CM13.3. Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan & Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation Project Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Public Exhibition Submissions

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Purpose of Report

To provide Council with a summary of the feedback received during phase two community consultation for the draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review and propose the next steps for this Master Plan.

Background

The Murray River Experience (MRE) Master Plan was endorsed by Council in February 2007. The Master Plan provides high level concept designs for eight sites along the foreshore of the Murray River and Lake Hume, including:

- Wonga Wetlands;
- West Albury Reserves (Padman/Mates Park, Kremur Street Boat Ramp and the wetlands in West Albury through to Horseshoe Lagoon);
- Central Riverside Parks (Oddies Creek Park, Noreuil Park, Noreuil Park Oval, Australia Park, Hovell Tree Park, Albury Swim Centre, Albury Sports Ground, Monument Hill and linking to the CBD);
- Doctors Point Reserve;
- Mungabareena Reserve and Eastern Hill Reserve;
- Lake Hume Reserves;
- Bowna Waters Reserve; and
- Table Top Reserve.

In addition to providing high level concept designs for each of these open space areas, the MRE Master Plan also provides the vision for the future Wagirra Trail to follow the Murray River to link Wonga Wetlands in the west to Lake Hume Village in the east (42km) and extend the trail along the Lake Hume Foreshore from Lake Hume Village to Bowna Waters Reserve (40km).

The key objectives of the MRE Master Plan are:

- strengthen the relationship between the community and the Murray River;
- provide greater access to the Murray River;
- provide quality amenities in all open spaces;

- promote and develop a diversity of experiences;
- significantly improve the health and wellbeing of the Murray River;
- protect and improve viewing points to and from the Murray River; and
- promote the Aboriginal community's connection with the River.

Since the initial endorsement of the MRE Master Plan in 2007, a range of significant MRE projects have been endorsed by Council and implemented by AlburyCity, including:

- Albury Riverside Precinct;
- Wagirra Trail (Union Bridge to Wonga Wetlands (8.5kms);
- Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk (and realignment) – 15 Aboriginal artworks;
- Wagirra Trail Wonga Loop extension around Wonga Wetlands (12kms);
- Oddies Creek Play Space (two stages);
- Kremur Street Boat Ramp;
- Noreuil Park Foreshore Landscape Plan (2016) improvements;
- Oddies Creek Streambank weed removal and revetment work (300m);
- Wood Fired Oven establishment and upgrade;
- Precinct Place upgrade;
- Padman Park Flying-Fox viewing platform;
- Wonga Wetlands Tourism Product Development Master Plan;
- Mungabareena Reserve Boat Ramp upgrade;
- Mungabareena Reserve declared Aboriginal Place and associated Management Plan;
- Waterview Road Canoe Launch;
- Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan;
- Table Top Reserve improvements (public toilet, new play equipment, rock barriers to restrict vehicle access and revegetation);
- Lake Hume Reserves risk abatement works (removal of dead pine trees);
- Lake Hume Boat Ramp rock revetment works;
- Lake Hume Boat Ramp lighting;
- Albury Botanic Gardens Master Plan;
- Monument Hill Master Plan and redevelopment (Stage 1);
- Riverside Artwork '*Bungambrawatha*' at Riverside Precinct; and
- Hovell Tree Park Public Toilets and Changing Places facility.

The implementation of the MRE Master Plan has involved a variety of delivery pathways, including the establishment of a dedicated AlburyCity Aboriginal Works Team (Wagirra Crew). The Wagirra Crew has been involved in the delivery of the Oddies Creek Play Space, Kremur Street Boat Ramp, Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk, Waterview Road Canoe Launch and Wagirra Trail construction, as well as improvements at Mungabareena Reserve.

Other major MRE projects that are significantly advanced, in readiness for delivery or under construction, include:

- Australia Park improvements including car park, linking pedestrian bridge, levee bank upgrade, and revegetation program for Oddies Creek Park;

- Wonga Wetlands Visitor Education Experience Centre with associated car parking and landscaping; and
- Wagirra Trail from Lake Hume Village to Bethanga Bridge.

With many of the primary signature projects either complete or underway, it was determined that a review of the MRE Master Plan was required to review the extent of MRE recommendations completed to date and identify future priorities that can guide the implementation of future AlburyCity projects. Through a procurement process, 'Chrofi' and 'McGregor Coxall' were engaged as consultants to undertake the MRE Master Plan Review.

The scope of the MRE Master Plan Review included two parts:

Part A – Murray River Experience Master Plan Review

- Review the concept designs for each open space area and outline the following:

    a) evaluate completed initiatives;
    b) assess ongoing projects;
    c) adapt to evolving priorities; and
    d) identify the next set of priorities.

- Investigate the next priorities for the construction of the Wagirra Trail.

Part B – Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan

- Develop a revised, more detailed Master Plan for Albury Central Riverside Parks.

Following an extended period of internal and external stakeholder consultation, a suite of four documents was compiled in readiness for consultation with the community, including:

- Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review;
- Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan;
- Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan; and
- Draft Noreuil Park Riverbank Rehabilitation Concept Plan.

A revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan was endorsed by Council on 11 December 2023, and the four foundational documents identified above were used as part of the phase two community consultation. The 60 day consultation period was held during February-April in 2024, as further described below.

Community Engagement

The MRE Master Plan has changed the way our community interacts with the Murray River. It has led to major transformation of large sections of the Murray River and made it more accessible for our community and visitors to the region. Improvements to date have typically been very well received by the community, however it is acknowledged that there will be a range of views within the community

on the proposed concepts for future development that have been described within this report and identified within the associated MRE Master Plan Review documentation.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan was initially developed for the project at commencement during 2020, which was further revised and most recently endorsed by Council on 11 December 2023. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan for this project currently includes three phases of community consultation: phase one consultation was used to capture some preliminary information to inform the Master Plan concepts and potential future priorities; phase two consultation was most recently undertaken to further test the extent that revised concepts resonate with the community; and a future third stage of consultation will involve public exhibition prior to final endorsement of the revised MRE Master Plan documents. A summary of phase one and phase two consultation is further outlined below.

Phase one consultation

A 'Have your Say' process was initiated at the commencement of the MRE Master Plan Review process which involved an online survey and key stakeholder meetings during 2020-21. The results of the 'Have your Say' process are included in Attachment 1.

Feedback received through the initial consultation phase was used to further develop the concepts and proposed future priorities that were included within the revised MRE documentation.

Phase two consultation

Upon completion of the suite of revised draft MRE Master Plan documentation, the project moved into phase two consultation to further test the assumptions and ensure the proposed priorities resonated with the community. Phase two consultation commenced on 5 February 2024 and concluded on 5 April 2024 (60 days), during which time the following four documents were widely distributed seeking community feedback:

1. Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review;
2. Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan;
3. Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan; and,
4. Draft Noreuil Park Riverbank Rehabilitation Concept Plan.

Opportunities for the community to provide feedback included:

- 'Have your Say' website with a dedicated page for each reserve location and a list of frequently asked questions;
- Community workshops held at Albury City Council Administration building (x 2); and
- Pop up sessions along the river (x 5) at Noreuil Park, Kremur Street Boat Ramp, Bowna Waters Reserve and two at Lake Hume Reserves.

Targeted engagement meetings were also held with some of the key stakeholders identified in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan including the Dyirramalang Elders Group, Mungabareena Aboriginal Place Management Group, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Albury Access Committee, AlburyCity

Youth Committee, River Deck Café, Albury Tigers Football and Netball Club, and the Mitta Mitta Canoe Club.

In addition to this, AlburyCity team members also attended a 'Keep Noreuil Natural' community organised gathering specifically on the draft concept design for the Noreuil Park Foreshore.

The phase two consultation process was advertised through the following means:

- Border Mail public notice;
- All about Albury article;
- EDM sent to key stakeholders;
- Media release outlining phase two consultation with television and radio interviews;
- Social media posts (x 6); and
- Over 30 signs placed at each reserve location and broadly across the riverside and lakeside environs that linked back to the MRE website.

At the conclusion of the 'Have your Say' phase two consultation process, 725 submissions have been received. The table below provides a breakdown of the details of how the submissions were received while Attachment 1 provides a copy of all the feedback received (with personal contact details redacted).

Submission source	**Number of submissions received**
Have Your Say Platform	
Wonga Wetlands	28
West Albury Parks	34
Central Albury Riverside Parks	274
Doctors Point Picnic Area	32
Mungabareena Reserve & Eastern Hill	36
Lake Hume Reserves	49
Bowna Waters Reserve	40
Table Top Reserve	14
Wagirra Trail	30
Interactive map	89
Direct correspondence	
Emails/letters	99
Total	**725**

In summarising the phase two consultation feedback, it could be concluded that there was typically general support for a majority of the concepts and priorities identified within the draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review document, as well as the draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan, and the draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan.

However, in contrast there was significant opposition expressed by the community in relation to the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation Concept Plan, which consequently resulted in the

formation of a 'Keep Noreuil Natural' Facebook group created by concerned community members that shared information on the concept with its 1,100 plus members.

The detailed submissions received during the phase two consultation have been included in Attachment 1. Some of the key findings and results that can be deduced from the submissions have been summarised below to better illustrate the level of community support for the site-specific priorities identified at each of the MRE locations, as well as summarising the key feedback themes, and identifying any amendments that are now proposed to be made to the MRE documentation.

Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities

General opposition expressed for the draft Noreuil Park Riverbank Rehabilitation concept design, with many community members raising concerns with the draft concept design and providing extensive feedback.

Key feedback themes

- Too much concrete, which will be hot and will detract from the site.
- Keep the mature river red gums, as they provide great shade and habitat for wildlife.
- Keep Noreuil Park natural with the mature trees and grassed areas.
- Investigate alternative locations for all-abilities river access.
- Remove the proposed south-western BBQ area.

Proposed amendments

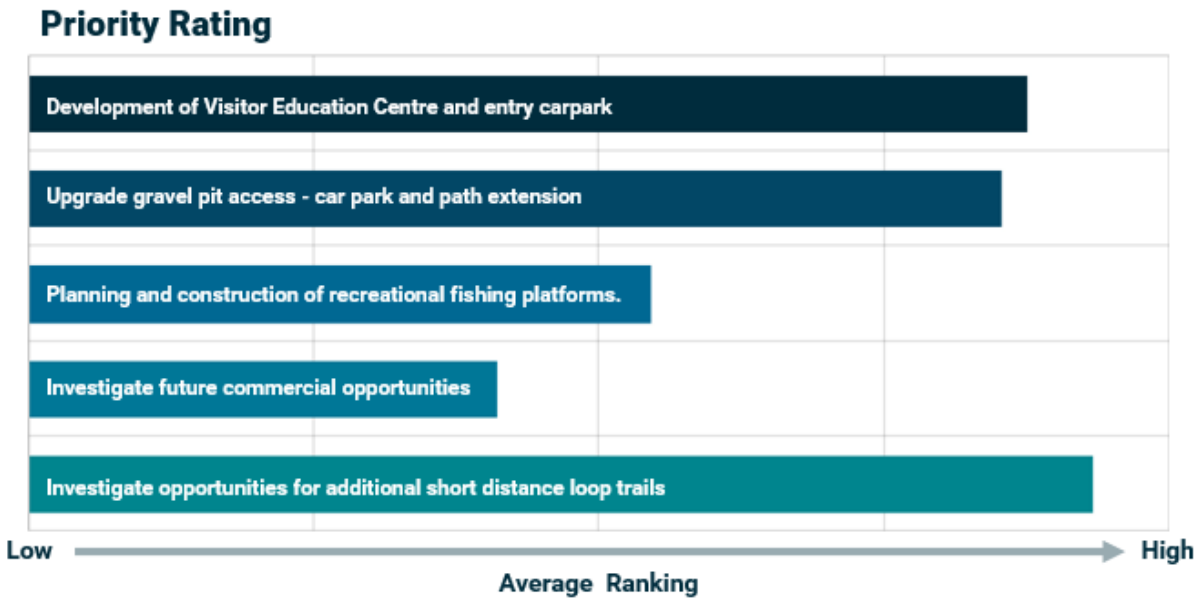
Due to the extensive community feedback received through the phase two consultation, it is clear that significant amendments are required to be made to the Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design. It is therefore considered appropriate to remove the current Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design from the MRE Master Plan Review process, and undertake further community engagement and refinement of the concept design as a separate standalone project. In giving effect to this, a new Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed for the Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation project and is included as Attachment 5. Undertaking a stand-alone consultation process for this area will ensure a revised concept can be achieved that better meets the needs and expectations of the community for this much-loved asset adjacent to the River at Noreuil Park.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Attachment 5) identifies a range of new engagement opportunities for the community to provide input into a revised concept design that will commence in late 2024 and continue throughout early 2025. The aim is to facilitate a revised concept design that resonates more positively with the community. Once this additional consultation has been completed, the revised concept design will be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement prior to moving into detailed design. It is proposed that further consultation touch points with the community and key stakeholders will occur during the detailed design phase to ensure the detailed designs remain fit for purpose.

Notwithstanding this identified need to develop a revised concept design, it must also be noted that there has been significant deterioration and recent failures to the existing Noreuil Park Foreshore streambank retaining walls. Council staff are currently investigating short-term options to stabilise the integrity of the streambank while we continue to consult with the community on a refined concept design that better meets communities needs and expectations.

Wonga Wetlands

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (28 contributions)



Key feedback themes

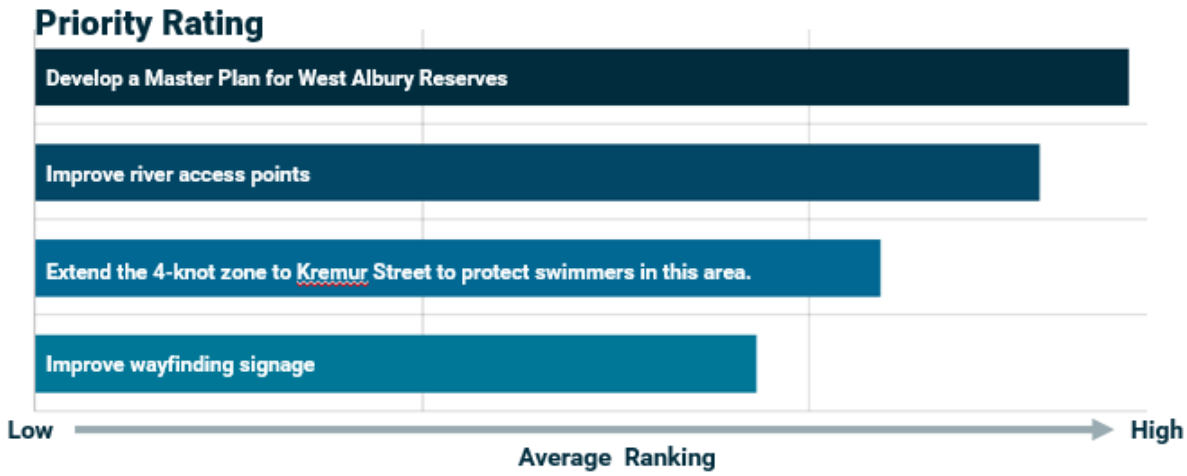
- Strong support for additional trails and requests for extension of trail further west.
- Opposition to future commercial opportunities.
- Suggestions for a range of minor improvements (additional revegetation, seating and interpretive signage).

Proposed amendments

- Add new priority to the map and action plan to investigate feasibility for additional trail links to Splitters Creek and beyond.
- Add new priority to continue revegetation works on the natural enhancement of the area.
- Amend priority wording to allow for the plan to 'investigate future small-scale commercial opportunities that complement the natural environment'. This is in response to concerns about large scale commercial development of the area.
- Minor improvements such as seating and interpretive signage will be addressed through future maintenance activities and reviewed as part of the Wonga Wetlands Master Plan Review.

West Albury Reserves

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (34 contributions)



Key feedback themes

- Good support for developing a Master Plan, improving river access, and extending the four-knot zone along the Murray River.
- Better connections sought to Padman Drive/Day Street and the CBD.
- Request for a bridge over the Murray River to connect to the Crossing Place.

Proposed amendments

No amendments proposed to be made, noting that several of the minor suggestions (including additional signage, seats, bins and connections) can be considered through the future proposed master planning process. The request for a bridge to connect to the Crossing Place is being considered as part of Central Riverside Parks Master Plan.

Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (274 contributions)



Key feedback themes

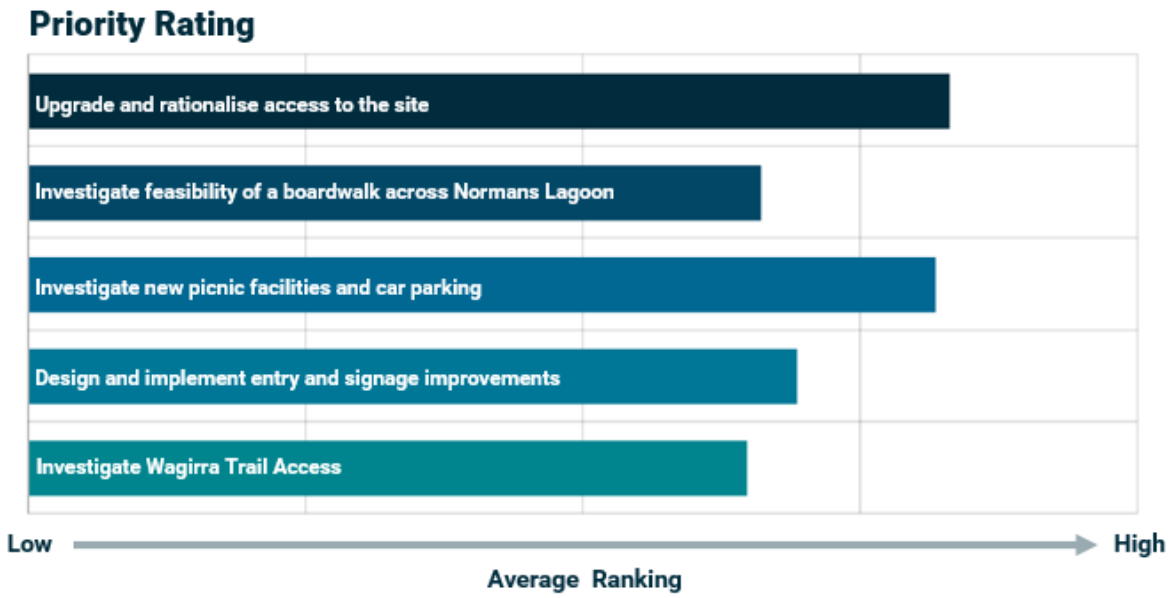
- General support for future splash park at Oddies Creek.
- Good support for more river access points along this section of River.
- Support for continued streambank weed removal and revetment work.
- Significant opposition to the Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept ('too much concrete, retain the trees and keep the grass').
- Retain the 'natural' shady setting at Noreuil and repair the bank retaining walls. No new BBQs.
- Australia Park Car Park – polarised views (for and against).
- Requests for more food vendors in the area particularly Noreuil Park.

Proposed amendments

Some relatively minor editorial changes have been made to Central Riverside Parks Master Plan graphics to improve readability. As described above, the concerns about Noreuil Park Foreshore will be addressed by removing the current Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design from the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review process, and undertaking further community engagement and refinement of the Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design as a separate standalone project. In addition, it should be noted that the Australia Park Car Park project is also currently subject to a standalone consultation process, with feedback to be provided at a future Council meeting for further consideration.

Doctors Point Reserve

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (32 contributions)



Key feedback themes

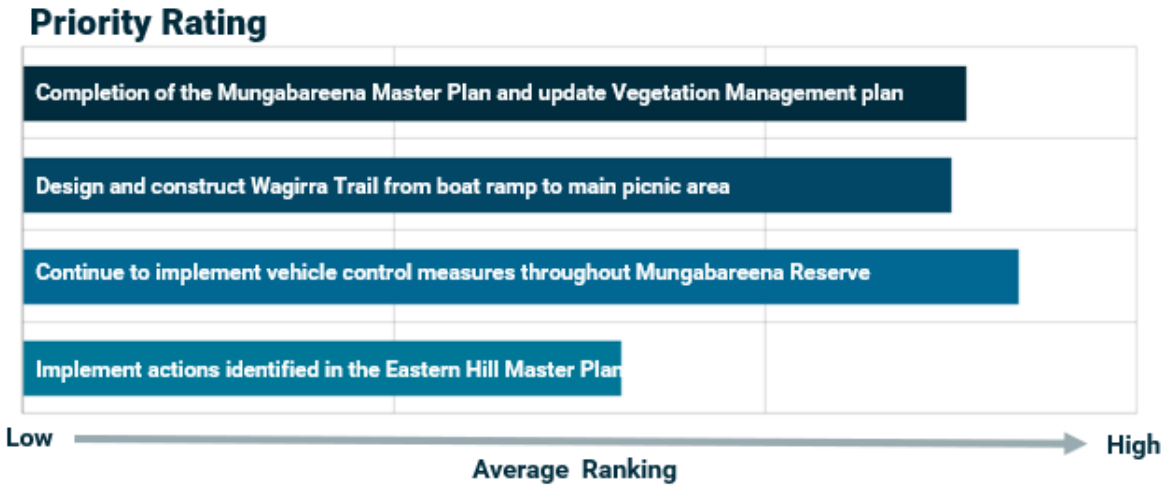
- People like the current natural state and agree with proposed improved facilities – but only in an appropriate (small) manner.
- Investigate opportunities to separate boaters from swimmers.
- Need to review access, egress and signage.

Proposed amendments

No amendments proposed to be made, noting above comments can be accommodated within the existing listed site priorities.

Mungabareena Reserve and Eastern Hill

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (36 contributions)



Key feedback themes

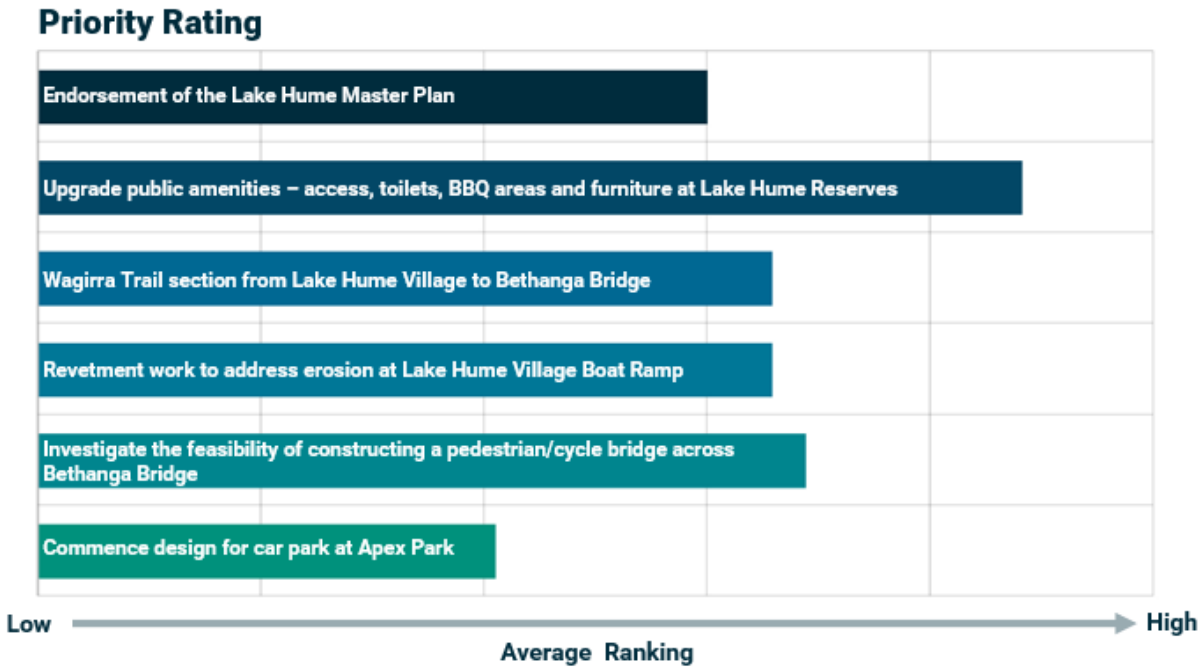
- Support for the installation of formalised trails at Mungabareena Reserve.
- Support for controlling unsanctioned vehicle activity at Mungabareena Reserve.
- Seeking better river access at Mungabareena Reserve.
- Facility upgrade needed – but keep it low key and natural (Mungabareena Reserve).
- Consideration of extension of Eastern Hill Reserve through land acquisition.

Proposed amendments

No amendments proposed noting above comments can be accommodated within the existing listed site priorities. Many comments received can also be considered during development of the Mungabareena Reserve Master Plan.

Lake Hume Reserves

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (49 contributions)



Key feedback themes

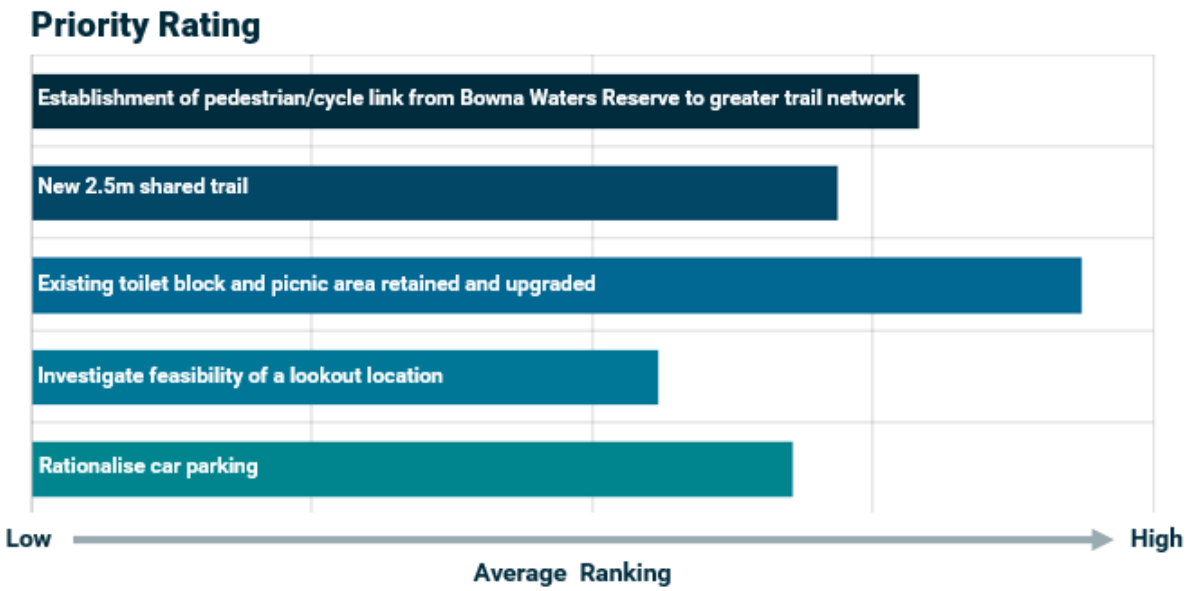
- General support for the Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan and facility upgrades.
- Trail construction supported locally and beyond, although some concern by immediately impacted landholders.
- Better/safe lake access needed including disabled access.
- Boat ramps need upgrading.
- Floating dock/pontoon/jetty sought.

Proposed amendments

Minimal amendments proposed noting above comments can be accommodated within the existing listed site priorities. Add new priority 'Continue to progress open space opportunities on Lake Hume and along the Murray River as residential areas expand throughout Thurgoona and Wirlinga'.

Bowna Waters Reserve

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (40 contributions)



Key feedback themes

- Many comments received to upgrade facilities including picnic area, toilets, playground, boat ramp and parking.
- Strong support for pedestrian/cycle link along Table Top Road.

Proposed amendments

No amendments proposed, noting that a future Master Plan will be prepared for the site that can address many of the community suggestions. However, it should be noted that Bowna Waters Reserve is subject to an active Aboriginal Land Claim, and a Master Plan cannot be prepared for the site until such time as the Land Claim has been resolved.

Table Top Reserve

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (14 contributions)

There were no initial priorities identified for Table Top Reserve in the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review, given the site is considered to have good access and facilities that are consistent with its current utilisation levels.

Key feedback themes

- Requests to upgrade the Hume & Hovell Track and pedestrian cycle link to Table Top School.
- Request for 24-hour caravan and camping stays.
- Polarised feedback on vehicle access to the lake.

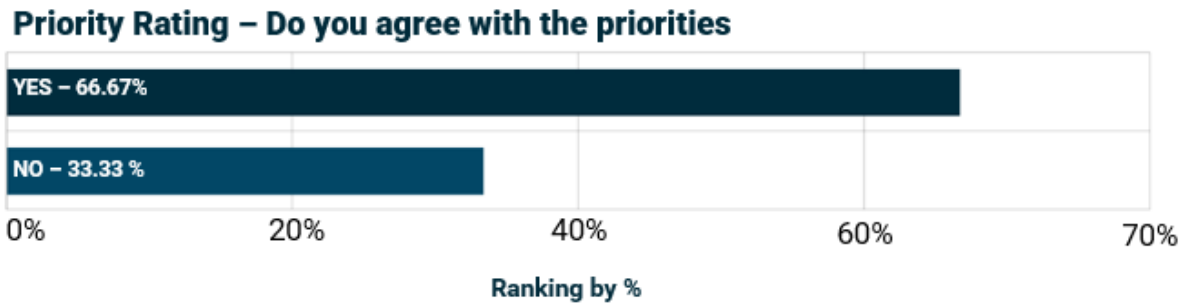
Proposed amendments

No amendments proposed. The Hume & Hovell Track is a NSW Government managed trail and linking it to the Table Top Primary School can be considered in future as Thurgoona Wirlinga grows. With

regards to camping, AlburyCity has a 'No Camping' policy on the Foreshore of Lake Hume and for this idea to be considered the policy would need to be amended. Table Top Reserve currently restricts access to the Lake which is proposed to continue, noting there is no boat ramp and the very shallow water results in significant fluctuations of the water's edge. There are opportunities for vehicle access to the water's edge at nearby Bowna Waters Reserve.

Wagirra Trail

Extent of community support for proposed site priorities (30 contributions)



Key feedback themes

- Significant support for linking Riverside Parks to Mungabareena Reserve via South Albury.
- Some existing landowners not supportive of allowing public access to their property.
- Support for a shared path on Bethanga Bridge.
- An Albury to Lake Hume cycle connection received significant support as a tourism drawcard.

Proposed amendments

Addition of new priority to 'progress feasibility of active transport connection between Albury to Lake Hume that includes links via the Riverina Highway and the proposed Murray River Adventure Trail'.

Phase two consultation summary

There were 725 submissions received through the phase two consultation of the Murray River Experience Review. A majority of the submissions received from the community were in relation to the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design, with significant opposition expressed by the community. Consequently, it is proposed to remove the current Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design from the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review process, and undertake further community engagement and refinement of this concept design as a separate standalone project.

In contrast, the feedback received in relation to the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review, Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan, and the Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan was typically more supportive, and consequently only minor amendments have been proposed, as outlined previously in the report, and included in Attachments 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Given the general support expressed for the concepts and priorities identified in these three documents it is considered

appropriate to now place these high-level documents on public exhibition, to provide a final opportunity for the community to provide feedback prior to final endorsement.

The public exhibition process would include further community information sessions and widespread promotion including site signage, social media posts, Council website, and promotion at Council venues. At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, comments received will be collated and a report presented back to Council with comments received, an officer's response, and final versions of the Master Plans for Council's consideration. If there are no comments received during the public exhibition period, it is proposed that the draft Master Plans be adopted as the final version of the Master Plans.

Related Strategies

Albury 2050 Plan

A Growing Sustainable Economy:

1.2 Albury has an accessible, integrated transport network that connects our city through safe and efficient travel options.
- 1.2.1 Effectively plan, upgrade and maintain our network of roads, bridges, cycleways, footpaths, walkways and street lighting.

1.3 Albury will offer diverse and innovative tourism experiences to attract new and repeat visitation.
- 1.3.3 Investigate partnerships to attract visitors to our region, and increase the diversity in attractions, events and facilities for our community and visitors.

A Natural Environment:

2.2 Albury embraces the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- 2.2.1 Our Community values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's Cultural Heritage, through the preservation and celebration for future generations, with the adoption of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's land management practices.

2.4 Albury is a recognised leader in the conservation and management of our natural assets.
- 2.4.3 Acknowledge our connection to the natural environment by providing opportunities for the community to connect and respectfully enjoy our natural surroundings

A Caring Community:

3.1 Albury's local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is empowered through self-determination.
- 3.1.2 Advocate and collaborate for the priorities of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative groups.

3.3 Our community values arts, culture, heritage and place. All residents share and celebrate our multiculturalism in a welcoming and open community.
- 3.3.3 Our spaces will provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for our community to enjoy.

3.5 Albury is a safe, inclusive and accessible region for our entire community.
- 3.5.2 Our buildings and spaces are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all community members.

3.5.3 AlburyCity will create safe spaces and places by using the latest technology and approaches available.

3.6 Albury is a vibrant region that values the enrichment offered by arts and cultural activities and provides for diverse lifestyles and experiences.

3.6.1 Albury will create vibrant and interesting public and cultural spaces and places that support and encourage the development of, participation in and celebration of arts and culture.

3.6.3 Albury will provide a diverse range of experiences – including entertainment, art and cultural experiences and sport and community driven events.

There are also a number of other AlburyCity strategic documents with actions that are strongly complimentary to the MRE Master Plan, including the Regional Natural Environment Strategy; Move Albury Wodonga Integrated Transport Strategy; Albury Wodonga Destination Management Plan; Sport and Recreation Strategy; and, Albury Mountain Bike Strategy.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – The MRE Master Plan is a high-level concept plan. Minimal financial analysis has been carried out as part of the review process. Upon endorsement of the updated MRE Master Plan, actions will be included in the Project Management Framework and future budget processes for Council consideration.

- **Corporate Risk** – Developing master plans for sites provides a strategic direction for all key stakeholders and Council. It is also critical to achieving grant funding, and this creates a positive image for Council. There may be community expectations that works associated with the Master Plans will occur quickly, and these expectations will require careful management. Given the extent of opposition received on the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design, it is proposed to remove the current Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design from the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review process, and undertake further community engagement and refinement of this concept design as a separate standalone project in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan identified in Attachment 5. This will minimise risk and demonstrate to the community that Council is acting on feedback received from the community.

- **WHS and Public Risk** – WHS and risk management have been considered at a high level during the master planning process. Further risk management consideration will be undertaken during the detailed design phase and during construction when they occur to ensure consistency with relevant Australian Standards.

- **Environmental Risk** – Construction projects adjacent to the Murray River require careful consideration. Each of the projects identified in the Master Plan will require detailed Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage due diligence and likely require a Review of Environmental Factors to be prepared during the detailed design phase and prior to construction. To date, significant environmental works have been undertaken (especially streambank work associated with the Murray River and revegetation) as part of the original MRE Master Plan. There have been several positive environmental impacts resulting from the majority of completed works

including Murray River streambank revetment works, reinstatement of public parkland (Noreuil Park Foreshore and Hovell Tree Park) and revegetation works. Environmental impacts will continue to be considered in detail as part of the design process for future MRE projects.

- **Delivery Program Risk** – The adoption of the final version of the MRE Master Plan and associated documentation will allow Council to take a considered approach to prioritising projects outlined in the MRE Master Plan. As projects move through the phases of the Project Management Framework, funding will be presented to Council in future budgets for consideration.

Options

That Council:

1. Endorse the following draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review documents and place them on public exhibition for a minimum of 60 days:

   - Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review (Revision B) (Attachment 2);
   - Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan (Revision B) (Attachment 3); and
   - Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan (Attachment 4).

   Recommended.

   This is a preferred option as there was general support expressed by the community for the concepts and priorities identified within these documents and placing them on public exhibition will enable the identified stakeholders and wider community to have further input into the draft Master Plans prior to finalisation; and

2. Endorse the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Attachment 5), which will facilitate further community consultation and revisions to be made to the Noreuil Park River Bank concept design.
   Recommended.

   This is also considered a preferred option as it will allow this project to be removed from the MRE Master Plan process and run as a stand-alone project that will allow for additional community engagement and refinement of a concept design that better reflects the needs and expectations of the community; or

3. Do not endorse the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review documentation and request amendments.
   Not Recommended.

   This is not the preferred option as the draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review documentation has been developed following two phases of consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community with ideas incorporated into the draft Master Plan documents. Placing the documents on public exhibition will provide a further opportunity to allow any additional community feedback and suggested refinements.

Conclusion

The MRE Master Plan was endorsed in 2007 and is an overarching strategic plan for improving access to and infrastructure along the Murray River. Since its initial endorsement, significant investment has been made on projects associated with the Master Plan which has transformed the way the community interacts with the river. These works have been instrumental in achieving the key MRE objectives which seek to strengthen the relationship between the community and the Murray River, provide greater access to the Murray River, provide quality amenities in all open spaces and promote and develop a diversity of experiences.

Now that the initial key signature projects are complete, it is timely to review the MRE Master Plan and identify the next priorities. In giving effect to this, consultants were engaged to review the MRE Master Plan in two parts:

- Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review; and
- Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan.

These two foundational documents were used as part of the phase two community consultation that was undertaken over a 60 day period during February-April 2024, along with the following two other site-specific plans:

- Draft Lake Humes Reserves Master Plan; and
- Draft Noreuil Park Riverbank Rehabilitation Concept Plan.

There were 725 submissions received through the phase two consultation of the MRE Master Plan Review. The majority of the submissions received from the community were in relation to the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept plan, with significant opposition expressed by the community. Consequently, it is proposed to remove the current Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation concept design from the MRE Master Plan Review process, and undertake further community engagement and refinement of this concept design as a separate standalone project. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Attachment 5) identifies a range of new engagement opportunities for the community to provide input into a revised concept plan that will commence in late 2024 and continue throughout 2025. This will ensure a revised concept can be achieved that better meets the needs and expectations of the community for this much-loved asset adjacent to the River at Noreuil Park.

In contrast, the feedback received in relation to the MRE Master Plan Review, Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan, and the Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan was typically more supportive, and consequently only minor amendments have been proposed that can be further tested by placing these high-level documents on public exhibition. This will provide the wider community further opportunity to provide feedback prior to final endorsement.

Recommendation

That Council:

a. receive and note the community feedback received through the phase one and phase two consultation;
b. endorse the following draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review documents and place on public exhibition for a minimum of 60 days:
    - Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review (Revision B);
    - Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan (Revision B);
    - Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan; and,
c. endorse the draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which will facilitate further community consultation and revisions to be made to the Noreuil Park River Bank concept design.

Attachments

1. Murray River Experience Review Have Your Say Summary phases one and two (DOC24/141350).
2. Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review – Revision B (DOC24/141262).
3. Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan – Revision B (DOC24/141261).
4. Draft Lake Hume Reserves Master Plan (DOC23/348303).
5. Draft Noreuil Park River Bank Rehabilitation Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (DOC24/121644).