

5.2: LAKE VANCOUVER BIRDHIDE AND BOARDWALK PROJECT

- Land Description** : Lake Vancouver - Crown Reserve Number 48916 – Management Order with City of Albany with the purpose of 'public recreation'.
- Proponent** : City of Albany – Funding Opportunity
- Owner** : Crown Land - Reserve Number 48916
- Attachments** : Western Australian Natural Resource Management Program funding agreement.
- Responsible Officer(s)** : Acting Executive Director Works and Services(S Jamieson)

Maps and Diagrams:



IN BRIEF

- To seek Council approval for acceptance of a Western Australian Natural Resource Management grant for the Lake Vancouver bird hide and boardwalk project.

RECOMMENDATION

**ITEM 5.2 RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR MATLA
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR DUFTY**

That Council:

- **APPROVE the Western Australian Natural Resource Management grant offer for the Lake Vancouver bird hide and boardwalk project, and**
- **APPROVE the reallocation of \$14,721 from the Stidwell Bridle Trail project as its cash contribution to the Lake Vancouver project.**

CARRIED 10-0

BACKGROUND

1. The State Natural Resource Management Program is a Western Australian Government initiative that provides funding to help protect and conserve WA's environment and natural resources.
2. Seventy three community grants worth a total of \$2.37 million were funded for 2010/11, with the Lake Vancouver project being one of them. A total of \$14,000 was awarded to the project.

DISCUSSION

3. The Frenchman Bay Association in consultation with the City of Albany submitted an application for the construction of an access track, boardwalk, bird hide and installation of interpretative signage within Lake Vancouver.
4. Lake Vancouver is environmentally unique, in that it is a significant body of marginal brackish water, within 200m of the ocean (Goode Beach) and for this reason is an important biodiversity asset. As it is the only freshwater wetland on the Vancouver Peninsula, Lake Vancouver is likely to be a significant source of water for fauna in the area.
5. Currently, bird enthusiasts have no visual access to the lake or the immediate vicinity. Birds can be heard calling from a distance and water birds can be seen flying into the area. With the current poor access to the lake, bird populations, which visit or live near the lake, are largely unknown and unrecorded.
6. Any excessive or inappropriate use of the site may result in trampling/loss of vegetation and lead to erosion of the dune system and destruction of this important bird habitat.

7. The construction of a sensitively planned access track, boardwalk and bird hide will allow for the Lake to be enjoyed by the growing community without compromising its biodiversity values and will also allow for formal bird surveys to help quantify the value of the wetland system.
8. The project is design ready.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

9. The proposal has been referred to Department of Regional Development and Lands and to the Department of Indigenous Affairs on 29 June 2011, and the City is awaiting the response.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT

10. The City developed the grant application in consultation with the Frenchman Bay Association, who were the initial drivers for this project idea. The local community identified the need for formalised access to the Lake area, to ensure the sustainability of the local flora and fauna.
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STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

12. An application for external funding does not require any legislative approvals, but since the funding has been approved, the project itself may attract legislative conditions, such as planning approvals, building licences, environmental approvals, etc all of which would be attended to during the project life. The funding agreement may also require legislative conditions, such as Freedom of Information statements, or Record keeping conditions, as per the State records Act, but once again these would be adhered to, once approval for funding has been obtained.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

13. This item directly relates to the following elements from the Albany Insight - Beyond 2020 Corporate Plan...

Priority Goals and Objectives:

Goal 4: Governance... The City of Albany will be an industry leader in good governance and service delivery.

Objective 4.3 Deliver excellent community services that meet the needs and interests of our diverse communities.

City of Albany Mission Statement:

At the City of Albany we are accountable and act as a custodian with respect to Council Assets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

14. The City has undertaken initial consultation with South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) to ascertain their support and has addressed their feedback to date.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

15. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City’s Risk Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
If project delayed, negative public response will result	Likely	Medium	Medium	Project deferred
Funding opportunity declined, works will not be carried out	Likely	Medium	Medium	Project deferred until (if) future funding is secured

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. If supported by Council, the City’s cash contribution would be \$14,700, sourced from carryover from the Stidwell Bridle Trail project.
17. The cost of administering the project would be staff time overseeing the project (75 hours = \$1875). The initial funding request totalled \$16,120, however, the funding body granted a reduced commitment of \$14,000.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. As the funding application was successful, Council will be required to sign an agreement for funding, which includes timelines, payment arrangements, and acquittal conditions.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

19. The Council may decline the funding opportunity, and defer the project, until the Council is in a better financial position to progress the preferred project.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

20. There is an opportunity for the City to complete the construction of an access pathway, boardwalk, bird hide and interpretive signage at Lake Vancouver, Goode Beach using external grant funds in conjunction with support from the local community group (Frenchman Bay Association).

Consulted References	Western Australian Natural Resource Management Program funding scheme.
File Number (Name of Ward)	PR.MAI.38 (Vancouver Ward)
Previous Reference	N/A