R.D. Egan Lee Reserve – Wetland
Community Engagement Summary

Community engagement for the proposed wetland at R.D. Egan Lee Reserve was undertaken between the period of 22/09/23 to 18/10/23. Feedback on the project was invited by the community through the Council online platform Have Your Say. 429 different visitors to the Have Your Say page with 20 individuals providing input, 24 of which have requested updates to the project.

Key stakeholders to the reserve such as Knox City Football Club, 4th Knox Scouts Group, and local residents adjacent to the project were contacted directly to seek feedback on the project and to understand any concerns that they may have.

2 drop in sessions were run at the reserve on 05/10/23 (rescheduled from 03/10/23 due to heavy rain on the day) and 07/10/23. These were undertaken to meet the community in person, talk through the proposed design in more detail and respond to any questions the community may have about the project. Between the 2 drop in sessions there were approx. 30-40 people who attended, in which the majority consisting of local residents and regular users of the reserve.

Throughout the various community engagement platforms, we’ve received plenty of great feedback from the community which has now been reviewed. Where possible, community feedback has been considered and incorporated into the proposed design. A summary of comments received and outcomes are detailed below.

We received a few comments identifying the hazard of an open water area being a risk to child safety, as well as inviting mosquito habitation. These have been considered through the design, by providing safety fencing and shallow water depths around the edges of the wetland to mitigate children entering the wetland. In addition, the wetland is designed to carry a constant flow of water and encourage growth of native flora and fauna which will deter mosquitoes from utilising the space for breeding. Furthermore, the wetland consists of sections of deep and shallow pools of water which provide protection to native animals from prey such as foxes and cats.

There were some suggestions about information signage and artwork/sculptures being great features to the wetland. Information boards/signage have been explored internally and further discussions will be undertaken with our Stormwater, Biodiversity and Communications teams in regards to the content and implementation. Opportunities to provide artwork at the reserve is currently being explored with the Arts and Cultural Services team.

Upgrades to the playground area including toddler-friendly equipment, public toilets, and picnic benches was suggested – this was considered however unfortunately not able to be accommodated as it falls outside the scope of the wetland project.

A comment received from regular users of the reserves was to provide more bins to be located around the wetland, unfortunately at this stage it will be too challenging for Council to facilitate the increase to the current maintenance schedule for the reserve resulting from additional bins.

A few comments received on the desire to see more trees planting to provide more shade around the wetland. This has been explored and additional trees will be planted in strategic locations.

Many suggested of providing seating, drinking taps, BBQs, toilets, and picnic spots were considered. Whilst drinking taps, BBQs, toileting facilities, and picnic spots are not able to be facilitated in this project specifically, seating will be provided in strategic locations around the wetland. This has been coordinated with the Open Spaces team to inform type and placement of seating.

A comment regarding maintenance and monitoring of the wetland in the first 18-24 months after construction to help deter vandalism and littering. There will be a lengthy period of planting and maintenance provided by Council following the construction of the wetland. Any effort the community can make to help prevent litter will be greatly appreciated and will help to promote growth in the wetland, as well as the associated flora and fauna.

Following the completion of the wetland, there will be invitation to the community to join us in planting the wetland – to make your mark and contribute to this exciting new space.