

9. HEATHCOTE RIVER – TREE PLANTING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Manager, Transport and Greenspace
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present information on “current and recent plantings (last three years) in the walkway on the Donkey Track, and the Ernle Clark Reserve, including the land between the Reserve and Barrington Street.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. There are no current plantings planned for the walkway on the Donkey Track or Ernle Clark Reserve, including the land between the Reserve and Barrington Street.

3. **The Donkey Track**

The Donkey Track is land adjacent to the Heathcote River and Thorrington School, opposite Malcolm Avenue. It is referred to in the Mid-Heathcote River Masterplan as “a 1.2 metre wide asphalt path meander(ing) past substantial native planting with some grassed ‘clearings’ and picnic tables bordering (the) school”. The proposal in the Masterplan is for “planting to be maintained to ensure safety for users and views of the river”. [Plan 2, page 52].

4. Planting was carried out (on the Donkey Track) in the winter season of 2007 subject to the “Infill Tree and Shrub Planting” plan (LP 2129 May 2007) prepared by City Solutions. This was a small scale local improvement project instigated as the title suggests as an infill planting following previous maintenance. There was also an element of experiment with species selection and bank stabilisation as a precursor to the development of the Mid-Heathcote River Masterplan. One hundred and eighty six native shrubs grade Pb 5 to 8 were planted along with eight native trees and four willows.

Ernle Clark Reserve

5. There are no current or recent plantings in Ernle Clark Reserve (other than that planted by the volunteer group); however, a plan is currently being prepared for presentation to the Community Board following completion of public consultation. This is the subject of a separate report.

Ernle Clark Reserve to Barrington Street

6. The land between Ernle Clark Reserve and Barrington Street is road reserve and is excluded from both the Ernle Clark Reserve Development Plan and the Mid-Heathcote River Masterplan.
7. There are no current plantings planned for this road reserve. Planting of six exotic trees (Acer spp., Metasequoia spp., Nyssa) occurred in the winter planting season of 2009. These trees were planted as part of the annual street tree replacement planting programme following the removal of a large willow tree. Although in an area not covered by the Mid-Heathcote Masterplan, the species were selected from the appendices (refer Appendix 1) of that document.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Not applicable.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with LTCCP budgets?

9. Not applicable.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10 Not applicable.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

11. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

12. Not applicable.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

13. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

14. Not applicable.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

15. Not applicable

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

16. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be received.

CHAIRPERSONS' RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.