

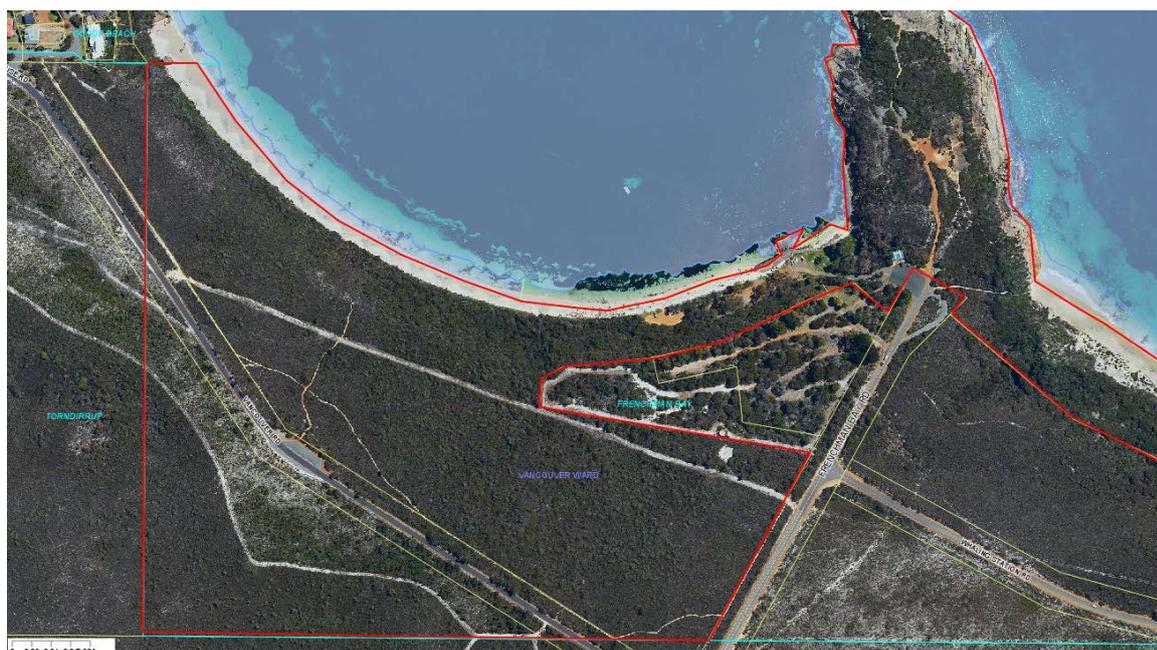
DIS055: FRENCHMAN BAY HERITAGE TRAIL – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Land Description	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Albany Managed Reserve 21337• City of Albany Managed Reserve 26221
Proponent / Owner	:	City of Albany (Land vested in the care and control of the City of Albany)
Attachments	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail Feasibility Study – H+H Architects (September 2015)• Revised trail map (May 2016)• Trail & dam sketch (June 2016)
Report Prepared By	:	Reserves Officer (A Tucker)
Responsible Officers:	:	Executive Director Works & Services (M Thomson)

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
 - **Theme:** 1. Leadership and 3. Clean, Green & Sustainable
 - **Objectives:**
 - 1.1 To establish and maintain sound business and governance structures.
 - 3.1 To protect and enhance our natural and built environment in a changing climate.
 - **Community Priorities:**
 - 1.1.2 Provide informed and transparent decision making that is consistent with our strategic direction, meets our legal obligations, reflect the level of associated risk and are adequately explained to community.
 - 3.1.2 Sustainable protected and enhance our iconic coastline, reserves flora and fauna by delivering projects and programs that reflect the importance of our coastline and natural reserves.

Maps and Diagrams:



Reserve 21337 – off Vancouver Road, Goode Beach

In Brief:

- Council consideration and approval is sought for the feasibility study and associated concept plans for Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail which will guide future development and improvements in the area, based on funding availability.

RECOMMENDATION

DIS055: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council ENDORSE the Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail-Feasibility Study and concept plan and include into the Albany Trails Hub Strategy 2015-2025.

BACKGROUND

2. The Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail is a project driven by the Frenchman Bay Association (FBA) which has been working on improving the trails within the area since 2015.
3. The feasibility study makes recommendations for \$380,000 of upgrades to improve and create a loop trail that showcases the spectacular coastline of Goode Beach.
4. This proposed trail is not included in the approved City of Albany Trails Hub Strategy 2015 – 2025 as there are a number of other priority projects in the vicinity within Torndirup National Park and Discovery Bay.
5. Council consideration and approval is sought for the Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail feasibility study and concept plan which will guide future trail development in the reserve depending on funding availability.

DISCUSSION

6. A feasibility study has been developed by H+H Architects on behalf of the FBA. This study was developed in close consultation with City Reserves staff and local Noongar Elders.
7. The objective of the document is to establish a plan for a loop trail and associated interpretative signage that acknowledges the Noongar and European cultural heritage of the area. The plan identifies a total of 11 interpretative nodes along the trail and the background information for these have been researched and included in the plan.
8. An indicative cost estimate for the full project is \$380,000. Funding would need to come from a number of external grants if the project is to proceed. Given that the project is not a priority in the Trails Hub Strategy, it is not proposed that the City contribute to the project at this stage, and the City would need to guide any funding submissions made, so as to not compete with existing City priorities.
9. The proposed trail has been developed as a standalone attraction and there may be potential to expand in the future (to Discovery Bay and Bald Head Island walk to the east and to Little Grove and the City centre to the west) to become a valuable section of a larger trail hub within the City. At this stage, the proposal is considered a worthwhile local community project however it is not considered a strategic priority.
10. The loop trail was initially proposed to pass in front of Lots 1 and 2 Frenchman Bay Road. However, since the completion of the report in September 2015, various meetings between the private property owners and FBA have not been successful in obtaining approval for public access through the property.
11. As a result of this, a revised map was submitted by the FBA in June 2016. This revised trail includes stairs down onto the beach from the Vancouver dam as a backup plan if access through Lots 1 and 2 cannot be successfully negotiated prior to construction.

12. Having an adopted feasibility study for the reserve will enable the FBA to apply for external funding opportunities in consultation with the for the construction of the trail.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION

13. The study authors consulted with a number of stakeholders during the planning of the trail to ascertain their views on the type, location and potential impact of the trail. The organisations consulted include Albany Historical Society, Albany Museum, Department of Water, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Discovery Bay, Great Southern Development Commission, South Coast Natural Resource Management, Kinjarling Trail Project Committee and the City of Albany.
14. A site visit and walkover was held with two local Noongar Elders in early 2016 to discuss the plan. At this site visit, a number of concerns were raised about the underground water source that feeds the natural spring.
15. As a result of these concerns, the initial plan was amended and a new map showing the works around the spring and dam were altered. This amended plan was then presented to the Noongar Consultative Committee on 10 August 2017.
16. The committee supported the amended plan and the project, and noted that a formal heritage survey would be required as the next step prior to any onground works. A detailed archaeological survey of Noongar heritage has been included as a specific step in the feasibility study.
17. City Staff met with members of the FBA who confirmed they have undertaken community consultation by putting information and regular updates of the project into their newsletter, with no negative feedback received. The City is satisfied that this level of consultation is appropriate for this stage and further community consultation will be undertaken as part of the detailed design.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

18. Voting requirement for this item is **SIMPLE MAJORITY**.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

19. There are no policy implications for this matter.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

20. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Organisational Operations. <i>Infrastructure not planned and built in a co-ordinated way.</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Council prioritises and implements works in accordance with current priorities.</i>
Finance. <i>Funding opportunities missed due to lack of planning.</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Council adopt the feasibility study.</i>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

21. The construction of the trail and associated infrastructure will be funded through external funding bodies as opportunities arise. It is not proposed that City funds be directed to this project due to other priorities in the Trails Hub Strategy.
22. Once constructed, ongoing costs for maintenance and renewal will be the responsibility of the City of Albany and will be funded through the Reserves maintenance budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no legal implications relevant to this item. All actions will be consistent with legislative requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

24. The purpose of both Reserves is consistent for this type of activity; R21337: Recreation, Pleasure Resort and Caravan Park and R26221: Recreation Special Conditions.
25. As a part of the feasibility study, Aurora Environmental undertook an initial environmental impact study of the area. They found four (4) potential threats that require further consideration prior to construction. These potential threats were spread of dieback, erosion, disturbance to rare and endangered flora, and fire.
26. All of above threats can be suitably mitigated as part of final trail design.
27. Prior to construction, all onground works will be referred to the City Reserves officers to ensure all appropriate approvals and permits are in place and there are no outstanding environmental issues.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

28. Council may choose not to approve the Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail Feasibility Study and therefore the project will not proceed. Council may wish for plans to be altered or amended and represented to Council at a future time.

CONCLUSION

29. Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail feasibility study and concept plan is considered a worthwhile local community project which is currently not featured in the City of Albany Trails Hub Strategy.
30. This report recommends that the study be approved, allowing the Frenchman Bay Association further progress the project, and explore avenues for funding in consultation with the City of Albany.

Consulted References	:	City of Albany Trails Hub Strategy 2015 – 2025
File Number (Name of Ward)	:	Vancouver Ward
Previous Reference	:	Nil