



Enquires: Daniel Arndt 9411 3444
Ref: 064/041, 089/003

11 August 2022

Kristina Crichton
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Via email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Crichton,

Thank you for the request for comments on the abovementioned petition regarding the management of Manning Park. The City would like to apologise for the delay in providing a response.

The management of the reserve is conducted in accordance with the [Manning Park Master Plan](#) which was endorsed by Council in September 2018. Aside from providing a general management framework for the reserve, the Masterplan provides an overarching vision for the site that considers the existing environmental and recreational uses and values.

It is acknowledged that the petition seeks to ensure that the conservation and preservation of its fauna and flora is the principal goal of any management body. As the agency responsible for the management of the reserve, the City would like to draw attention to the following key theme from the Masterplan:

Environment: Conserve and protect the ridge, lake ecosystems and improve habitat.

This key theme is further supported by the following purpose statement from the [Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan](#):

This management plan provides broad direction for the protection and enhancement of the conservation, recreation and landscape values of Beeliar Regional Park.

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The City's approach to management of the reserve is therefore underpinned by the principles of responsible conservation, including the conservation of the protected matters referenced in the Submission to the Standing Committee. The Masterplan and the Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan also emphasise the significant recreational values of the reserve and the importance of ensuring that the reserve caters to enjoyment of all visitors to the park.

With respect to the mountain biking trails, the initial idea to provide trails was proposed in response to the persistent creation of unsanctioned mountain bike trails in the upland area of the reserve. It was considered that the establishment of good quality, well designed and maintained trails would prevent additional unsanctioned trails from being developed in the conservation areas of the reserve. If the establishment of formal trails was determined to be feasible from an environmental perspective, the City would then close off any additional unsanctioned trails and revegetate the area with native plants. Additionally, the establishment of mountain bike trails in Manning Park was also identified in the State Government's [Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan](#) (pages: 34, 66 & 113) and the City's [Trails Master Plan](#) (page 41).

The City's approach was therefore seeking to protect and enhance habitat values by reducing unsanctioned trail building while also responding to a noted requirement for a local mountain biking destination in the region.

As you are no doubt aware, the proposal was put before Council in May. Upon careful consideration of the many issues and varying perspectives identified during community consultation, the Council resolved to defer making a decision on the matter until a report has been prepared to provide detail on the following:

1. A full evaluation of the biodiversity and environmental values of the area;
2. An Aboriginal heritage assessment;
3. An European heritage assessment;
4. Creation of a specific environmental management plan for the upland area of the park.

As a result of this determination, there are no current plans to establish mountain bike trails within the park. The studies listed above will determine where, if at all, the establishment of trails in the park is feasible. Rest assured, the City has no intentions of creating trails that will impact on areas of ecological or historical significance.

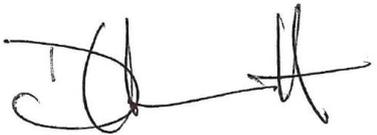
Additional detail on the mountain bike issue is available online. Relevant links are provided below:

5. Project background and current status: [Manning Park Trails - City of Cockburn](#)
6. Council Report and determination – May 2022: [Ordinary Council Meeting - Minutes - 12 May 2022](#) (See item 14.2 on page 21).

The City does not consider that any future development within Manning Park will require formal assessment by the EPA under legislation as the environmental impacts are likely to be very minor.

I trust that the above information serves to address your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me further should you have any queries with respect to the above.

Sincerely,



Daniel Arndt
Chief of Built and Natural Environment
Built and Natural Environment Division

Enc. links in document for:

perth-peel-master-plan_small-shunt.pdf
beeliar_management_plan_18_10_2006
ecm_7642522_v4_manning-park-master-plan-2018.pdf
ecm_9455897_v1_city-of-cockburn-master-plan-2013-final.pdf
ecm_11116986_v3_ordinary-council-meeting-minutes-12-may-2022.pdf