

ITEM NO.	C.15/0820	FILE REF.	
SUBJECT	Revised Design for the Old Rectory Pathway Upgrade		
PROPONENT	Council		
OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer		
DATE OF REPORT	26 August 2020		

Attachment 15 - Revised design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway Upgrade

Reason for Urgent Business: After discussions at the August Concept Forum on 13.8.20 revisions to the design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway component for the Foreshore Park Project were investigated with modified plans only being received back on 25.8.20. Endorsement of the modified plans is required as soon as possible to ensure the project is "shovel ready".

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept Item C.15/0820 as urgent business.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. *That Council endorse the revised design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway Upgrade as shown in Attachment 15.*
2. *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve (when received) the design plans for the River Walk Trail Upgrade and car park/access road components of the Foreshore Park Project as both components are predominantly renewal of existing infrastructure.*

Summary/Purpose

To consider revised design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway Upgrade.

Background

Council, at its June 2020 meeting resolved:

C.13/0620 That Council

1. *Endorse the certified detailed designs and costings for the Blackwood River Foreshore Development Project –'Pedestrian Bridge' Trail (Attachment 14).*
2. *Endorse the concept design and preliminary cost estimates for the car park and road access (Attachment 15).*
3. *Endorse the concept design and preliminary cost estimates of the River Walk Upgrade (Attachment 16).*
4. *Increase the expenditure in the Blackwood River Foreshore account (PJ15) from \$16,250 to \$33,250 by transferring \$17,000 from the Strategic Projects Reserve to cover the costs associated with the detailed design, costings and certification of the River Walk and Pedestrian Bridge Trail Car Park and Road Access.*

Notwithstanding Council's endorsement of the design plans for the project there was some discussion of the project at the Council Concept Forum held on 13 August 2020. Specifically these discussions centred on the possibility of reviewing the

design of the proposed swales around the Old Rectory Pathway (existing alignment and proposed extension) so that swales are only required for protection of the pathway and not for drainage of adjacent 'wetland' areas.

Subsequent to the August Concept Forum Shire staff liaised with the engineers and landscape architects engaged by the Shire to prepare design drawings for the project. The instructions provided to the consultants was that the pathway needs to be universally accessible for as long a period as possible noting that flooding of the area can occur periodically. There are sections of the walk that remain dry for the majority of the year and small sections that remain wet for an extended part of the winter. Ensuring the structural integrity of the pathway is the key priority but it was agreed that a balance needs to be achieved between the structural engineering of the pathway and the conservation of the surrounding area.

The design endorsed by Council in June 2020 uses culverts and swales as a means of reducing flood waters and protecting the base of the path. Subsequent to the Concept Forum discussions occurred on the possibility of using bridges/boardwalks as an alternative to culverts for crossing of key drainage lines. An example of the boardwalk used at the Schwenkes Dam (Greenbushes) restoration project was raised for consideration and was provided to the engineers and landscape architects for assessment. That assessment was undertaken and a determination made that this alternative design was practical and would provide greater protection to the pathway than the originally proposed culverts as higher levels of water would be accommodated.

Revised design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway Upgrade have been prepared (refer Attachment 15) and incorporate the following changes:

1. The rock pitched swales are now reduced to just that area where any flood waters drain out under what is now two bridge/boardwalk crossings. The removal of the full extent of the swales may mean some localised flooding may occur but the majority of any floodwaters should find their way out via the two new bridge crossings. The concentrated flows in these areas have the potential to erode the banks so this has been mitigated by the inclusion of rock pitching.
2. The specifications for the bridge crossings are similar to the Schwenkes Dam Boardwalk being fibre reinforced plastic decking and substructure mounted on timber posts. Handrails will be installed each side due to 1,700mm fall height.

Officer Comment

The proposed modifications to the path design address some environmental concerns raised about drainage of wet areas whilst still ensuring protection of the structural integrity of the pathway occurs.

The removal of non-essential swales and replacement of culverts with bridge crossings will result in savings of approximately \$33,500. These savings will be added to the contingency allocation for the overall Foreshore Park Project.

Revocation of Resolution C.13/0620 isn't required as the design plans for the Old Rectory Pathway was only one element addressed in that resolution and changes to the other elements aren't proposed.

Assuming Council endorses the officer recommendation the overall Foreshore Park project will be 'shovel ready'. Design drawings for the River Walk Trail Upgrade and car park/access road are recommended to be approved at the operational level as both components are predominantly renewal of existing infrastructure.

Statutory Environment - Nil

Integrated Planning

➤ Strategic Community Plan

Key Goal 1: Our economy will be strong, diverse and resilient.

Objective 1.1: A diverse economy that provides a range of business and employment opportunities.

Strategy 1.1.8: Develop trails – culinary, art, walk, mountain bike, canoe and bridle.

Key Goal 2: Our natural environment is valued, conserved and enjoyed.

Objective 2.1: Value, protect and enhance our natural environment.

Strategy 2.1.4: Consider opportunities for greater recreational and commercial use of the Blackwood River.

➤ Corporate Business Plan

Action 1.1.8.2: Complete detailed planning and costing for the Old Rectory Loop Trail.

Action 2.1.4.1: Prepare a development concept plan for River Park and surrounds.

Action 2.1.4.2: Redesign and reconstruct the river boardwalk.

➤ Long Term Financial Plan

The Long Term Financial Plan incorporates the expenditure identified under the Corporate Business Plan.

➤ Asset Management Plans

As the infrastructure involved in the Project will be constructed on Shire managed land this infrastructure will be included in Council's Asset Management and Building Maintenance Plans on completion of the construction stage of the project.

➤ Workforce Plan

The design stages of project planning include an assessment of the maintenance requirements to identify the whole of life cycle costings associated with infrastructure maintenance and the required workforce implications.

➤ Other Integrated Planning

- Local Trails Plan
- Sport and Recreation Plan

Policy Implications

Policy F.23 – ‘Asset Management – Project Management Framework’. The principles of this policy are:

- *Council has a responsibility to ensure that their existing assets are maintained, renewed and/or upgraded to maximise the functionality and therefore capacity and usage during the asset’s useful life. If identified through the Community Strategic Planning process that the provision of a new asset is desirable, Council must evaluate each project proposal to ensure, that if approved, it will not adversely affect Council’s overall financial sustainability.*
- *No new capital works projects are commenced until such time as Council has undertaken appropriate due diligence assessments of each new capital works proposal to ensure that:*
 - *the proposed project is included in the Strategic Community, Corporate and Long Term Financial plans;*
 - *An independent Whole-of-Life Cost Benefit Analysis has been prepared that determines the affordability of the project and the extent of any ongoing operational cost/subsidy;*
 - *The extent of any ongoing subsidy is accepted by Council;*
 - *Each proposal has been evaluated against other competing projects to determine the priority of each proposed project;*
 - *Any costs have been scrutinised by a quantity surveyor’s assessment.*

Any proposed new asset not currently contained within Council’s Strategic Community Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan be deferred until a review of the Corporate Business Plan is undertaken to ensure the proposal has been prioritised against other infrastructure works previously contained within these

Budget Implications

The removal of non-essential swales and replacement of culverts with bridge crossings will result in savings of approximately \$33,500. These savings will be added to the contingency allocation for the overall Foreshore Park Project.

Whole of Life Accounting

The design stages of project planning include an assessment of the maintenance requirements to identify the whole of life cycle costings associated with infrastructure maintenance and the required workforce implications.

Risk Management

The recommendations mitigate Council’s exposure to risk through a comprehensive planning process for infrastructure developments and reducing Council’s financial commitment to maintain capital projects in the future.

Voting Requirements – Simple Majority