

Executive Summary

12.11 Update on Seaford Wetlands

Enquiries: (Leonie Reints: Community Development)

Council Plan

Community Outcome:	2. Liveable City
Strategy:	2.2 Vibrant and Engaged
Priority Action	2.2.5 Improve the presentation and cleanliness of Frankston City

Purpose

To brief Council on the progress of actions undertaken and information sourced in relation to the Seaford Wetlands.

Recommendation (Director Community Development)

That Council:

1. Notes the information provided in this report; and
2. Notes officers will continue to monitor the activity of monkey bikes and vandalism in the Seaford Wetlands.

Key Points / Issues

At Ordinary Meeting 18 February 2019, Officers updated Council on the progress of items raised as part of Notice of Motion 2018/NOM65 – Peninsula Link. Council resolved:

That Council:

1. *Note that letters have been sent to Southern Way Pty Ltd and Lendlease Operations.*
2. *Note that Council Officers continue to work with VicPol in relation to issues with monkey bikes/motorised bikes.*
3. *Note that actions undertaken have seen a steady recovery of damaged conservation areas and an observable decline throughout Seaford Wetlands and Peninsula Link Trail in recent years.*
4. *Note that the installation of more restrictive barriers or speed traps along the shared path on Peninsula Link Trail is not recommended as it is contrary to standards and principles under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA).*
5. *Endorse communications to the community encouraging the reporting of specific monkey bike activity via:*
 - a. *Social Media (allowing up to \$200 for the boosting of the message).*
 - b. *An article in Council's What's On page in the Frankston Leader.*
 - c. *An article in Council's eNewsletter.*
 - d. *An article in Frankston City News.*

12.11 Update on Seaford Wetlands**Executive Summary**

Since then further items have been raised in relation to the Seaford Wetlands. This report outlines the items and responses.

Installation of a CCTV unit and pole on the route where monkey bike/vandalism is occurring. How much?

- There are a number of issues to be considered if permanent CCTV is to be installed at the Seaford Wetlands:
 - The area contains some complex soil types including Acid Sulphate Soils. Disturbance to these soils would cause significant issues that are impossible to avoid given the number of footings required to support the infrastructure for the “Safe City” CCTV network.
 - The height of the pole required for a microwave link to be installed to reach the Arts Centre would need to be at least 20 metres high
 - A detailed engineering plan would need to be developed and soil samples taken before the above could be deemed feasible and to consider going ahead. The expected cost for this would be approximately \$10,000.
 - The estimated cost to install a solar powered camera would exceed \$70,000.
 - An alternative solution would be to lease a mobile pole camera from iDetect at a cost of \$1,200 per month. The mobile pole camera does not require installation of significant infrastructure. This option could then be removed if there was a further reduction of monkey bikes observed in the future.

How much for five signs and poles advising residents to “dob in”/report hoon driving and/or monkey bikes?

- Additional signs could be installed to support the existing network of signs surrounding the Seaford Wetlands (currently at most entry points). It is expected the cost would be approximately \$220 per sign, depending on size selected.
- It is considered that additional signs are not required at this time given the significant drop in hoon/monkey bike occurrences since the installation of various signs in the reserve approximately 12 months ago. It would appear that the new signs installed at that time have had a positive effect.

What has happened with the letter box drops?

- It was resolved by Council at Ordinary Meeting 18 February 2019 that undertaking a letter box drop was not the most effective method of communicating. A broader array of communication has since occurred including social media, articles in Frankston City News, e-newsletter and in local newspapers.

Options for installing speed traps.

- Entry points at Seaford Wetlands are designed to comply with relevant shared pathway design standards and the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1993. Entry points must be trafficable by bicycles and wheel chairs without obstruction. These standards have minimal impact on restricting access for monkey bikes.

12.11 Update on Seaford Wetlands**Executive Summary**

Any speed traps installed along the shared pathway at Seaford Wetlands also need to comply with the Road Management Act, Disability Discrimination Act and shared pathway design standards.

- A number of entry points at Seaford Wetlands have been modified over recent years to comply with required standards. Currently there 24/25 entry points into Seaford Wetlands that restrict vehicle access but have minimal effect on monkey bikes.
- Additional fencing and landscaping has been constructed around park boundaries and open space areas such as on the corner of Austins Rd and Francis St to restrict entry and exit to designated points.

Financial Impact

The Victorian Government introduced the “Fair Go Rates” system in 2016-2017, placing a cap on Council rates. Rate revenue constitutes 66 per cent of all Council revenue.

The rate cap over the past three financial years has been 2.5 per cent, 2.0 per cent and 2.25 per cent respectively and has been set at 2.5 per cent for 2019-2020.

The rate cap is based on the consumer price index which relates to the average increase in the prices of a range of goods and services, very few of which apply to the cost drivers of providing local government services.

Over time, with the cost of providing services increasing at a greater rate than increases in Council’s major source of income, Council’s capacity to continue to deliver services and fund its capital programme will be severely restricted.

As this report is an update there are no financial implications associated with this report.

Consultation**1. External Stakeholders**

Council Officers and VicPol Officers from both Frankston and Carrum Downs continue to liaise and work closely together on the issues around monkey bikes/motor bikes.

2. Other Stakeholders

Advice has been sought from various Council staff including Engineering Services, Manager Operations, Coordinator and Officers in the Specialist Vegetation and City Works teams, Manager Community Relations and members of the Community Safety team.

Analysis (Environmental / Economic / Social Implications)

The social, amenity, public safety, compliance and related issues are well documented and known to Council, VicPol and Emergency Services.

Legal / Policy / Council Plan ImpactCharter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities has been considered in the preparation of this report but is not relevant to the content of the report.

Officer’s Declaration of Interests

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no Conflict of Interest in this matter.

12.11 Update on Seaford Wetlands**Executive Summary****Risk Mitigation**

Anti-social behaviour and the prevalence of monkey/motor cross bikes has a compounding impact on the community. To mitigate against the extent of the impact Council engages in education to the community and working with other agencies to achieve acceptable compliance.

Conclusion

Officers will continue to undertake the operational tasks of managing the Seaford Wetlands and monitor the usage of monkey bikes and damage to the environment to ascertain if further actions are required.

Council increased signs and restricted access as per Council direction during 2018-19. It has been reported that monkey bike activity has reduced.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil