



The Goulburn Valley Environment

Group Inc.

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Peter Harriott
CEO
City of Greater Shepparton
Welsford Street
Shepparton 3630

17 August 2016

Re: Draft Victoria Park Lake Masterplan

Dear Peter

The Goulburn Valley Environment Group (GVEG) would like to congratulate the Greater Shepparton City Council on the Draft Victoria Park Masterplan and wish to advise that it is in agreement with the direction of the document and now provides comment on some aspects of the document as follows.

SAM precinct

The Shepparton Art Museum (SAM) will support a raft of existing and new alliances drawing in the community to ultimately embrace the river and appreciate its importance in a sustainable future. SAM will hopefully take full advantage of the aesthetic values of the Victoria Park Lake and its environmental and be the platform on which to base messages related to sustainability of our environment and cultural values.

SAM should sympathetically placed in the natural environment to emphasis the relevance and importance of preservation and, enhancement of existing natural features and values and to realize the message being conveyed. To this end existing indigenous trees should be retained where ever possible and the building designed to allow these significant natural features to be an integral element of the structure

The number of spaces within the adjacent car park should be limited as much as possible and infrastructure provided for easy pedestrian and bicycle access and enhanced public transport (electric buses) to SAM. Other carparks could be placed on the eastern side of Wyndham Street.

All work related to the provision of car parks should be undertaken with extreme sensitivity to protect natural features.

Accommodation precinct

GVEG is of the view that extension of the precinct is not warranted even if the footprint of the accommodation precinct is reduced.

If however, additional area is required within the accommodation precinct to compensate for the space required for limited car park spaces for SAM then GVEG has no objection to the accommodation precinct being extended to the west as shown in the Masterplan provided the following is undertaken:

The degraded area immediately west of the extended accommodation precinct is rehabilitated and possesses the values of the riverine environment. It may be appropriate to include acknowledgement that dwelling previously occupied the site. Unsightly earth and rock contained within the railway reserve should also be removed.

GVEG is also of the view that fencing should not be erected on the northern side of the precinct.

Clubs precinct

GVEG considers the amalgamation of the current facilities a low priority. If a new facility is constructed extreme care must be taken to ensure the unique habitat contained within the existing adjacent old native trees is not negatively impacted.

Significant Large Trees

Where ever possible trees planted in Zone 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 as shown on page 9 of the Masterplan should be large native trees. To this end the Manchurian Pears in Zone 1 should be replaced with Grey Box (*Eucalyptus Microcarpa*).

Yours sincerely

John Pettigrew

GVEG President

Protecting the environment for generations to
come