

FILE NO: 064/036

MINUTES

Rehabilitating Roe 8 Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 13 July 2023, 3-5 pm

City of Cockburn Admin Building – 9 Coleville Cres, Spearwood

Advisory Committee attendees:

Phoebe	Corke	PC	Save Beelias Wetlands
Diana	Corbyn	DC	Wildflower Society
Felicity	Bairstow (Chair)	FB	Community
Stephanie	Hing	SH	Community
Tim	Barling	TB	Conservation Council WA
Jozina	De Ruiter	JD	Hamilton Hill Community Group
Heidi	Mippy	HM	Traditional Owner

Other attendees:

Adam Peck (AP) - Rehabilitating Roe 8, Project Manager
 Madeline Copcutt (MC) – Rehabilitating Roe 8, Administrative Assistant
 Cho Lamb (CL) – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (proxy)
 Matt Oswald (MO) – Consultant on Muebea fauna bridge

Apologies:

Leah Knapp	Coolbellup Community Association
Catherine Prideaux	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Eddie Van Etten	Research
Catherine Baudains	Australian Association for Environmental Education WA
Sue Dempster	The Wetlands Centre, Cockburn
Lou Corteen	Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Observance of Acknowledgement of Country

FB welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

Meeting minutes from 8 June 2023 were moved and seconded by TB and FB.

4. Conflict of interest declaration

Nil.

5. Business arising from previous meeting

5.1 Matt Oswald talk

5.2 Standing action items

	Action item	Person to action	Status
5.1.1	DBCA North Lake concept plan	CP	Ongoing
5.1.2	Promote citizen science project	All	Reminder

5.1.1 DBCA North Lake concept plan.

CL provided an update from the manager of Regional Parks. Limestone pathways have been refurbished. Focuses for 2023-24 financial year will be the dual-use path and carpark construction, limestone path along Hope Road, weed control, revegetation in winter 2024 according to rehabilitation plan prepared by contractors.

DC queried about arum lily control throughout the site, and the fire risk posed by veldt grass. CL will investigate. FB asked about the limestone path debris. AP mentioned this was reported to him by a member of the public and explained that DBCA undertook fire mitigation work while widening the limestone path, and that the debris will be removed.

Proposed bird hides looking into North Lake were not supported by traditional owners (TOs); instead DBCA will focus on a co-design process with TOs about the gathering area on the western side, which may involve an alternative viewing point. FB suggested that cantilevered bird hides (such as the one at Bibra Lake) may be more appropriate. HM mentioned that she is familiar with the site. CL will advise her manager and ask whether the cultural consultation results are available for viewing but noted that these decisions are not often revisited.

HM mentioned that she has a long connection to the area and is familiar with the site but had not heard that cultural consultation was taking place. She stated that she thinks the decision should be reconsidered and that there should be broader consultation with TOs on these matters. She offered to lead a coordinated discussion along with AP but would like to see the consultation that has already taken place and speak with those who were involved. She noted that cultural heritage and the environment are strongly linked, which cultural heritage surveys often do not consider; she would therefore like to see the women's site at North Lake maintained and managed. She added that cultural authority is not accounted for in government processes, and that there should be greater integration of land management and restoration with TOs as it is a cultural responsibility and authority.

5.3 Action items arising from previous meeting

	Action item	Person to action	Status
5.2.1	Draft overarching intent of the signage strategy with clear purpose and objectives	LC	Carried over
5.2.2	Stock Road pedestrian bridge – LC to extract dot points from previous letter to Main Roads. Pass on to committee, PC and LC to add any additional information regarding connection to the wildlife corridor.	LC	On hold
5.2.3	Fauna road crossings	RR8AC	On hold
5.2.4	AP to contact Matt Oswald to inform him that the RR8AC is interested in the initiation funding logistics of fauna bridge projects.	AP	Carried over
5.2.5	AP to follow up with HM for Nyungar representative feedback on signage strategy acknowledgement wording.	AP	Carried over
5.2.6	Create research proposal for Woody Meadow on Turtle Corner	AP	Carried over
5.2.7	Initiate a student or citizen science project monitoring seedling and cutting survival along Roe 8 corridor.	AP	Carried over
5.2.8	AP to contact Rethink the Link to ask whether the email list could be used to advertise the RR8 newsletter.	AP	Carried over
5.2.9	Coordinate stronger social media presence for RR8 Project.	RR8AC	Carried over
5.3.0	Review community survey for 2024 based on feedback	AP	Ongoing

5.2.2 Stock Road pedestrian bridge.

AP noted that public consultation for Roe 9 is currently open, so people should be encouraged to mention a fauna bridge across Stock Road. TB suggested that information from the letter should be distributed to the wider community, and all agreed.

5.2.5 AP to follow up with HM for Nyungar representative feedback on signage strategy acknowledgement wording.

AP will call HM outside of the meeting time due to technical issues. HM agreed and added that they should discuss engagement with TOs in restoration and linking environmental management with cultural heritage.

5.2.6 Create research proposal for Woody Meadow on Turtle Corner.

AP has contacted Rachel Standish from Murdoch University and will also contact Ali Babington who did her PhD on woody meadows. Research on the woody meadow can be undertaken next

year once the roots have established.

5.2.7 Initiate a student or citizen science project monitoring seedling and cutting survival along Roe 8 corridor.

AP added that Rachel Standish is running a research project for her students in September, and that a seedling survival survey along the corridor is a good option for this.

5.2.8 AP to contact Rethink the Link to ask whether the email list could be used to advertise the RR8 newsletter.

AP was told that the list can be used for a one-off email.

ACTION: Advertise the RR8 newsletter to the Rethink the Link email list.

6. New action items

7. Correspondence

<u>Outward</u>		<u>Nil</u>
<u>Inward</u>		<u>Nil</u>

8. Project Manager Update

Due to the wet conditions, weed control is behind schedule, but grass control will begin soon and should finish by August. AP will ask the contractors to begin on Stock Road West and move eastward. The signs still need to be skinned, and AP has contacted Wayfound for help with wayfinding material. Gambara are currently working on an Opinion of Probable Costs for the final years of the project for Main Roads.

9. Other Business

- **Budget update**

AP provided update on the budget.

- **Corridor renaming: consultation phase**

Strong support for Nyungar name (either dual or single), may be good to consult with TOs first then wider audience, have a workshop. HM agreed with dual naming and noted that correct language and spelling of names is important. AP will need to find a new cultural consultant because the one for archaeology moved over East; will contact HM to discuss.

- **Confirm next meeting: tour then or September?**

HM mentioned that the September meeting is on same day as the CCWA conference and

suggested a field trip for the participants. FB noted that the conference is at UWA but could do it next year if they hold the event somewhere nearby such as the Wetlands Centre. AP suggested he give a tour for CCWA separate to the conference and HM suggested the upcoming post youth First Nations event. Committee decided on 10 August for tour of corridor.

- **Comms, following on from last month (if time permits)**

Carried over due to time constraints.

- **Muchea fauna bridge presentation – Matt Oswald**

Background:

WA's first fauna bridge was installed across Tonkin Highway to allow safe crossing for fauna across four lanes and a median, a 30m distance. It was part of the Great Northern Connect Project, which required a total 250 hectares of revegetation and 1.6 million plants. The project took 5.5 years including 3 years of maintenance, 2 years of delivery (installation April-June 2019), and 1 year of planning. It will become a Main Roads asset after the three years of maintenance are over.

The overpass/bridge was considered an alternative bid to the more common underpass culverts. In this case, installing an underpass was less efficient due to the low elevation of the site, whereas an overpass did not require material infill. Instead, the material that had to be removed was used to infill other areas, saving approximately \$4-5 million in imports.

Benefits of fauna overpasses:

- Less risk of predation
- Provides a lighter, more natural environment for fauna
- Wider crossing allows for natural, easier movement, especially for large fauna
- Less risk of flooding, graffiti, or other damage
- Lower maintenance and whole-life cost assessment than an underpass

The overpass design:

Internal and external design meetings involved civil and structural engineers, landscape designers, conservationists and ecologists. The design was informed by other fauna overpasses worldwide and on the east coast.

- A reticulation system was designed specifically for low maintenance costs; upkeep currently occurs once a month for weeding and cleaning. Large trees are on a separate system to manage the total water input (for weight distribution).
- Tapered design and drainage slab at the abutments prevents waterlogging in the middle of the bridge.
- A screening wall (steel mesh) in the lower portion and wires in the upper portion for safety.
- Tapered design of bridge sides and convex abutments tying into existing fences on the road reserve encourages fauna to move along the bridge without cornering or trapping them.
- Weight balance/loading capacity accounts for emergency service vehicles as well as the

landscaping (soil etc.).

- Loading capability over central pier to allow future access, with markers and signage in place to keep the weight loadings in place.
- Logs and concrete blocks are placed strategically to block unauthorized access (mainly vehicles).
- 1m soil depth across the bridge deck and 2m over the moundings.
- New bore (requiring a new license, approval, and power system utilizing the power for bike path lighting) for the reticulation.

Species were selected for their longevity, fire resilience, ability to cope with a shallow substrate, and weight at full size. This was informed by biological surveys from reference sites (>200m away). A variety of heights were selected to cater for various fauna and replicate the nearby Banksia Woodlands. Murdoch TAFE were involved to help with weight distribution; higher species were placed at the start and end of the bridge, while lower species are in the middle. Existing topsoil and subsoil (both dieback-free) were utilized to promote naturally occurring species.

Preliminary lessons learnt that can be shared with other groups:

- Reticulation is an essential component despite the cost. The high wind loading and shallow substrate on a bridge (as well as no groundwater access) creates dry conditions where mulch is likely to blow away, compromising the survival of the vegetation.
- Incorporate a fixed path for motorcycles that won't interfere with the landscaping, while still discouraging the use of it and placing obstructions in the way. This will save money spent on keeping bikes off the bridge.
- The landscaping must be easily maintained by utilizing long-lived, resilient species while still having high diversity.

Cost:

The landscaping budget (not including the bridge structure or earthworks etc.) was approximately \$600,000. The costs included design, replacing topsoil, reticulation and power, installation of logs, and maintenance. The total maintenance costs are lower than those for 7 culverts. The cost of reticulation was approximately \$200,000.

10. Committee member report and information sharing

DC – CCWC has been weeding in S7 and Blackwood Avenue Bushland. The Wildflower Society is holding an Introduction to Plant Identification workshop on 26 August at the Wetlands Centre; the event is on the WS Facebook page. 40 tickets available, have sold about 30. Will involve using identification keys, photos, specimens, etc.

PC – the Amended Concept Plan for the Roe 8/Roe 9 corridor has been released by DPLH. There was a meeting between CCWC and several other groups to discuss the next steps. The NatureLink Perth project in the area has been completed and a workshop will be organized to present it to the public. It will potentially be a collaboration with UWA landscape architecture students. Brad Pettit will organize a community session for people to be informed and give feedback. Points of interest in the amended plan were the indicative green link and the Stock Road/Forrest Road intersection vegetation.

CL – No updates, but will forward RR8AC’s concerns/queries about the North Lake concept plan to the relevant parties. Confirmed that CP will be back for the next meeting.

JD – HHCG held a soup event for the community. The group will be submitting feedback for the Roe 8/Roe 9 Amended Concept Plan.

FB – On 18 August, the Wetlands Centre will be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

TB, HM, SH – Nothing to report.

11. Appointment of Chair for next meeting

SD appointed as Chair for 14 September 2023 meeting.

12. Tour of the Corridor

Thursday 10 August 2023, 3pm-5pm.

Meeting closed at 4.52pm

Apologies for Tour of the Corridor: DC