

8. JACKSONS CREEK (HUXLEY STREET TO CAMERON STREET) – APPROVAL OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Michael Aitken, Transport and Greenspace Manager
Author:	Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Board to approve the final landscape plan (copy **attached**) for Jacksons Creek (Huxley Street to Cameron Street) following community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In July 2005, the Council purchased some land alongside Jacksons Creek, between Huxley Street and Cameron Street. The land acquired is to enable the creation of a walkway along a restored length of Jacksons Creek to compensate for the effects of L3 zoning utilisation and to augment the local greenspace network.
3. Following a seminar to the Community Board in June 2006, to present a landscape development proposal for this site, a public information leaflet was distributed to key stakeholders and the local community for feedback on the concept plan.
4. Approximately 500 leaflets were circulated with 68 submissions received, 66 in support of the project with 2 submissions opposing the development (**attached** are comments received).
5. The two main issues raised were the type of material to be used for the pathway and lighting.
6. A compact crusher dust surface will be used for the pathway which is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
7. No lighting will be installed in this reserve as lighting gives a false perception of safety and tends to encourage use at night.
8. The main area of the park will be planted in exotics as well as natives; this will include some fruit trees. The reasons for this are:
 - There are already some existing specimens in good condition.
 - Fruit trees will serve the purpose of providing fruit for locals to a small extent in an area becoming depleted of gardens.
 - Fruit trees and other exotics will provide an additional variety to the colours and feel of the area and contribute in their own way to improving the habitat of depleted birds and insects.
 - A larger number of local users will be satisfied with planting a combination.
9. Planting adjacent to the waterway follows standard Council practice in the use of natives. The use of natives adjacent to water bodies is important for improving habitat for native species of birds, insects, fish and reptiles. Waterside native plantings also reduce the spread of waterborne weeds and improves biodiversity.
10. The proposed acquisition of a portion of 4 Burlington Street is not yet finalised, however, the Council's Property Consultant is confident the land will be acquired.
11. The waterway extension portion (down stream of the eastern bridge) at the Cameron Street entrance is still the subject of negotiation as to whether this will take place or not, as this is on private land.
12. As part of this development it is intended to remove the large gum tree at the Cameron Street entrance and two poplars on the southeast boundary, all of which require Board approval. One submission raised a concern in relation to the removal of the trees as they are seen as a symbol of the area. No other objections were received regarding the removal of the trees.

13. The advantages in the trees being removed, would be a wider entranceway, a greater likelihood of eastern stream naturalisation taking place, more room for walking, less steep sides to the creek, better functioning of the creek in terms of water quality and habitat improvements, and less disturbance to neighbours regarding litter and drain disturbance by roots and shading.
14. A letter has been sent to all submitters responding to the issues raised concerning lighting and the path surface, and also advising them that a report is coming to this meeting for final approval.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. All work will be funded through the Transport and Greenspace Unit Works Programme for 2006/07 and 2007/08.
16. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:

- (a) Approve the final landscape plan for Jacksons Creek (Huxley Street to Cameron Street).
- (b) Approve the removal of one gum tree and two poplars as per the landscape plan.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendations be supported.