

Wodonga Creek Activation Project

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



WHEN: Wednesday, June 26 to Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

ENGAGEMENT MEASURES



Reach	Actions	Engagement rate	Responses	Participation rate	Total activity rate
44,452	308	0.69	58	0.13	9.04



ENGAGEMENT METHODS: To encourage residents to get involved, we promoted the opportunity for people to have their say through our communication channels, including public notices, emails, social media and a have your say page on makewodongayours.com.au. We also engaged with 79 people at the NAIDOC Event on Sunday, July 7, 2024.



COMMUNICATIONS



4995
emails



47.2%
average open rate



36
click-throughs



6
Facebook posts



7567
reach



22
likes and reactions



5
Instagram posts



566
reach



12
likes and reactions



2
LinkedIn posts



538
impressions



16
likes and reactions



1
public notices



ONLINE

238
website visits

156
unique pageviews



RESPONSES

54
submissions through Make
Wodonga Yours

2
relevant comments
on social media

4
email
submissions

Wodonga Creek Activation Project

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



FEEDBACK - SUMMARY

In commencing the Wodonga Creek Activation Project, three zones were identified for potential development. These are Diamond Park, Stock Route North and Stock Route South.

We asked the community which of these zones they are most likely to utilise, how they might utilise the zones and what infrastructure they would like to see in the zones.

Submissions should be read in full to understand the context of the feedback summarised here.

- Connecting pathways were highly supported, with a number of suggestions put forward. Connection to multiple areas is felt to be key to creating engaging spaces that attract use.
- It is important that any activation is done with consideration of existing tenants/users at Diamond Park with regards to access, security and potential for growth in the future.
- There is potential to acknowledge Indigenous culture through walks, gardens and story telling
- Consideration should be given to maintaining the environment and enhancing natural features to make safe spaces to be enjoyed with maintained grassed areas.
- Exotic vegetation should be removed and old trees and wildlife habitat should be protected.
- A balance should be found between safety lighting and maintaining dark habitats for nocturnal animals
- Concerns were raised around water quality and nutrient runoff and pollution from upstream. There is an expectation that this is monitored and confirmed safe.
- Mixed views were received as to whether a traditional playground should be included. Some support nature based play and one respondent asked that a playground not be installed.
- A splash park like the one available in Bright was mentioned, but did not feature highly in the feedback.
- Inclusive access was requested given the easy vehicle access and flat terrain to provide much needed connection to nature for residents and visitors with disabilities and limited mobility.
- Some submissions voiced concern that some people experiencing homelessness will be displaced as the project progresses
- Other ideas shared in feedback
 - Rubbish bins
 - Off leash dog area
 - Security and lighting
 - Visual resources to educate users and support water safety.

What infrastructure is most important to you?

1. Toilets
2. Connecting pathways (connecting Wodonga CBD through to Albury CBD)
3. Connecting pathways (connecting to rail trail)
4. Water access
5. Seating
6. Cafe
7. Beach
8. Car parks
9. Shelter
10. Barbecue facilities
11. Playground
12. Water based play space
13. Public art
14. Bubblers
15. Lookout
16. Floating pontoon

Which activity zone would you use most?

1. Stock Route South
2. Diamond Park
3. Stock Route North

What recreational activities are you most likely to visit the Wodonga Creek precinct for?

1. Walking
2. Picnic or barbecue
3. Swimming
4. Cycling
5. Paddle boarding/kayaking
6. Fishing



FEEDBACK - SURVEY COMMENTS

- Consider accessibility - infrastructure to support disability sports, canoeing for disability etc
- Dedicated fishing spots, mini jetty or pontoon
- Be able to swim at the creek, something appropriate for children. Picnic areas. Toilets. Barbecues. Coffee van
- There is a significant opportunity to enhance accessibility in this area. Establishing a direct route from Stock Route Reserve South to Diamond Park via the creek would greatly activate and improve the area. Currently, walking or cycling to Diamond Park is challenging. I propose preserving the old bridge, acknowledging the cost implications, as such historic structures are becoming rare. Additionally, incorporating a water play area, similar to the water park in Bright, would be a fantastic feature and could further stimulate growth and development in the area.
- Nothing too fancy. Decently wide paths for walking and riding. Good, hardy, low maintenance surfaces.
- I like the concept of activating the area of Wodonga Creek, although I don't have any specific ideas of what might be done there. Good walking and biking access would be excellent as I'm unlikely to drive there to use the area.
- It would be wonderful to have a direct connection between the rail trail at Osborn St, across Gateway Island, that connects with Albury. Recent floods cut the low lying cycle tracks across the causeway forcing cyclists onto the dangerous roads. Utilising the old rail bridges and old alignment of the railway across the island, will provide a safe flood free route.
- Cleaning up Wodonga Creek would bring people to the area and make it a tourist destination.
- **Julianne Sharp**
A formed boat ramp at Diamond Park is long overdue.
Having a fishing pontoon would also allow the elderly/wheelchair bound citizens a safe place to spend time in the outdoors and connect with others.
- More maintained grassed areas for outdoor activities, picnic areas and walking tracks along the Wodonga creek expanding on from Belvoir park and along House creek would be amazing.
Additional sheltered barbecues and sitting areas or maybe even pop up vans offering snacks refreshments or even simple meals with areas to sit and enjoy.
- Ideal start for beautification of the forgotten area of Wodonga.
- **Susanne Frost**
Cleaning up wood and other detritus on embankments of the river is a major priority for general beautification of the total area
Provision of shaded areas through safe vegetation and grass areas for picnics which are kept mowed.
Plenty of rubbish bins would also be a priority
Dog walking regulations made explicit through signage (ie off and on leash walking and surveillance of this)
Remote CCTV cameras for safety of walkers/ visitors and adequate lighting along pathways.
- It would be great to see some more walkways/connection with Wodonga/Albury and make use of the space through water activities
- I would love a walking-path along the Wodonga Creek on the proposed link from Wodonga to Norieul Park - it sounds great.
- Board walk along the river like Albury
- **Alison Clark**
Utilising the waterfront is paramount. Making a safe area to enter and exit the water would encourage its use.
- Walking/cycling trails and playgrounds are a great idea.

- **Matthew Lincoln**

These areas are really important areas for our local community and connections between Albury and Wodonga. My submission just touches on the important environmental values that should be considered during the planning and design stage.

New plans need to make sure they identify and protect large old native trees in these zones and along the banks from the outset. This has been done already in some areas but the identification of feed/shelter trees (clumps of wattles/shrubs) are vital habitat for species like Squirrel Glider and it may be necessary to survey for potential den sites for Platypus and plan around where applicable). To the east of the focus area (outside study area) is also the site of an occasional Grey-headed Flying-fox camp that was active on and off over the last 10 years and we know the threatened Barking Owl calls these areas home also.

Staged removal of exotic vegetation such as Willows/Box Elder/other Environmental Weeds should be prioritised followed by targeted rock revetment works along banks and restoration with native vegetation can be carried out whilst still providing suitable and obvious access points for the community. Sometimes less is more in terms of infrastructure and hardscaping but totally understand this will be necessary but like Albury the community really desires and values the natural features of important areas like Wodonga Creek.

My main concern lies around water quality and nutrient runoff and pollution from upstream near the paddocks of the Wodonga Abattoir above House Creek which then runs into Wodonga Creek. I'm not sure if monitoring is already occurring but should be a requirement to ensure people are made aware of potential issues when they arise. It was obvious during 2022? floods that nutrient runoff was quite extreme.

- **Pam Oakes**

What will happen to all the homeless currently living there?

All seating should have back support to extend provision for aged, disabled and feeding mothers.

Adequate rubbish bins and regular cleaning provided

No playgrounds as there is already plenty provided nearby and teens and adults need some spaces dedicated to them

- **Alison Reed**

It would be great to have some waterways maps for novice and non experienced paddlers or creek users. Also safety gear such as CPR signage, warning signs and emergency phone numbers are essential.

Creating infrastructure that is sensitive to the environment and also practical to assist people to safely access the river with their craft and launch and beaching or landing craft is necessary. Information on currents, expected route times from point to point and maybe QR codes or other info to ensure safe use of the river would be a good idea.

- **Scott O'Brien**

I'd love to know what wildlife might be in the area and have a viewing platform.

For example, my wife and I are going on holiday soon driving around Queensland and will be visiting Broken River which has the best viewing opportunity for seeing platypus in Australia.

Wodonga have platypus, it would be a great tourism attraction if this was incorporated (I have no knowledge if there are platypus in any great numbers there!)

If not, are there any other significant wildlife in the creek?

I know that locals catch Murray Crays there (seasonally).

- Please do not light pathways around Gateway Island as they are home to nocturnal threatened species (gliders and bats in particular).
- Creating infrastructure that is environmentally harmonious and minimises environmental damage. A nature education space would be great and a indigenous food garden or trail
- The separation of pedestrians and traffic around the miniature railway should be formalised and the creek bank landscaped .
- I think a space similar to Noreuil Park in Albury would be great. So park benches/tables, toilets and a space suitable for paddle boarding and swimming. A playground for kids would also be great. Would definitely use this space often.
- Great to see this project, just having the land cleaned up and accessible for everyone would be a huge improvement.

- **Chris Joynes**

- Please keep the ability to cycle through any upgraded precinct.
- Upgrade stock route south as it seems a bit dangerous.

- **Flo Bent**

More focus on environment and restoration. Protection for threatened species. Not just tourism and recreation.

- Great idea to connect these places!
- Toilet block to be open during the day.

- Seems so crazy that we have a large river frontage exposure and yet visitors would have no idea it's there. Ensuring a restaurant precinct with the ability for entertainment seems logical to me and sufficient public transport between Albury/Wodonga.
The Gateway Village precinct has Murray River Frontage that is completely wasted, get it lively so people will use it and will become a great hub.
- Family accessible with disability access is important. Having good access to the creek is critical to families being able to enjoy the main draw card to Wodonga as well as bringing more tourists. We do not utilise the river and its creeks as much as we should. On a separate note, it would be great if there could be a market at the weir wall on a semi regular basis. This is also an area we do not utilise well enough
- Priority should be connectivity of the paths and ability to create loops and routes of different lengths.
Strategically placed seat and include picnic seating and opportunities
Notwithstanding any of the major infrastructure works - priority should be given to simple landscape maintenance and cleaning up of the space (trimming trees and slashing grass and some leveling out of rough areas)
I don't think its needs to look like a manufactured space like Albury, it should simply look tidy and well maintained and looked after"
- **Lutz Peters**
Riding along the causeway is very noisy. Ideally a bike path from the swing bridge, then following the old stock route under the railway line and then past Gateway Lakes. Just need another small bridge to link this up. Would be a much used route away from traffic.
- **Greg Haysom**
Something similar to Noreuil Park, useful river frontage, somewhere to sit and enjoy the view. An extension of what we have at Sumsion Gardens, extend the walking/riding tracks that already run across the causeway.
- The stock route forms part of the only equitable active travel route between our two cities, and it is prone to being flooded, sometimes for months. When this occurs residents who would like to travel between Albury and Wodonga must drive or take public transport. If they do not have access to a car or public transport, their only remaining option is to walk or cycle along the Lincoln Causeway, a gazetted B-Double truck route.
If vulnerable road users are not comfortable sharing general traffic lanes with B-Doubles, they have no choice but to use the narrow pedestrian path on the southbound side of the Causeway while crossing Wodonga Creek. This results in cyclists traveling against traffic. As part of this project and all future projects in the area, please ensure the scope of works include upgrades to active travel infrastructure to make it more resilient to flooding.
- **Nathan**
Connection to Wodonga CBD is CRUCIAL for increased activity in central area and benefit for local business.
The pump station at the southern stock route location should be removed or relocated and create beach access.
The river in all 3 of these locations is known to be dangerous and full of dead trees. Work should be done to make this area safer.
Ideally you would create beach entry areas at the Diamond Park and Stock Route South locations so that people can jump in from Diamond Park, and float to Stock Route South, exit the water, walk back up the river (along a new path, and across a new pedestrian footbridge).
I believe connection to multiple areas is key to creating engaging spaces that attracts use. Otherwise, no one will utilize the area and still go to Alburys already established riverside precincts.
Also I feel that when Wodonga Council adopts a plan, not enough money is allocated to do it right. So what we end up is a half baked job that fails in comparison to other regional councils. Get a solid plan and ensure there is enough budget to finish it right."
- Would be fantastic to have something similar to Noreuil Park. Where we can access the water more safely and be able to float from Diamond Creek to the Stock Route
- All weather concrete boat ramp to replace the mud flat that is currently inadequate would be a great inclusion.
- Great initiative, long overdue. Utilisation of the creek is a great thing for our growing community
- **Ross Williams**
The heritage-protected bridge (disintegrating into the creek) has to go, & the waterway cleared of obstructions to make it safe & navigable.
- Please consider the local homeless population when planning the use of this area.
- **Kalpana Vimalachandran**
We should have more walking trails
- **Andrew Baker**
Keep the boat ramp where it is.
- **Russell Hamstead**
Off leash dog area



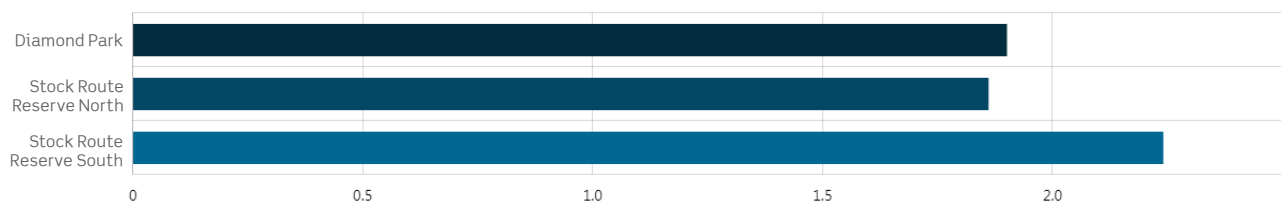
FEEDBACK - SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents completing the survey were asked to sort options in order of preference.

From calculations of the data received, the **highest score** determined which activity zone, recreational activities and infrastructure are of most importance to the community when considering the Wodonga Creek Activation Project.

1. WHICH ACTIVITY ZONE WOULD YOU USE MOST?

50.7 per cent of respondents identified **Stock Route Reserve South** as the activity zone they were most likely to use. **Diamond Park** was the second preference with the **Stock Route Reserve North** ranked third.



ACTIVITY ZONES	% FIRST PRIORITY	AVERAGE RANK	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	SCORE
Diamond Park	32.39%	2.10	1.90	1.90
Stock Route Reserve North	16.90%	2.14	1.86	1.86
Stock Route Reserve South	50.70%	1.76	2.24	2.24

Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.

Weighted average - an average resulting from the multiplication of each component by a factor reflecting its ranked importance.

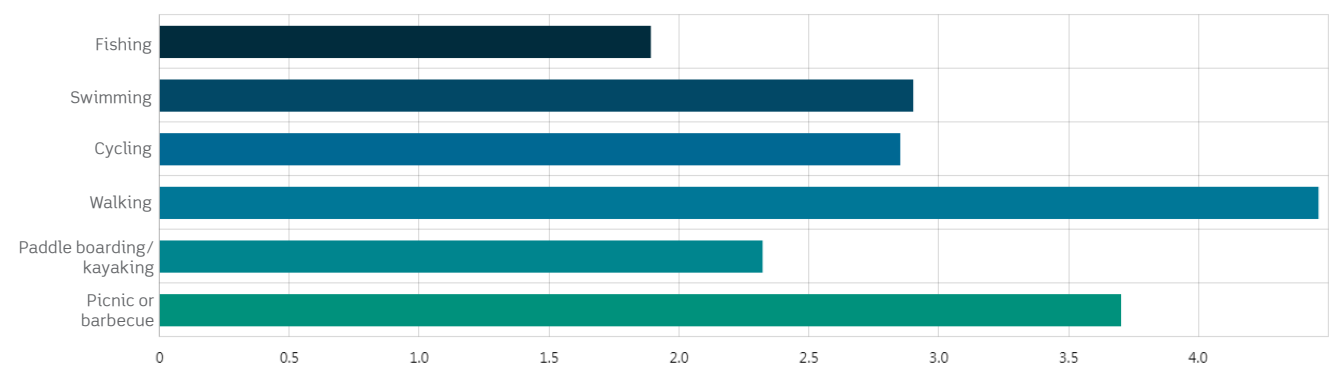
Average Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

2. WHAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO VISIT THE WODONGA CREEK PRECINCT FOR?

Based on the feedback received, **walking** is the most likely activity to be sought within the identified zones.

Following this, respondents would like to enjoy a **picnic or barbecue** by the water.

Swimming and **cycling** were also popular activites, coming in third and fourth respectively.



ACTIVITY	% FIRST PRIORITY	AVERAGE RANK	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	SCORE
Fishing	9.8%	4.37	2.63	1.89
Swimming	20.37%	3.19	3.81	2.90
Cycling	12.73%	3.33	3.67	2.85
Walking	40.91%	2.20	4.80	4.46
Paddle boarding/kayaking	18%	3.70	3.30	2.32
Picnic or barbecue	19.67%	2.69	4.31	3.70

Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.

Weighted average - an average resulting from the multiplication of each component by a factor reflecting its ranked importance.

Average Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

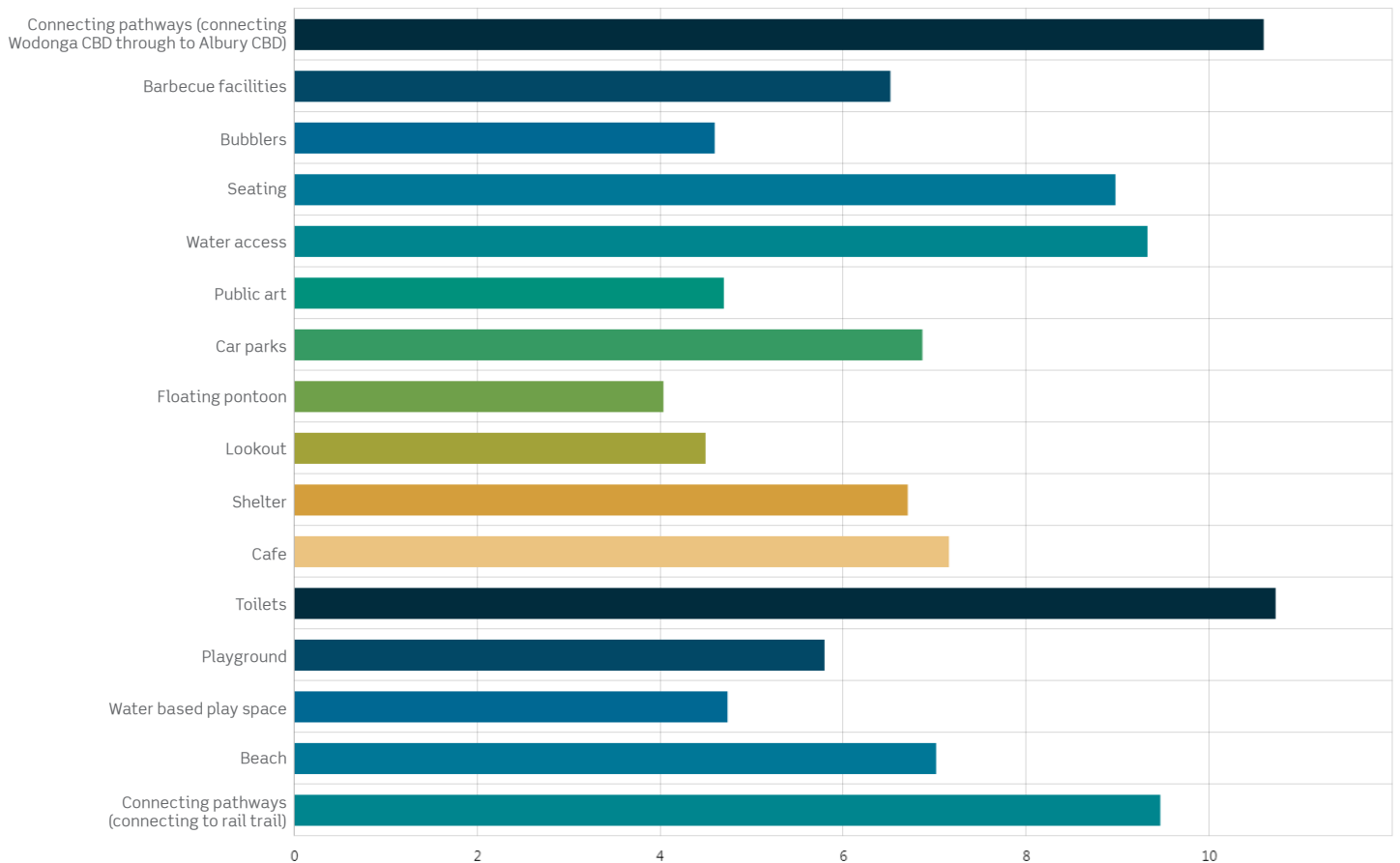
3. WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Toilets were the most sought after piece of infrastructure, although only the first preference of 11.48% of respondents.

Following this, there was high interest in **connecting pathways**, both between the Wodonga and Albury CBD's and also connecting to the rail trail. 40.13% of respondents chose one of these options as their first preference.

Water access, seating and a **cafe** also scored highly in the responses received,

Floating pontoons and **lookouts** were the least preferred infrastructure suggestions



TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE	% FIRST PRIORITY	AVERAGE RANK	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	SCORE
Connecting pathways (connecting Wodonga CBD through to Albury CBD)	28.13%	5.25	11.75	10.59
Barbecue facilities	1.92%	8.12	8.88	6.51
Bubblers	6.98%	9.42	7.58	4.59
Seating	3.45%	6.02	10.98	8.97
Water access	21.05	5.39	11.61	9.32
Public art	4.26%	9.91	7.09	4.69
Car parks	0%	7.45	9.55	6.86
Floating pontoon	2.27%	10.50	6.50	4.03
Lookout	0%	9.75	7.25	4.49
Shelter	4%	7.48	9.52	6.70
Cafe	13.21%	7.42	9.58	7.15
Toilets	11.48%	4.52	12.48	10.72
Playground	4.35%	8.07	8.93	5.79
Water based play space	7.14%	9.00	8.00	4.73
Beach	8%	7.04	9.96	7.01
Connecting pathways (connecting to rail trail)	12%	5.41	11.59	9.46

Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.

Weighted average - an average resulting from the multiplication of each component by a factor reflecting its ranked importance.

Average Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.



FEEDBACK - FACEBOOK COMMENTS

- Landscape it and develop an area which is pleasing to the eye ..with areas for recreation and relaxation...Look at what Albury has done along the Riverbank. It could be such a beautiful addition to the Victorian side of the border.
- Work with Parklands and land care groups to develop walkways.



FEEDBACK - EMAIL SUBMISSIONS

- We have a fantastic Rail Trail and the potential for it to link to Wodonga and Gateway Island is real. I understand there is already a path from West Wodonga in. We use that once every few weeks (on average) when riding. But what I am taking about is more direct access from central and east Wodonga plus Killara and all the Huon Hill estates to be developed yet.
I think the community mainly don't realise it but if we could get a walk/cycle bridge up and over the Bandiana Link feeder road (just near the NEWA water pump), it would enable the Rail Trail thoroughfare.
- Wodonga Urban Landcare Network (attached page 11)
- Lake Hume Model Engineers (attached page 13)
- Parklands Albury Wodonga (attached page 14)



Wodonga Urban Landcare Network

Connecting People - Connecting Landscapes

Wodonga Council
Hovell Street
Wodonga VIC 3690

9th July 2024

To whom it may concern,

RE: Wodonga Creek Activation.

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network (WULN) is pleased to be able to provide input into the Wodonga Creek Activation Project at this stage of broad community engagement.

We understand that the project will see development along Wodonga Creek including linking of the path network between Albury Wodonga and provision of additional access to the waterway. We consider all three areas identified (stock reserve south, stock reserve north and Diamond Park) as important ecologically. We also acknowledge that development in this area gives a chance to showcase the Australian environment and when complemented with respect for Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures, public art and interpretation could be a great tourism drawcard and community asset allowing for education.

In development of concept designs WULN would like to see the following principles embraced

- When considering tourism offerings these should explore and/or integrate nature tourism rather than constructed experiences such as traditional playgrounds. However if playgrounds are a community preference then perhaps consider something similar to the National Arboretum play equipment <https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/visit/pod-playground> which would complement current offerings provided at Belvoir Park. <https://visitcanberra.com.au/attractions/56b23b83266140594567e451/pod-playground-at-the-national-arboretum>
- Design should embrace the natural environment and should enhance riparian function and allow for natural river/ floodplain interactions to occur whilst reducing erosion/ the movement of sediment i.e. no piping or hard surfacing of stormwater etc. Appropriate water sensitive urban design systems for managing nutrients and pollutants should be installed (reed beds, sediment ponds etc.)
- Recreation exclusion zones should be mapped i.e. areas of highest erodibility and flood risk such as outside bends of waterways should not be developed.
- Connectivity between Albury and Wodonga is supported and should link to the current rail trail (currently Havelock St) through off road trails for humans.
- Additional consideration should be given to connectivity for wildlife through assessing and enhancing vegetated corridors.
- Old Growth trees must be maintained and a restoration plan for degraded areas should be investigated.
- Hard surfacing, rock beaching and other interventions should be avoided where possible and/ or river access should use permeable paving wherever possible to maintain waterway function.

PO. Box 44, Wodonga, 3689
ABN: 503 453 44 219
Inc. No. A0058884Z



- Lighting should be designed to minimise impact on local fauna.
- Consider 30m setback for all development and river access points designed to minimise erosion and maximise recreational use.

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network look forward to the development of concept designs in February 2025 and providing additional feedback at this next stage of the project.



Lake Hume Model Engineers

Wodonga City Council
By email

July 4, 2024

Wodonga Creek Activation Project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal which has the potential to greatly impact the operations of the Wodonga Creek Miniature Railway.

Security

The southern boundary of the railway site is at present somewhat protected by natural vegetation and the lack of public access. Removal of the vegetation and installation of a pathway along the bank of Wodonga Creek from the road bridge would expose the southern area of the railway site to greater public access. If fencing were not allowed because the area is subject to flooding, the public would be free to wander across the site. This would create a safety hazard during train running days and increases the risk of vandalism when the site is unattended, which is most of the time. Particularly vulnerable in this area are the electrically operated loading hoist and the steaming up facilities.

Vehicle access

A pathway along the bank of Wodonga Creek could affect members' access through the existing locked gate. Beyond the gate, sufficient space is required to manoeuvre vehicles with trailers as they reverse to the hoist to unload and load trains. After unloading, the vehicles and trailers are parked along the southern boundary. There would be a conflict between pedestrians and vehicles manoeuvring around the loading hoist and steaming up sidings, as well as vehicles proceeding to the members' car park in the centre of the track circuit.

Future expansion

The area in south-western corner and, to a lesser extent because of trees, on the western side of the site area are virtually the only grounds that could accommodate any expansion or realignment of the miniature railway, should that become necessary. This could be severely restricted by the Wodonga Creek project.

We hope these observations assist in the planning of the Wodonga Creek Activation Project and look forward to conferring with you further as more details develop.

Andrew Hipwell,
secretary,
Lake Hume Model Engineers



14 July 2024

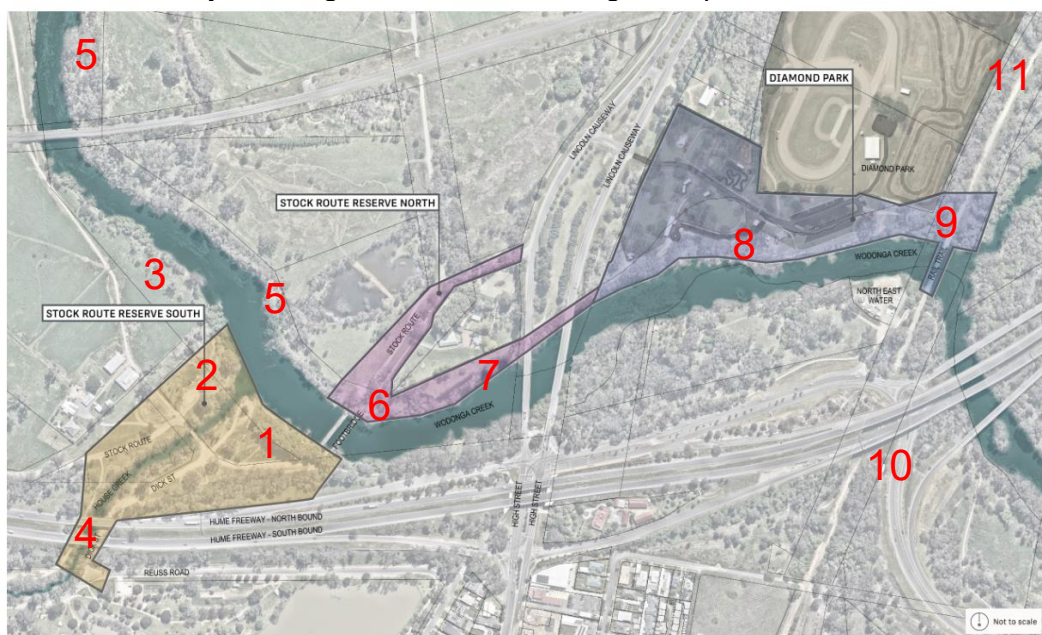
Re: Wodonga Creek Activation project

The Board of Parklands Albury Wodonga congratulates City of Wodonga for securing Albury Wodonga Regional Deal funds for Gateway Island and thanks you for the opportunity to provide input.

Parklands Albury Wodonga request consideration of the following principles for all of Gateway Island:

1. **INCLUSIVE ACCESS:** All designs and plans for Gateway Island are for inclusive access due to the Site's easy vehicle access, flat terrain and the opportunity to provide much needed connection to nature for residents and visitors with disabilities and limited mobility. This means paving trails rather than gravel, wider paths and disability public infrastructure, such as picnic tables that accommodate wheelchairs and paved boat ramp into the old Wodonga Creek swimming pool.
2. **NATURE PLAY NODES:** All access points to provide "nature play nodes", such as rocks, stumps and logs to facilitate play in nature for early years youths. These natural structures will be less impacted by major floods than built playground structures.
3. **LIMITED BUILT STRUCTURES:** All of Gateway Island is inundated during major floods. It is urged to minimise the built structures to minimise the ongoing maintenance costs to Council in future years. For instance, paved rather than gravel trails require virtually no ongoing maintenance. Planting of native trees for shade (but not River Red Gums, for safety reasons) rather than shelters.
4. **SOCIAL PROCUREMENT:** sourcing of goods and services from community groups and social enterprises to deliver on components of this project.

Parklands Albury Wodonga makes the following Site specific recommendations;



Our Vision: Our bush reserves and trails will have a high standard of biodiversity and natural values, achieved by empowering community participation and partnerships.

Stock Route Reserve South

1. Stockies area near old Stockies bridge:

The landscaping, rocks, picnic tables and parking areas here near the southern side of the Stockies bridge are excellent.

Action recommended:

- Replicate this format at Sites 2, 3, 6 and 8.
- Please only plant native shade trees.
- Pave a shared walking / cycling path (Murray River Adventure Trail) along the waterway away from interaction with vehicle traffic, around to the House Creek bridge.

2. House Creek to fenced area heading towards new railway bridge:

The earthen Murray River Adventure Trail could be realigned and improved.

Action recommended:

- Replicate the format at Site 1
- Pave a path around the waterway for walkers through to the new railway bridge. This will provide an all-abilities access to the only suitable swimming hole south of Wodonga Creek and extend the all-abilities trails available.
- A separate vehicle track to picnic tables.

3. Fenced area near House Creek to new railway bridge:

This section of the Murray River Adventure Trail was fenced and revegetated 14 years ago. Repeated unauthorized grazing has undermined these efforts. There is a sandy swimming area about halfway along section 3 where a picnic area would be ideal

- Replicate the format at Site 1 along this corridor
- Pave a path along the waterway for walkers through to the new railway bridge. This will provide an all-abilities access to the only suitable swimming hole south of Wodonga Creek and extend the all-abilities trails available.
- Remove the cross fence, which will resolve the unauthorized grazing issue. Establish a separate vehicle track to various picnic tables along the wider section of this corridor.
- Bollard off the narrow section to prevent unauthorized vehicles whilst providing maintenance vehicle access.
- Please only plant native shade trees.

4. Road underneath Hume Freeway:

Currently there is a painted pedestrian / cycle path on the road.

Action recommended:

Establish physical separation, such as a steel cable fence to improved pedestrian safety for when the hoons drive through here.

Stock Route Reserve North

5. Murray River Adventure Trail (12km loop):

There is a 12km trail around Gateway Island. This includes 3.8km of earthen trail along Wodonga Creek and the Murray River, which connects with the gravel Crossing Place Trail (3.4km), the paved eastern section (3.2km), High Country Trail (0.6km) then along the paved Wodonga Creek trail south of Gateway Island through to the Stockies Bridge (0.9km).

Action recommended:

- Ideally all of this is eventually a wide paved pedestrian / cycling all abilities trail, with a connecting loop along the western half of Flanagans Creek.
- Wodonga Creek tends to be inundated more often than the eastern half of Gateway Island. A paved trail would be far lower maintenance than the higher maintenance cost Crossing Place Trail that is not suited to all-abilities.
- The boardwalk over Flanagans Creek provides pedestrian access for most of the year. An eighteen metre footbridge would be ideal in the longer term.

Our Vision: Our bush reserves and trails will have a high standard of biodiversity and natural values, achieved by empowering community participation and partnerships.

6. Stockies area near pedestrian bridge:

There is a popular swimming area just upstream (east) of the new Stockies pedestrian bridge.

Action recommended:

- Noisy patronage of the river frontage is a concern for the abutting Black Duck Function Centre. It is for this reason that minimal infrastructure is recommended at this Site.
- Please only plant native shade trees.

7. Stockies bridge to Diamond Park:

There is no trail connecting these two swimming holes.

Action recommended:

- Pave a shared walking / cycling path along the waterway to connect with Diamond Park. This would create an all-abilities loop trail as the entire creek trail south of the river is already paved.
- If the budget is tight, this paving project could happen later on as there is already a paved pedestrian connection utilising the Stockies pedestrian bridge and the rail trail bridge.

Diamond Park

8. Old swimming pool:

The levy wall on Wodonga Creek ensures water in this section of Wodonga Creek even during low river levels. This was Wodonga townships' first swimming pool. The easy access off Diamond Park to this water hole makes it an ideal swimming and picnic area to potentially rival Norieul Park due to the flat river banks providing multiple entry points.

Action recommended:

- Replicate this format from Site 1 (Stockies Route South) with picnic tables, rocks and landscaping.
- Please only plant native shade trees.
- Pave a shared walking / cycling path along the waterway to connect with Stockies Bridge North. This would create an all-abilities loop trail as the entire creek trail south of the river is already paved.
- If the budget is tight, this paving project could happen later on as there is already a paved pedestrian connection utilising the Stockies pedestrian bridge and the rail trail bridge.

9. Ramp onto rail trail bridge:

There are earthen ramps off the High Country Rail Trail to the paved Wodonga Creek path south of Wodonga Creek and onto the Flanagans Creek East section of paved Murray River Adventure Trail. Another ramp is underway to connect to Gateway Island's Wetland Trail.

Action recommended:

- Establish ramp up onto High Country Rail Trail near Wodonga creek
- Replicate the format from Site 1 (Stockies Route South) with picnic tables, rocks and landscaping to establish a "track head" for the High Country Rail Trail near Wodonga Creek at Diamond Park.
- Re-establish the farm fence between the leased raceway and the High Country Rail Trail on the VicTrack boundary, not up on the High Country Rail Trail abutment.

10. Rail Trail underpass:

There are a series of large culverts under the Bandiana Link Road that provide the ideal location for an underpass, providing the most direct off-road connection between Wodonga CBD and Albury CBD along the High Country Rail Trail through Gateway Island.

Action recommended:

- Feasibility study and engineer costings for this underpass.
- Advocacy to Department of Transport.

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11. Murray River Adventure Trail (9km loop):

There is a 9km earthen trail around Browns Island. A footbridge over Flanagans Creek in the vicinity of this Wodonga Creek Activation project would provide another 9km loop trail.

Parklands Albury Wodonga would be happy to provide the engineer assessments and detailed costings (January 2024) for this Flanagans Creek footbridge to assist with securing funding.

Action recommended:

- Partner with Murray Regional Tourism, Parklands Albury Wodonga and other LGAs to secure funding to construct Flanagans Creek footbridge (and potentially other Project 66 footbridges). Potentially a Regional Partnerships and Precincts Project?
- Advocacy to deliver on the Murray River Adventure Trail.

Thank you for your time in considering these recommendations.

Parklands Albury Wodonga would welcome the opportunity to assist with delivery of components of this project and advocacy for funding for future works.

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