

**MINUTES**

**Foreshore Management Steering**

**Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 21 August 2024**

This is a Committee which only makes recommendations to Council. No action should be taken on any recommendation contained in these Minutes. The Council resolution pertaining to an item will be made at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following this meeting.

**Information**

Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meetings are run in accordance with the City of Nedlands Standing Orders Local Law. If you have any questions in relation to items on the agenda, procedural matters, public question time, addressing the Committee or attending meetings please contact the Executive Officer on 9273 3500.

**Public Question Time**

Public question time at a Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting is available for members of the public to ask a question about items on the agenda. Questions asked by members of the public are not to be accompanied by any statement reflecting adversely upon any Council Member, Committee Member or Employee.

Questions should be submitted as early as possible via the online form available on the City’s website: [Public question time | City of Nedlands](https://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/public-question-time)

Questions may be taken on notice to allow adequate time to prepare a response and all answers will be published in the minutes of the meeting.

**Addresses by Members of the Public**

Members of the public wishing to address Council in relation to an item on the agenda must complete the online registration form available on the City’s website: [Public Address Registration Form | City of Nedlands](https://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/public-address-registration-form)

The Presiding Member will determine the order of speakers to address the Council and the number of speakers is to be limited to 2 in support and 2 against any particular item on a Special Council Meeting Agenda. The Public address session will be restricted to 15 minutes unless the Council, by resolution decides otherwise.

 **Disclaimer**

Members of the public who attend Council Meetings Agenda Forum should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council’s position. For example, by reference to the confirmed Minutes of Council meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

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# Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member will declare the meeting open at 2.30pm and will draw attention to the disclaimer on page 2 and will advise that the meeting is being livestreamed.

**Councillors** Deputy Mayor K Smyth

 Councillor F J O Bennett (Presiding Member) Dalkeith Ward

 Councillor B Brackenridge (Online) Melvista Ward

 Councillor H Amiry (Online) Coastal Ward

**Staff** Mr M K MacPherson Director Technical Services

 Mr N Brown Manager City Projects & Projects

 Mrs B Irwin Technical Services Projects & Administration Officer

**Apologies** Mayor F Argyle

Councillor B G Hodsdon Hollywood Ward

**Public** There were 0 members of the public present and 0 online.

**Press** 0

# Disclosures of Financial Interest

The Presiding Member to remind Council Members and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the Local Government Act to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

# Disclosures of Interest Affecting Impartiality

The Presiding Member to remind Council Members and Staff of the requirements of Council’s Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the Local Government Act.

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

# Declaration by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers

Members who have not read the business papers to make declarations at this point.

Nil.

# Confirmation of Minutes

## Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – 12 June 2024

The Minutes of the Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting 12 June 2024 are to be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved – Deputy Mayor Smyth

Seconded – Councillor Amiry

The Minutes of the Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting 12 June 2024 are to be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/-**

# Items for Discussion

## FMSC03.08.24 Foreshore Management Plan – Final Endorsement

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Meeting & Date | Committee Meeting – 21st August 2024 |
| Applicant | City of Nedlands  |
| Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995  | Nil. |
| Report Author | Daniel Kennedy-Stiff, Manager City Projects & Programs |
| Director | Matthew MacPherson, Director Technical Services |
| Attachments | Draft Nedlands Foreshore Master Plan – FinalYourVoice Community Consultation Summary Report -12th July 2024 – 9th August 20241. Proposed revised timeline for actions
 |

Moved – Deputy Mayor Smyth

Seconded – Councillor Amiry

Amendment

Moved – Councillor Bennett

Seconded – Deputy Mayor Smyth

**That the steering committee:**

1. **recommends that the Foreshore Management Plan as per attachment 1 inclusive of proposed priority amendments presented in attachment 3 for presentation to Council for adoption approved to establish positions and enable the pursuit of grants for urgent works, and**
2. **requests that no sooner than 12 months after adoption, a follow up community consultation occur seeking feedback on the Foreshore Management Plan and any other related or nearby projects, such as a Riverine Coastal Hazard Risk Management Plan and Charles Court Reserve Rugby Field enlargement and lighting tower installation.**
3. **requests that the CEO develop a draft Works Sub-Program detailing broad costs and timelines to potential funding schemes for presentation to the next Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting prior to the end of October 2024 to drive the provision of a funding for Council consideration in the 2025-26 Budget and outer years.**

**That the Recommendation be adopted.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/-**

**Amended Recommendation**

**That the steering committee:**

1. **recommends that the Foreshore Management Plan as per attachment 1 inclusive of proposed priority amendments presented in attachment 3 for presentation to Council for adoption approved to establish positions and enable the pursuit of grants for urgent works, and**
2. **requests that no sooner than 12 months after adoption, a follow up community consultation occur seeking feedback on the Foreshore Management Plan and any other related or nearby projects, such as a Riverine Coastal Hazard Risk Management Plan and Charles Court Reserve Rugby Field enlargement and lighting tower installation.**
3. **requests that the CEO develop a draft Capital Works Sub-Program detailing broad costs and timelines to potential funding schemes for presentation to the next Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting prior to the end of October 2024 to drive the provision of funding for Council consideration in the 2025-26 Budget and outer years.**

 **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is seeking Committee endorsement of the Foreshore Management Plan and prioritised list of outcomes and objectives.

**Recommendation**

That the Committee endorses the Foreshore Master Plan as per attachment 1 inclusive of proposed priority amendments presented in attachment 3 for presentation to Council for adoption.

 **Voting Requirement**

Simple Majority

**Background**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17th December 2019, a Councillor put forward a Notice of Motion (NoM) regarding the river wall and foreshore management, recognising that the area is a high profile and important gateway to Nedlands from Perth. Additionally, concerns highlighted that the revetment wall design does not account for coastal ecology, coastal engineering or the relevant physical forces that need to be considered. Aesthetic concerns were also raised.

Consequently, a Foreshore Workshop was organised and held on 10th September 2021 and was attended by the Mayor, Councillors, Administration staff, members from the University of Western Australia and representatives from Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The guiding aims and objectives of the Foreshore Master Plan (FMP), which are consistent with the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy, have been categorised into socio economic, commercial and sustainability benefits realisation objectives, which have been developed, and weighted by relevance, are shown below:

**Tier 1:**

1. Be consistent with the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy, its vision of ‘A healthy river for all, to be enjoyed and shared, now and in the future’, its responses, strategies, and actions.
2. Create a highly accessible and integrated public open space:
* By improving access, connectivity, and legibility for all users to the foreshore environment.
* Review current transport provisions and investigate multi modal transport options.
* Identify transport considerations aimed at reducing car use and conflict between nodes of transport.
1. Create a sustainability benchmark:
* Develop a strategy to manage the operation, maintenance, renewal, and upgrade of infrastructure assets to meet key stakeholders and community needs in a sustainable, cost effective and holistic manner.
* Support environmental values to enhance native flora, fauna, and marine species – particularly dolphins.
* Promote an environment that responds to the requirements of climate change and water sensitive urban design practice and provides biodiversity.
* Recommend management / maintenance strategies for the next ten years.
1. Establish key areas for sport activities, passive recreation, and nature spaces:
* Provide safe and diverse recreation choices at the foreshore.
* Increase activation and appeal of existing spaces.
* Provide unique environment for fitness and leisure activities with passive and relaxation opportunities.

**Tier 2:**

1. Celebrate Aboriginal culture and the wider history and heritage as a strong element of the foreshore’s identity:
* Create opportunities in partnership with the local community to celebrate and educate visitors on the historic use of the foreshore by the Noongar Aboriginal peoples.
* Create opportunities in partnership with the local community and heritage.
1. Create Partnership Opportunities:
* Within the local area by attracting commercial opportunities to key nodal areas.
1. Create Education and Training Opportunities:
* Leverage the location and provide innovative education opportunities through the provision of way finding and other public infrastructure.
* Leverage the location on the river and relationships with government and community groups for the provision of innovative training and educational water related programmes.
* By improving access, connectivity, and legibility for all users to the foreshore environment.

**Tier 3:**

1. Enhance Nedlands as a residential location of choice:
* By attracting tourists and residents from regional and national and international markets.

In Q2 of 2022 a consultant team was engaged to undertake the development of an FMP for the City. The consultant team consists of a Principal Consultant, a specialist coastal Engineering firm and a communication specialist.

Work on the project has progressed steadily and the FMP has but a handful of tasks to be completed, however, due to ongoing staff shortages across Technical Services there have been a few delays in the completion of this project. The City Projects and Programs team has had great difficulty in recruitment of Project Managers over the past 24 months, with only 1 of 3 staff available, to deliver works and projects being employed until very recently. This has meant other, supervisory, staff members have had share responsibility of the FMP project, whilst dividing time and attention to focus on delivery of capital works and maintenance of the City’s built form assets. As such, work on the FMP, has been delayed in preference of multiple capital works and operational projects which have tight grant funding deadlines and noticeable implications to day-to-day operations.

A summary table of the key project activities undertaken to date is shown below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task**  | **Deliverable**  | **Complete** | **Date complete**  | **Notes**  |
| 1.  Project start up and planning  | Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan  | **P** | 5 May 2022   |   |
|   | Project Steering Committee (PSG) meeting #1   | **P** | 16 May 2022  |   |
| 2   Context analysis report  | Draft report  | **P** | 15 July 2022  |   |
|   | Steering Committee meeting #2   | **P** | 25 July 2022  |   |
| 3.  Stakeholder and community engagement  | Project information page, ratepayer information, public notices, e-news, social media, Post advertising  | **P** | July – September 2022  |   |
| Online survey  | **P** | July- September 2022 | 124 responses  |
| Public information sessions (4) -   | **P** | throughout August 2023  | 38 attendees  |
| Individual meetings  | **P** | various dates  | 6 requests  |
| Meeting on country with Aboriginal representatives  | **P** | October 2022,  | 5 representatives  |
| 4.  Preparation of Foreshore master plan         | Engagement outcomes report  | **P** | 21 October 2022  |   |
| Steering Committee meeting #3   | **P** | 7 November 2022  |   |
| Preliminary draft concepts  | **P** | 17 January 2023  |   |
| Draft concepts  | **P** | 20 March 2023  |   |
| Steering Committee meeting #4  | **P** | 20 March 2023  |   |
| Steering Committee meeting #5  | **P** | 30 May 2023  |   |
| Draft foreshore master plan  | **P** | 18 August 2023 |   |
| Draft Masterplan for PSG  | **P** | 21 September 2023 |   |
| 5. Review and endorsement of the Foreshore master plan     | Steering Committee endorsement to proceed to community consultation  | **P** | 12 June 24 |   |
| Community consultation on draft  | **P** | 12 July – 9 August 24 |   |
| Review and incorporate changes  | **P** | August 24 | 2 responses |
| Steering Committee review and endorsement  |   | August 24 |   |
| Council review and endorsement |   | Q2 - 24 |   |

**Discussion**

The aim of the FMP is to provide a high level, strategic approach to the management of the Nedlands Foreshore. As part of the development, several key themes have been developed as well as concept designs for different areas. The FMP itself does not aim to undertake detailed analysis or investigation of issues, objective, or outcome, but rather provide guidance and priority so that Administration can then propose a:

1. Capital Works project to conduct either:
	1. More detailed investigation or design,
	2. Construction works.
2. Operational Project to develop and then implement a non-Capital outcome.
3. Change to service delivery or business as usual activities.

As part of Service Planning and the Annual Budget process Council can then determine a priority of these proposed projects and allocate funding and resources as so desired. For example, if the concept design for Paul Hasluck reserve was to be prioritised for delivery, a Capital Works Project (CWP) for the design works would be proposed for the 24/25 financial year (FY) and a CWP project for delivery would be proposed for the 25/26 financial year (FY).

In order, to define where the FMP sits in the City’s document hierarchy and how it interacts with other key strategies and plans it is proposed to change the title of the FMP from a Management plan to a Master Plan. A Master plan is a dynamic long-term planning document that provides a conceptual layout to guide future projects and improvements. This definition is reflected the strategic objectives and outcomes of the FMP. The final title is yet to be confirmed by the Steering Committee and will be part of ongoing discussions. For the purposes of this report FMP refers to a title of Master/Management until a final choice is endorsed by Council.

Of the 22 deliverable tasks to develop the FMP, 17 (77%) are now complete, and in late 2023 the draft FMP was distributed to Steering Committee Members, including the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) members.

No specific written comments or amendments were provided by the Steering Committee. Minor amendments from City Officers and DBCA have been incorporated into the final draft which is attached to this report. The last comments received by Administration from committee members were in December 2023.

It should be noted that the City is currently in the early stages of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP). This project aims to define areas of City’s the coastlines that are vulnerable to coastal hazards and to develop an adaption plan to monitor and manage these hazards where required. It is expected that the outcomes of the technical analysis undertaken as part of the CHRMAP may influence the final built form outcomes of some of the objectives/outcomes of the FMP.

Pending budget availability, the City intends to undertake the CHRMAP process for both ocean and riverine sections of the Nedlands Foreshore. There is a grant funding contribution for this project, but, for the ocean segment of Foreshore only. However, Administration believes there is greater urgency for a CHRMAP of the riverine sections of foreshore and will recommend that should there be budgetary limitations, additional funding for this area should be prioritised.

When reviewed against the outcome of the CHRMAP project, a high-level analysis of the draft FMP outcomes/objectives indicates that of the 55 outcomes:

* 20 may need to be reviewed or adjusted after the CHRMAP is complete, and,
* Of these 20m, approximately 10 outcomes require significant design and/or investigation before construction works could occur.

Incorporation of the recommendations of the CHRMAP will not necessarily change the outcome of the FMP but may influence the outcomes of investigation and design undertaken when an outcome is delivered, or the priority/urgency of a particular outcome.

For example, the FMP recommends a change to the built form of the Foreshore, such as at Paul Hasluck reserve. The CHRMAP process will conduct a detail analysis of the risks associated with sea level rise in this area, analyse the proposed concept in the FMP and undertake a cost benefit analysis. The outcome may be a recommendation about the height of beaches, or the extent of additional protection works required to adapt the concept to sea level rise.

This information would then be used as a starting point for detailed design and investigation when that stage of the project is funded. The general concept of returning Paul Hasluck Reserve to a more natural foreshore does not change due to the CHRMAP process or data, however, timelines and extent of water level rises and so forth will help inform the project.

**Consultation**

Consultation was open for approximately one month via the City’s YourVoice platform. This round of consultation focused specifically on gaining community feedback on the priority outcomes and objectives that Administration should focus on over the next 4 years.

Respondents were asked to select:

* 5 priority short term objectives
* 3 medium term objectives
* 1 long term objectives

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide any general feedback on the FMP.

As the number of responses was low when compared against the number of downloads and site visits, it is reasonable to assume that participants are largely aligned with the proposed plan. This ever-decreasing rate of responses is evident over the life of the project from an initial response number of 128 respondents, and as the community view is considered and integrated.

The communities’ preferences of objectives to be prioritised were then considered analysed against the City’s Community Plan and other informing strategies as well as against other priorities and extent of costs to deliver. As the response rate was low, there was minimal preference given above other priorities, with only the follow two recording multiple ‘votes’:

Short Term Actions:

3.1.1 Investigate pedestrian and cycle path networks along the foreshore and seek to improve connectivity to other key local destinations/activity areas.

Medium Term Actions:

5.2.2 Revegetate the foreshore at White Beach to assist with stabilisation of the shoreline and provide habitat for fauna, maintaining aesthetic values.

Both of these actions are already duplicated and reinforced by other City strategies and plans, such as the Integrated Transport Strategy, and the relevant Environmental Management Plans.

Given this, it is not proposed to re-prioritise the time horizons for the actions presented in the FMP.

Finally, the free text responses provided the following statements generally with respect to the draft FMP and are provided for perusal:

“*Do more to prioritise biodiversity conservation, including revegetation and rewilding approaches.*”

And

“*I see no need to relocate the playing fields. The rugby, soccer, American football and cricket played on the playing fields provides some of the most extensive public use of the area and justifies the cost of maintaining it.*”

These responses have been noted and either support what the City is already undertaking, or point to further engagement in future when detailed design work is proposed respectively.

Noting the financial constraints currently facing the City and to manage community and stakeholder expectations, it is recommended to move any non-priority short term objectives to a medium-term timeframe and any medium-term objectives to a long-term timeframe. The proposed objectives to be moved further along the horizon are as tabled in Attachment 3 and denoted by yellow highlighted boxes.

It must be clear, however, that the proposed time horizon adjustments do not necessarily mean that those actions will be started in line with that time period – only that the actions and objectives will be worked toward over an extended period – determined by competing tasks and available staff and financial resources. These may be brought forward or deferred to align with external grant opportunities as they arise on a case by case basis.

For instance 4.1.2 – ‘Yarning Circles’ is proposed to be altered from a Short (0-4 years) to a Medium (5-10 years) time horizon. By way of example, should there be a dozen sites identified, these could be delivered at a rate of two per year over six years, as opposed to three per year over four years – reducing the burden on the City and ratepayer and allowing financial and project planning to occur at a steady and achievable rate. External funding support may well allow this action to be accelerated and still be delivered over the short timeframe.

**Strategic Implications**

This item is strategically aligned to the City of Nedlands Council Plan 2022-23 vision and desired outcomes as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vision** | **Sustainable and responsible for a bright future** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pillar** | **People** |
| **Outcome** | 2. A healthy, active and safe community. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pillar** | **Planet** |
| **Outcome** | 4. Healthy and sustainable ecosystems. |
|  | 5. Climate resilience. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pillar** | **Place** |
| **Outcome** | 6. Sustainable population growth with responsible urban planning. |
|  | 7. Attractive and welcoming places. |
|  | 8. A city that is easy to get around safely and sustainably. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pillar** | **Performance** |
| **Outcome** | 11. Effective leadership and governance. |
|  | 12. A happy, well-informed and engaged community. |

**Budget/Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications of endorsing the FMP as all objectives will be funded via either a Service Plan (for operational projects/objectives) or a future Capital Works Program (for design or construction objectives).

An endorsed FMP greatly increases the likelihood of the City being successful in gaining grant funding for various projects along the Foreshore. Once the FMP is endorsed by Council, Administration will be able to actively lobby State and Federal agencies for funding contributions and pursue a wider range of grant opportunities for the Foreshore.

Therefore, specific funding will both be heavily dependent on grant opportunities and annual municipal funding and will be presented to Council in both the annual budget cycle documentation, either within capital or operating budgets, and/ or within the City’s Long Term Financial Plan.

**Legislative and Policy Implications**

Nil.

**Decision Implications**

If the Committee endorses the FMP Administration will commence the next stage of the project and present the FMP to Council for final endorsement.

If the Committee does not endorse the draft FMP Administration will make further modifications to the FMP and represent to the Committee at a later date.

**Conclusion**

The Foreshore Master Plan (FMP) has gone through a detailed and rigorous development process, with strong community support and input from residents both within the study area, and from the wider City areas. The plan is now nearing completion and Administration is seeking approval to finalise the FMP and present to Council for endorsement.

The foreshore is of great importance to the Nedland’s community and wider Perth population. A number, of draft unendorsed and endorsed foreshore management plans have been developed in the past, and this current project is the latest iteration of these. Given the nature of the foreshore, none of the plans are perfect, and indeed not all the actions proposed reach delivery; but each plan improves upon the previous. The Foreshore Master Plan will provide high level guidance and management for rehabilitation and upgrade works over the long term and allow for Administration to propose Capital and operating project to fully develop the outcomes and objectives listed in the Foreshore Master Plan.

**Further Information**

Nil.

# Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Foreshore Management Steering Committee Meeting to be proposed towards the end October 2024.

# Declaration of Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member will declare the meeting closed at 3:40pm