

CPS 9526/1 – Supporting information - Perry Lakes Water Quality Improvement Project

The Town is undertaking the diversion of stormwater from the Herdsman Main Drain to Perry lakes to restore lake water levels which have declined with ground water abstraction and a drying climate. The stormwater diversion is being coupled with extensive weed control and revegetation of the lake beds and surrounds under the Water Quality Improvement Project, funded by DWER. The project will see the eradication of invasive weeds and revegetation of large sections of the two lake beds with over 80,000 native reeds and rushes and 5,000 native wetland buffer plants on the lake edges. As water is diverted to the lakes it will support the growth of the new sedges, rushes and surrounding wetland vegetation.

Removing invasive weeds and planting local native species will recreate the wetland structure which has been lost over time through clearing, weed invasion, a lowering water table and a drying climate. It is anticipated that the project will result in a significant reduction in weed density and a marked improvement in the abundance and richness of native flora. This will provide habitat for and support a diversity of native wetland fauna. Dense planting of reeds and rushes will also provide a nutrient filtering function which will improve water quality.

The revegetation will be undertaken following completion of the water diversion project in early winter 2022.

The project will:

1. Reduce the density of invasive weeds
2. Restore the reeds, sedges and riparian vegetation of the lakes
3. Improve water quality
4. Attract and support native fauna
5. Encourage the community to help take care of Perry Lakes