

## 12. HEAPHY RESERVE- LANDSCAPE REDEVELOPMENT

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| <b>Officer responsible</b><br>Parks and Waterways Manager                 | <b>Author</b><br>Rod Whearty, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 372 2510 |
| Corporate Plan Output: Amenity landscape planting projects 9.4.text.61.ii |   |

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the proposed redevelopment plan for Heaphy reserve prior to the plan being circulated for public comment.

### BACKGROUND

Board members may recall allocating \$7500 from their 2001/02 Project Funds for the redevelopment of Heaphy Reserve following a request from local residents for the reserve to be upgraded. In the past the reserve has been used frequently as a setting for photographers doing family portraits and weddings.

Over the years, many of the more ornamental plants have been lost while the original trees have matured to the point where they are now dominating the reserve, in particular some of the eucalyptus species. Unfortunately this has resulted in a loss to the original character and qualities of this small reserve, hence the residents request for the Council to restore the area back its former position.

### REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate and Landscape Architect met a number of local residents on site to establish how they would like to see the reserve developed and used in the future, prior to preparing plans for the redevelopment.

The redevelopment plan seeks to re-establish the area as an attractive and peaceful environment catering principally for passive recreation, which is inline with the residents' expectations for the reserve.

Key features of the plan include:

- Removing existing eucalyptus and some silver birch trees to increase natural sunlight and reduce winter shading, while also creating some open areas for informal use.
- Installation of additional seating to sit and enjoy the surroundings.
- Shrub plantings along the fence lines will reduce and soften the impact of fences on the reserve.
- Lowering the profile or replacing the existing bridge to make it more accessible particularly for those with disabilities
- Promoting the small stream as a key feature of the reserve through a minor realignment and the installation of complimentary plantings to introduce colour and impact, creating a focal point in this area of the reserve.

### CONSULTATION AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Parks and Waterways Unit will now circulate the wider community with the proposed plan (attached) to obtain their views and feedback prior to initiating any work. Our intention is to undertake the work during the coming spring planting season. However that will depend on the timing of feedback from the wider community and whether there are any changes required to the proposed plan. If delays prevent us from achieving the spring planting period then the bridge alterations will be undertaken in the interim with the planting completed during the autumn.

**For discussion.**