Warwick Regional Open Space Proposed Concept Plans

City of Wanneroo

Report and Recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority

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Summary and Recommendations

In November 1989 the City of Wanneroo submitted a study and concept plans for the Warwick Regional Open Space which is subject to Environmental Protection Authority System 6 Report recommendation M11. The study proposes that portions of the area be used for recreational purposes with other areas to be set aside for conservation.

The Environmental Protection Authority determined that the proposal should be assessed as a Consultative Environmental Review (CER) under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the most significant impacts of the proposal are the implications it has for System 6 recommendation M11 and loss of indigenous vegetation.

The Environmental Protection Authority believes that the proposals in each of the three concept alternatives described in the CER are environmentally acceptable and are consistent with the intent of System 6 Recommendation M11.

Recommendations

- 1. The Environmental Protection Authority concludes that the proposals in each of the three concept alternatives described in the CER are environmentally acceptable and recommends that each of the alternatives could proceed subject to the following recommendation being implemented.
- 2. The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that a management plan should be prepared to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority which has the following objectives:
 - landscaping of the picnic area and in the vicinity of developments based on principles of water conservation and regeneration of indigenous flora species;
 - a programme for noxious weed control, fire management, pedestrian and vehicle access in areas proposed for conservation; and
 - access to the proposed conservation areas to be restricted to pedestrians and for the purposes of education and passive recreation.

1 Introduction

In November 1989 the City of Wanneroo submitted a study and concept plans for the Warwick Regional Open Space which is subject to Environmental Protection Authority System 6 Report recommendation M11. The study proposes that portions of the area be used for recreational purposes with other areas to be set aside for conservation. The Environmental Protection Authority determined that the proposal should be assessed as a Consultative Environmental Review (CER) under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

Warwick Regional Open Space is "reserved" for Parks and Recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme and is freehold land owned by the State Planning Commission. The land is leased (21 year lease with power to sub-lease) to the City of Wanneroo for parks and recreation purposes.

2 The Proposal

The CER outlines three alternative concept plans for the Warwick Regional Open Space with Concept B being likely to be the preferred option (Appendix 1), although this has not yet been endorsed by the full Wanneroo City Council. The areas of bushland proposed to be retained for conservation are essentially the same in each of the three concepts. The concept alternatives each contain proposals for active recreation facilities and an irrigated picnic area with some variation in the layout of the developments. These variations relate to the compatibility of proposed activities and their proximity to the access roads. Developments are proposed to be screened from the main boundary roads by conservation buffers. It is intended that all areas defined for future development will be maintained as conservation areas until future development is initiated.

A list of agencies and groups consulted during the preparation of the Warwick Regional Open Space Concept Plan is provided in Appendix 2.

The Department of Planning and Urban Development has advised the Wanneroo City Council that it supports the proposed concept plan in principle subject to approval from other concerned agencies.

Consultation with local community groups has indicated support for the concept plans both in terms of allowing for conservation areas and providing community facilities.

Minor modification to the siting of some of the facilities proposed in Concepts A and B may be necessary to satisfy the Water Authority of Western Australia's requirements with regard to development over sewers and rising mains, but these changes can be accommodated within areas proposed to be developed or for future development and without incurring additional environmental impacts.

3 Environmental Impacts

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the most significant impacts of the proposal are the implications it has for System 6 recommendation M11 and loss of indigenous vegetation.

The System 6 Report acknowledged that the area was intended to be developed for active recreation, and recommended that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority ensure that any management plan for the area encourages the growth of indigenous flora.

The area's vegetation consists of woodland of jarrah with a few marri and an understorey of banksia.

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that the impacts of the proposals in each of the three concept alternatives described in the CER are essentially the same and are acceptable provided:

- the proponent prepares a management plan for the landscaping of developments and for the areas proposed to be for conservation;
- access to the conservation areas is restricted to pedestrians, with use of these areas to be education and passive recreation.

The Environmental Protection Authority believes that the proposals in each of the three concept alternatives described in the CER are environmentally acceptable and are consistent with the intent of System 6 Recommendation M11.

4 Recommendations

- 1. The Environmental Protection Authority concludes that the proposals in each of the three concept alternatives described in the CER are environmentally acceptable and recommends that each of the alternatives could proceed subject to the following recommendation being implemented.
- 2. The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that a management plan should be prepared to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority which has the following objectives:
 - landscaping of the picnic area and in the vicinity of developments based on principles of water conservation and regeneration of indigenous flora species;
 - a programme for noxious weed control, fire management, pedestrian and vehicle access in areas proposed for conservation; and
 - access to the proposed conservation areas to be restricted to pedestrians and for the purposes of education and passive recreation.

Appendix 1

Warwick Regional Open Space - Concept Alternatives A, B & C







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Appendix 2

Agencies and groups consulted by the City of Wanneroo during the preparation of the Warwick Regional Open Space Concept Plan report

. . Department of Conservation and Land Management

Department of Planning and Urban Development

Greenwood/Warwick Community and Recreation Association Inc - This is an umbrella organisation made up of representatives of various recreational and sporting groups plus individuals interested in community development. These groups include active supporting clubs (eg football and cricket), scouts and guides, playgroups, YMCA and the WA Wildflower Club (Northern Districts).