imposing additional costs to our community.

Our staff have met with State Government representatives on multiple occasions in recent months to discuss how this transition could best be approached. Several Councils have recently received State Government funding support to conduct trials and investigations that will improve our understanding of these issues, including in relation to the community's willingness to support such a change. These include trials proposed by a number of nearby Councils, and market research investigations by several others. State Government co-funding has recently been confirmed for several these, which we consider to be a very promising sign.

However, the Minister for the Environment has not been willing to relax the requirement for weekly putrescible waste collection in metro areas (even though non- metro councils are able to provide the service fortnightly. This is a critical element as it would allow for weekly organics collection (and fortnightly waste collection) on a more cost neutral basis. This is relevant as a significant portion of waste bins are filled with organic material that can and should be placed in the green bin, additionally the waste bins are under capacity and with the organic material further removed this service model is costly and wasteful in its current configuration.

Given the above, Charles Sturt is keeping a close watch on the progress of these trial initiatives and notes that early community responses have been encouraging and supportive. We continue to raise the importance of these reforms with the State Government, and while at this point in time the Government has not supported the legislative change put forward by WACRA, we remain optimistic a suitable way forward will be found.

In the interim, Charles Sturt's commitment to food waste recycling continues through the promotion and ongoing provision of free compostable bags to residents at our Civic Centre and 5 libraries. Take-up has improved steadily over a number of years, with our households

now achieving 18% diversion of food waste into green organics bins (with the remaining 82% remaining in waste bins). Clearly this leaves significant room for future improvement, which we hope to progress with your support and that of our broader community in the not-too-distant future.

I trust the above information assists and should you require any further information or clarification on these matters please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Paul Sutton
Chief Executive Officer

Once again, thank you to those members who have contributed to the above questions to Council. WACRA is hopeful that we will be able to meet more formally within the near future. In the meantime we welcome any questions or comments you may have.

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