

## **Supporting Document: Proposed native vegetation to be cleared for the Mary Carroll Pedestrian Bridge**

The Mary Carroll Pedestrian Bridge proposal (the proposal) will include the installation of a large and small pedestrian bridge over the northern wetland at Mary Carroll Park in Gosnells (Lot 3188 Verna Street, Gosnells). The large bridge shall be comprised of two spans, connected by a central viewing platform. The small bridge is simply a replacement of the existing single span bridge. The bridges have been positioned to ensure their will be minimal clearing of vegetation. Plans of the bridge construction are included in Appendix A.

Given the project is occurring in a Conservation Category Wetland (CCW) that forms part of Bush Forever Site No. 124, the bridge construction will be very sensitive to the natural environment. The impermeable clay layer in the wetland will not be disturbed as part of the bridge construction. All measures were taken to avoid and minimise clearing of vegetation and impacts to the wetland in the design process. During the planning phase, several site meetings were held with the contractor, Landmark, to discuss the future bridge location to avoid impacts to any mature trees. As part of this process, a large mature *Eucalyptus rudis* was avoided and will be retained to compliment the sensitive approach of this project.

The bridges will be constructed when the water levels are lowest. The City is closely monitoring the water levels and are waiting for it to completely dry up. The plan is to commence construction of the bridges in the next month (end of March 2022).

The City will require the Contractor (Landmark) to submit a Construction Environmental Management Plan to its satisfaction prior to undertaking any works within and around the wetland to ensure any potential health and environmental impacts are appropriately managed during construction.

Senior Planning Officer, Jacqui Clinton from Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) was consulted early on in the planning and design process to determine if any permits were needed or if they had any comments on the project as it is occurring in a CCW. The DBCA was supportive of the project and stated “While the works proposed are within a mapped wetland classified as Conservation Category it appears the work you are undertaking will assist in controlling public access and is planned to minimise any environmental impacts. DBCA would therefore have no comments on the proposal or raise any concerns with the activities proposed. DBCA does not have a role in approving or require permits for such activities in wetlands and as you have pointed out, if there is any vegetation clearing them a clearing permit from DWER may be required.” The email correspondence from DBCA is included in Appendix B.

The project will result in the removal of four juvenile native plants and a few planted plants (not offset planting) and non-native plants. Only the four native plants are included in the clearing referral proposal, in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s (DWER’s) definition of native vegetation in ‘A guide to the assessment of application to clear native vegetation’. No mature trees will be cleared as part of the project. Details of the four native plants to be removed are outlined below with photo evidence. The plant locations are shown on Figure 1.

- Plant 1: *Melaleuca raphiophylla* with a 14cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) just outside of the mapped CCW (Plate 1).
- Plant 2: *Acacia saligna* with a 3 cm DBH on the man-made causeway bund in the mapped CCW – likely self-seeded (Plate 2).

- Plant 3: *Melaleuca raphiophylla* with a 3 cm DBH on the man-made causeway bund in the mapped CCW likely self-seeded (Plate 2).
- Plant 4: *Eucalyptus rudis* with a 2.5 cm DBH on the man-made causeway bund in the mapped CCW likely self-seeded (Plate 2).

The City, along with the support of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) and the Friends of Mary Carroll Wetlands undertake regular revegetation projects at the Mary Carroll Wetlands and have been working together since the early 1980's. The City will continue this collaborative relationship and will be revegetating the outlet drain coming off Verna Street this winter which is right near the proposed bridge. The City gives back to enhancing the site much more than will be cleared as part of this project and it is considered there will be very negligible environmental impacts associated with clearing four juvenile plants.