

# **ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM**

**Ordinary Meeting**

**18 February 2014**

<b>Agenda Item 8.3</b>	<b>Draft Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan</b>	
<b>Attachment 1</b>	<b>Draft Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan Summary Document.....</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Attachment 2</b>	<b>DRAFT Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan.....</b>	<b>702</b>
<b>Attachment 3</b>	<b>Engagement Strategy Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan.....</b>	<b>750</b>

## DRAFT BOULEVARD BUSH RESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### SUMMARY DOCUMENT

#### Background

In 2010, Greater Shepparton City Council purchased a parcel of land in north Shepparton, commonly referred to as "Tassickers", for its high conservation significance. Bordered by the Goulburn River and The Boulevard, the land that forms the Reserve is in two parcels situated in the Shepparton Regional Park. The Reserve is owned by Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria. (Figure 1)

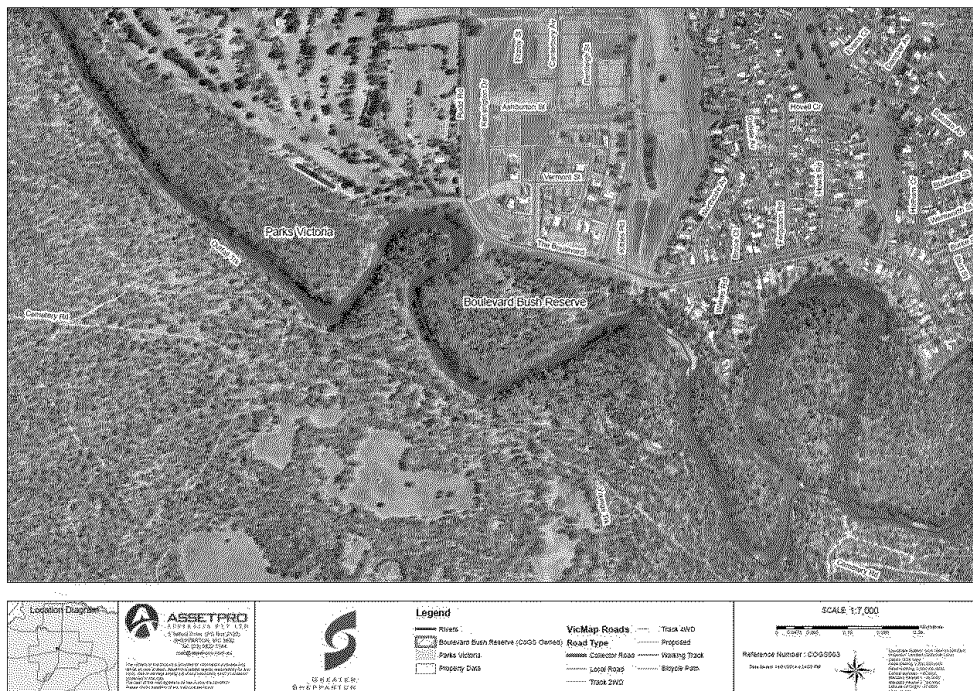


Figure 1: Boulevard Bush Reserve location and land ownership.

The site is one of the best examples of what the bush along the Goulburn River might have looked like before European settlement. The River Red Gum Woodland has a good representation of native understorey plants and large old trees that support a variety of native fauna. Significant species include; Echidna, Platypus, Squirrel Glider and the Azure Kingfisher.

#### Purpose of Plan

The Draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been produced for Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria by RiverConnect staff, assisted by the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group. The purpose of this EMP is to provide direction for the future environmental, recreational and educational management of Boulevard Bush Reserve (BBR).

TRIM Ref No. C14/544

### Key Values

#### **Protection and enhancement of native flora and fauna**

Many of the environmental assets contained within BBR are in good to very good condition, which, in a landscape that is largely fragmented and depleted of biodiversity values, is extremely valuable. All management activities need to be undertaken with this in mind.

#### **Passive recreation**

Due to its close proximity to a major urban setting, BBR is an ideal location to promote passive recreational activities such as walking, fishing, bird watching and other low impact activities. Neighbouring residents and visitors are encouraged to utilise the Reserve as a unique space to enjoy these activities in a natural setting.

#### **Education**

BBR is a valuable site for environmental education due to its close proximity to a major urban setting and its natural beauty. There are a range of opportunities to educate community members, community groups and schools about a variety of ecological processes, flora and fauna species and general natural resource management issues.

#### **Partnership**

A range of organisations, community groups and individuals have an interest in BBR. Therefore the joint management of BBR extends beyond partnerships between Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria as land owners, to include other community groups, agencies and individuals.

### Governance

Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria are the responsible land owners of Boulevard Bush Reserve. The RiverConnect Land Management Working Group oversee activities undertaken at the Reserve and reports to Council on these activities through the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee. There are also a variety of community groups and organisations who have expressed an interest in BBR. Each of these organisations has a range of formal and informal responsibilities that need to be fulfilled in order to ensure that the management and development of the Reserve continues in an integrated manner.

The key stakeholders for Boulevard Bush Reserve are:

- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Parks Victoria
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- RiverConnect Land Management Working Group
- Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group
- Adjacent residents.

### Action Plan

An action plan has been developed for Boulevard Bush Reserve. This action plan outlines key actions to be undertaken at the Reserve and include items such as; seating, signage, Cultural Heritage Assessments, Nesting Box installation, Educational Walks, Cat Trapping Regular site inspections and Fuel Load Monitoring.

The implementation of the Action Plan will be dependent on Greater Shepparton City Council's annual budgetary process, Parks Victoria's budgetary process and external funding opportunities.

# Boulevard Bush Reserve

DRAFT Environmental Management Plan



Draft 1 – V3 – January 2014



Healthy Parks  
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DRAFT

**Prepared by Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria by:**

**RiverConnect** – a community driven, multi-agency approach to Natural Resource Management for the Shepparton and Mooroopna region.

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## Contents

1.	Key Messages .....	5
2.	Introduction .....	6
3.	Boulevard Bush Reserve Vision, Values and Objectives .....	8
3.1	Vision .....	8
3.2	Values .....	8
3.2.1	Protection and enhancement of native flora and fauna .....	8
3.2.2	Passive Recreation .....	8
3.2.3	Education .....	8
3.2.4	Partnerships .....	8
3.3	Management Objectives .....	8
4.	Governance .....	9
5.	Roles and Responsibilities .....	10
5.1	Greater Shepparton City Council .....	11
5.2	Parks Victoria .....	12
5.3	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation .....	12
5.4	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group .....	13
5.4	Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group .....	13
5.5	Adjacent Residents .....	14
5.6	Contacts .....	15
6.	Management Zones .....	15
6.1	Zone A .....	16
6.2	Zone B .....	17
6.3	Zone C .....	17
6.4	Zone D .....	18
7.	Terrestrial Management .....	19
7.1	Indigenous Plants .....	19
7.1.1	Management of Established Trees and Fallen Timber .....	20
7.1.2	Fire .....	20
7.1.3	Revegetation Activities .....	20
7.2	Weed Control .....	20
7.2.1	Types of Weeds .....	20
7.2.2	Weed Management .....	21
7.3	Fauna .....	21
7.3.1	Indigenous Fauna .....	21
7.3.2	Pest Animal Control .....	22
7.4	Cultural Site Management .....	22
7.4.1	European Heritage .....	22
7.4.2	Aboriginal Heritage .....	23
7.5	Litter Management .....	23
8.	Infrastructure .....	24
8.1	Reactive Management .....	24
8.2	Signage .....	24
8.3	Walking Paths .....	24

8.4	Gates and Access .....	25
8.5	Fencing .....	25
8.6	Car Parks .....	25
8.7	Seating.....	25
9	Education .....	26
10	Human Interaction .....	26
10.1	Vehicle Access .....	26
10.2	Dogs .....	26
10.3	Cats.....	27
10.4	Bardi Grubbing .....	27
10.5	Camping .....	27
10.6	Camp Fires.....	27
10.7	Firewood Collection .....	27
10.8	Recreational Fishing.....	28
10.9	Horse Riding .....	28
10.10	Graffiti .....	28
10.11	Functions.....	28
10.12	Other .....	28
11	Urban Development.....	29
12	Emergency Management.....	29
12.1	Flooding.....	29
12.1.1	Preferred Flood Mitigation Options.....	29
12.1.2	Reactive Management .....	29
12.2	Wildfire Risk Management .....	29
13	Occupational Health and Safety and Risk Management .....	29
14	Insurance.....	30
15	Review.....	30
16	Boulevard Bushland Reserve Action Plan .....	30
17	References .....	34
Appendix A	Vegetation List for Boulevard Bush Reserve.....	35
Appendix B	Fauna Observed for Boulevard Bush Reserve.....	38
Appendix C	Consultation and Community Feedback .....	40
Appendix D	EVC Benchmarks .....	41
Appendix E	Spray Data Form.....	48

## 1. Key Messages

### Adaptive Management

The management regime recommended for Boulevard Bush Reserve in this Environmental Management Plan has been developed based on the current conditions within the Reserve. Over time, as conditions in the Reserve change, the management regime recommended for the Reserve will also need to be adapted to meet these changes.

### Handle with Care

Many of the environmental assets contained within the Boulevard Bush Reserve are in good to very good condition which, in a landscape that is largely fragmented and depleted of biodiversity values, is extremely valuable. All management activities need to be undertaken with this in mind and should ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the Reserve's environmental values.

### Partnership approach

Boulevard Bush Reserve is made up of two parcels of land for which Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria are the responsible land managers. There are a number of community groups and individuals who have an interest in the Reserve. The development of this Environmental Management Plan and its ongoing implementation will have input from a range of partners and stakeholders.



## 2. Introduction

Boulevard Bush Reserve is a section of unique River Red Gum woodland which encompasses 13.6ha of land in North Shepparton, northern Victoria, as shown in Figure 1 below.

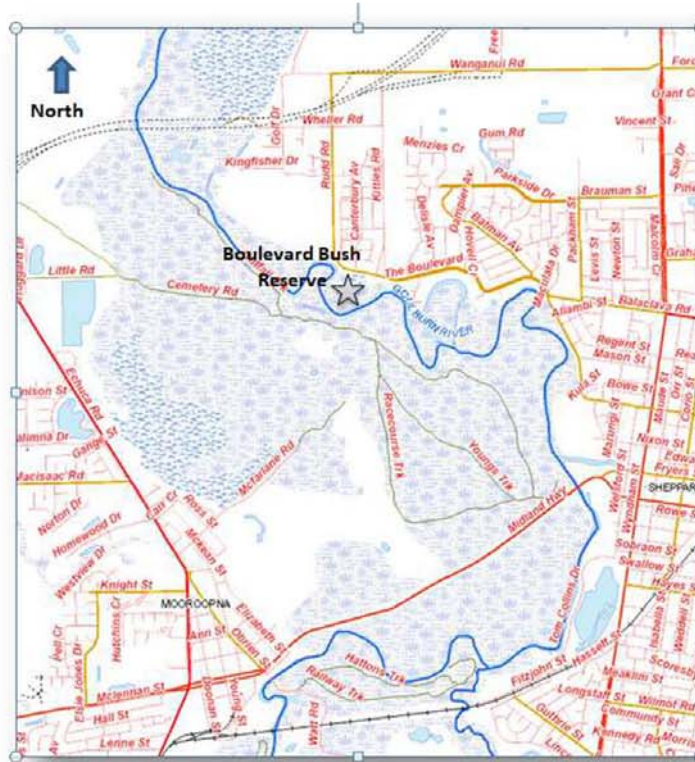


Figure 1: Boulevard Bush Reserve, North Shepparton, Victoria

Bordered by the Goulburn River and The Boulevard, the land that forms the Reserve is in two parcels situated in the Shepparton Regional Park. The Reserve is owned by Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria (Figure 2).

The former freehold parcel of Boulevard Bush Reserve was purchased by Greater Shepparton City Council in June 2010 with the intent for the community to enjoy and appreciate its natural values and to conserve its environmental features.

Prior to this, the land was owned by the Tassicker family. Mary and Norman Tassicker purchased the Tassicker farm in 1931 for their son Bert. The 650 acre farm, under

irrigation, was originally part of the Wanganui Estate. Half the property was sold after Norman passed away, however Bert retained his half which included the land on the river side of the Boulevard. Unfortunately Bert was killed in a tractor accident in 1960, after which the remaining farm was sold to a local syndicate for housing development (Brady, E., 1996).

The Reserve has a good representation of native understorey plants and large old trees that support a large number of hollows. There are some areas where Kangaroo Grass dominates whilst other low-lying depressions maintain a high cover of Tall Sedge, Pale Rush, Leafy Flat-sedge and Common Club-rush, all typical riparian species. Some of the fauna species that have been sighted in the Reserve include echidna, beautiful woodland birds such as the Azure Kingfisher and platypus in the Goulburn River. A full list of Flora and Fauna species can be found in Appendix A and B.

Prior to Council purchasing the freehold land, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority developed a draft concept plan, RiverConnect Boulevard Property Master Plan, which outlined some potential works that could be undertaken on site to protect its high conservation values and encourage a range of passive recreational activities. This concept plan influenced where Council installed the boundary fence and walking path after purchase in 2011.

In order to understand what plants and animals were in the Reserve, a Flora and Fauna Assessment of the site was conducted by Integrated Catchment Services in October 2012. This document also included some interim management actions that are currently being implemented. These include track maintenance, weed removal and the formal naming of the site, Boulevard Bush Reserve (Guinane, S., 2012).

A number of community groups and individuals have expressed their interest in Boulevard Bush Reserve the Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group (SMULG) in particular. To date SMULG have volunteered their time to undertake some of the actions highlighted in the Flora and Fauna Assessment and have run community events at this site in conjunction with Council.

This Draft Environmental Management Plan has been produced by Greater Shepparton City Council in partnership with RiverConnect Land Management Group (LMWG). The purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the future environmental management of Boulevard Bush Reserve. This draft management plan will be subject to public consultation and Council and Parks Victoria endorsement.

### 3. Boulevard Bush Reserve Vision, Values and Objectives

#### 3.1 Vision

The local community will value, protect and enhance the environmental values of the Reserve, whilst utilising it as a passive recreational and educational space.

#### 3.2 Values

There are 4 key values identified as being a priority for Boulevard Bush Reserve. These are: protection and enhancement of native flora and fauna; passive recreation; education; and partnerships.

##### 3.2.1 Protection and enhancement of native flora and fauna

The Reserve has a good representation of native plants that support an array of fauna species. There are good patches of a range of native flora species, including a number of large hollow bearing trees. Boulevard Bush Reserve gives a good representation of what the River Red Gum Woodland would have looked like pre European settlement.

##### 3.2.2 Passive Recreation

Due to its close proximity to a major urban setting, Boulevard Bush Reserve is an ideal location to promote passive recreational activities such as walking, fishing, bird watching, picnics and other low impact activities. Neighbouring residents and visitors are encouraged to utilise the Reserve as a unique space to enjoy these activities in a natural setting.

##### 3.2.3 Education

Boulevard Bush Reserve is a valuable site for environmental education due to its close proximity to a major urban setting and natural beauty. There are a range of opportunities to educate community members, community groups and schools about a variety of ecological processes, flora and fauna species and general natural resource management issues.

##### 3.2.4 Partnerships

The joint management of Boulevard Bush Reserve extends beyond partnerships between Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria as land owners, to include other community groups, agencies and individuals as outlined in Section 5: Roles and Responsibilities.

#### 3.3 Management Objectives

As Boulevard Bush Reserve is in relatively good condition and is in such close proximity to an urban setting, the majority of management activities over the Reserve will focus on maintaining and enhancing habitat values, maintaining low impact recreational use and providing the opportunity for community education.

Management Objectives will focus on weed control, revegetation, installation and maintenance of passive recreational infrastructure, enhancing habitat values and hosting community education activities.

#### 4. Governance

Whilst the Boulevard Bush Reserve Management Plan outlines the management of both Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria parcels of land located within the Reserve (Figure 2 below), Greater Shepparton City Council is not responsible for the activities, infrastructure or events that occur on the Parks Victoria owned parcel of land. Likewise, Parks Victoria is not responsible for the activities, infrastructure or events that occur on the Greater Shepparton City Council owned parcel of land.



**Figure 2: Boulevard Bush Reserve Land Ownership.** Parks Victoria Shepparton Regional Park parcel borders the Goulburn River and the Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) parcel. Greater Shepparton City Council parcel borders Parks Victoria parcel and The Boulevard.

The RiverConnect Land Management Working Group (LMWG) is the Council appointed Advisory Committee for Boulevard Bush Reserve. As a sub-group of the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC), the RiverConnect LMWG will seek Council

endorsement and provide regular reports to Council through the RiverConnect IAC, as shown below in Figure 3.

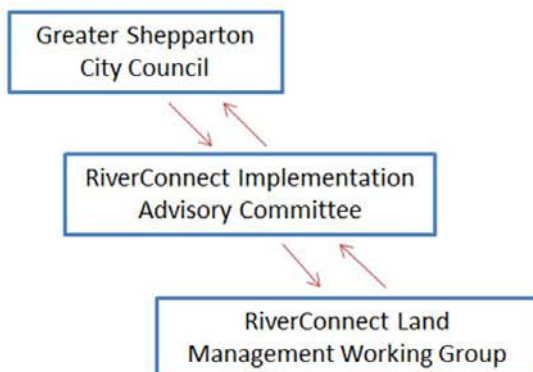


Figure 3: Governance for Boulevard Bush Reserve

Greater Shepparton City Council requires information for endorsement on:

- Annual Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan; and
- Any items that fall under Council's Procurement Guidelines.

The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee requires information for endorsement on:

- Annual Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan; and
- A bi-monthly report on the day to day operation and management of the Reserve.

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

A range of organisations, community groups and individuals have an interest in Boulevard Bush Reserve. With these interests come a range of formal and informal responsibilities that need to be fulfilled in order to ensure that the management and development of the Reserve continues in an integrated manner. The key stakeholders for Boulevard Bush Reserve are:

- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Parks Victoria
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Cooperation
- RiverConnect Land Management Working Group
- Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group, and
- Adjacent residents.

The following sections outline the roles and responsibilities vested with these key stakeholders.

### **5.1 Greater Shepparton City Council**

The Council is the owner of the northern parcel of land which comprises the majority of Boulevard Bush Reserve and consequently has a range of roles and responsibilities with regard to its management.

Council's annual budgetary process will determine the ability to deliver management actions.

The roles and responsibilities of the Council include:

- Provide budgetary and officer support for implementing management actions
- Seek external funding
- The management (control) of a range of identified pest plant and animal species in consideration of seasonal conditions and available resources
- Monthly site inspection of the Reserve, conducted by Aquatic Bushland Care team
- The completion of regular safety audits by Council Compliance Officer to ensure that all infrastructure within the Reserve is safe
- The management of infrastructure/assets contained within the Reserve to ensure that it meets safety and other requirements of the Council
- The repair of any damaged infrastructure within the Reserve subject to the Council's annual budgetary process
- Management of vehicle and equipment hygiene
- Attend regular meetings with RiverConnect Land Management Working Group representatives to ensure that there is sufficient cooperation and coordination of management of the Reserve. This meeting would also be utilised to discuss strategic issues (refer to section 5.6)
- Fulfil regulatory requirements under Local Law 1(GSCC, 2008)
- Consultation with the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group for any unscheduled works outside of the Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan
- Have a designated person within Council for all urgent works on issues such as fallen limbs or damaged infrastructure (refer to section 5.6)
- Minimise the risk of injury to users of the land
- Conduct community education programs in partnership with other stakeholders, and
- Ensure Council staff undertake appropriate training.

### 5.2 Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria is the owner of the parcel of land bordering the Goulburn River which comprises Boulevard Bush Reserve and consequently has a range of roles and responsibilities with regard to its management.

Parks Victoria's annual budgetary process will determine the ability to deliver management actions.

The roles and responsibilities of Parks Victoria will include:

- Provide budgetary and officer support for implementing management actions
- Seek external funding
- The management (control) of a range of identified pest plant and animal species in consideration of seasonal conditions and available resources
- The completion of regular safety audits to ensure that all infrastructure within the Reserve is safe
- Management of vehicle and equipment hygiene
- Attend regular meetings with RiverConnect Land Management Working Group representatives to ensure that there is sufficient cooperation and coordination of management of the Reserve. This meeting would also be utilised to discuss strategic issues
- Fulfil regulatory requirements under *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978)
- Where appropriate, consultation of proposed activities outside of the action plan, with the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group
- Have a designated person for all contact with Council for urgent works on issues such as fallen limbs or damaged infrastructure (refer to Section 5.6)
- Minimise the risk of injury to users of the land
- Conduct community education programs in partnership with other stakeholders,
- Ensure Parks Victoria staffs undertake appropriate training, and
- Wildfire suppression

### 5.3 Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) is the Registered Aboriginal Party and therefore is responsible for the management of all Indigenous Cultural Heritage within the City of Greater Shepparton. There is a detailed legislative process that this activity must operate within.

Greater Shepparton City Council recognises YYNAC as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the municipality.

YYNAC has a co-operative agreement with the State of Victoria over the management of Crown land and water in this area. Under this agreement the YYJB was established to provide formal advice and recommendations to the Minister for Environment. Boulevard Bush Reserve falls within the designated areas of this agreement.

The Role and responsibility of the YYNAC will include:

- Providing recommendations on Cultural appropriateness of all works programs within the reserve, and
- Provide recommendations on Environmental programs from an indigenous perspective where possible.

#### **5.4 RiverConnect Land Management Working Group**

The RiverConnect Land Management Working Group (LMWG), through the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee, has been appointed by Council as the Advisory Committee for Boulevard Bush Reserve.

The RiverConnect LMWG is a cross agency-community forum which addresses various issues and explores opportunities regarding public land management within the RiverConnect Project area.

The roles and responsibilities of RiverConnect Land Management Working Group include:

- Provide guidance and strategic direction in monitoring the health of the Reserve
- Develop the annual action plan which incorporates community education programs
- Undertake appropriate public relations, promotional and education activities to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the profile of the Reserve
- Oversee the implementation of the annual action plan
- Report bi-monthly to the RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee
- Minimise the risk of injury to users of the land
- Members to provide two way communications between their representative organisation and the working group, and
- Develop a list of proposed works for budgetary consideration by December each year for review by Council.

#### **5.4 Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group**

The Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group have identified Boulevard Bush Reserve as one of their areas for on-ground works and have a significant role to play



as both a member of the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group and as a lead community group.

The roles and responsibilities of Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group include:

- Attend regular meetings with appropriate RiverConnect Land Management Working Group representatives to ensure that there is sufficient cooperation and coordination of management of the Reserve. This meeting would also be utilised to discuss strategic issues
- Where appropriate, consultation of proposed activities outside of the action plan, with the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group
- Via email, notify the appropriate Council contacts before and after a spraying activity. This will include a list of those involved, what chemicals are being used, the spray rates and a completed Spray Data Form (Appendix F)
- Conduct community education programs in partnership with other stakeholders
- Ensure group members undertake appropriate education and training
- Have a designated person for all contact with Council for urgent works on issues such as fallen limbs or damaged infrastructure (refer to Section 5.6)
- Minimise the risk of injury to users of the land
- Develop a list of proposed works for budgetary consideration by October each year and table at the RiverConnect Land Management Group meeting, and
- Provide a regular report of activities to the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group.

### 5.5 Adjacent Residents

Whilst neighbouring residents do not have any authoritative responsibilities, they play an important role in preserving the values of the Reserve and have the opportunity to embrace the Reserve as an extension of their own backyards.

The major responsibilities of residents whose properties are in close proximity to Boulevard Bush Reserve are to ensure that any activities do not have an adverse impact on the values of the Reserve, such as:

- Domestic animals are secured as per Local Law 1; Community Living, Part 6 (GSCC, 2008)
- Fallen timber collection does not occur, and
- Any undesirable activity is reported to Council, such as motor bike activity, rubbish dumping, etc.

### 5.6 Contacts

The majority of management activities are undertaken by Council, Parks Victoria or Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group. In order to streamline the interaction between these organisations and ensure a timely response, up to date contact information for these representatives needs to be maintained via the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group.

Each of these organisations will identify designated officers for all contact relating to Boulevard Bush Reserve.

Name	Organisation	Position	Contact Number
Paul Dainton	Greater Shepparton City Council	Service Leader – Aquatic Bushland Care	0409 732 376
Renee Ashmore	Greater Shepparton City Council	RiverConnect Project Officer	0400 231 269
Bruce Wehner	Parks Victoria	Planning Officer	0419 533 220
Neville Wells	Parks Victoria	Ranger – Team Leader	0427 327 522
Gerry Goonan	Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group	Executive Member	0413 400 318
Royce Dickson	Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group	Executive Member	(03) 5831 5401
After Hours Council Contact	Greater Shepparton City Council	nil	(03) 5832 9700

### 6 Management Zones

As Boulevard Bush Reserve is in relatively good condition, the majority of management activities over the Reserve will focus on weed control, revegetation, installation and maintenance of passive recreational infrastructure and enhancing habitat values.

Four management zones have been identified in Boulevard Bush Reserve derived directly from *Flora and Fauna Assessment for Tassicker's Block, Shepparton* (Guinane, S., 2012), each of which is made up of a patch work of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC). Each of these zones varies in environmental condition and requires different management actions.

These management zones are represented below in Figure 4, and are further described below.



Figure 4: Boulevard Bush Reserve Management Zones. The Roadside Zone is delineated in red (Zone A), the Northern Zone in yellow (Zone B), the Southern Zone in green (Zone C), and the Gully Zone running into the Goulburn River in blue (Zone D) (Guinane, S., 2012).

#### 6.1 Zone A

This zone of 1.00 ha is contiguous with the southern road reserve of The Boulevard, although fenced from it, along its entire east-west length of 460m (Fig. 4). This zone has been predominately cleared of woody vegetation and is dominated by introduced species at ground level (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 5: Zone A looking east from near the car park (Guinane, S., 2012).

Zone A comprises Riverine Grassy Woodland EVC (EVC No. 295) and a small area of Sedgy Riparian Forest EVC (EVC No. 816) (Appendix D).

The management objectives for this zone will focus primarily on weed control, revegetation of overstorey and understorey species, the re-introduction of logs and general indigenous landscaping. Further detailed management objectives are outlined in the Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan, Section 14.

### 6.2 Zone B

This zone of 3.71 ha is contiguous with Zone A to its north, and is defined by the foot track on its southern, western and eastern boundaries (Fig. 4).

This zone retains its woody overstorey vegetation, and at ground level is a mixture of annual/perennial introduced species and indigenous large-tufted graminoids. This zone drains to a lower-lying depression which is central to the site, and where most of the indigenous large-tufted graminoids are located (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 6: Zone B looking north from the foot track (Guinane, S., 2012).

Zone B comprises Riverine Grassy Woodland EVC (EVC No. 295), Floodplain Wetland Aggregate EVC (EVC No. 172) and Sedgy Riparian Forest EVC (EVC No. 816) (Appendix D).

The management objectives for this zone will focus on the control of introduced species and minimal understorey revegetation.

### 6.3 Zone C

This zone of 8.74 ha is contiguous with zone B to its north (which is north of the foot track), and is defined by the Goulburn River on its southern, western and eastern boundaries (Fig. 4). Most of this zone is slightly elevated relative to Zone B. This zone retains its woody overstorey vegetation, and at ground level is a mixture of annual/perennial introduced species, and indigenous large-tufted graminoids (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 7: Zone C looking south from the foot track (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 8: Zone C looking east along the foot track (Guinane, S., 2012).

Zone C comprises Sedgy Riparian Forest EVC (EVC No. 816) and Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC (EVC No. 56) (Appendix D).

The management objectives for this zone will focus primarily on weed control and minimal understorey revegetation.

#### 6.4 Zone D

This zone of 0.17 ha is a gully embedded within Zone C which runs south-east to the Goulburn River on its southern boundaries (Fig. 4). This zone retains little of its woody overstorey vegetation, and at ground level is a mixture of bare earth (on the banks), annual/perennial introduced species, and indigenous large-tufted graminoids (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 9: Zone D Looking north up the gully from the edge of the Goulburn River (Guinane, S., 2012).



Figure 10: Zone D Looking west along the bank of the Goulburn River from the base of the gully (Guinane, S., 2012).

The management objectives for this zone will focus primarily on weed control.

## 7 Terrestrial Management

### 7.1 Indigenous Plants

A large range of native trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers are distributed throughout Boulevard Bush Reserve (Guinane, S., 2012). Every effort should be taken to retain these species and where possible, to increase the distribution and abundance of Indigenous plants.

### 7.1.1 Management of Established Trees and Fallen Timber

Fallen timber from the trees in the Reserve can provide valuable habitat for a range of native species. In certain circumstances there may be differing opinions between habitat value of fallen timber and access requirements for the Reserve.

Any fallen timber on or near tracks will be relocated by Council so as to maintain pedestrian access. Fallen timber should be placed one to two metres off the path edge.

Council is responsible for the management of trees within the freehold section of the Reserve from a public liability perspective and will conduct annual audits on trees within the maintenance zone of the paths. A copy of this report will be provided to the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group. Trees within the Shepparton Regional Park are the responsibility of Parks Victoria.

If there are trees present within the Reserve that Council believes to be a danger to the public, the fate of these trees will be determined by Council after consultation with the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group so that options other than complete removal of the tree can be considered. Council will then be responsible for undertaking the necessary actions.

### 7.1.2 Fire

It has been recommended that fire is not an appropriate management tool for Boulevard Bush Reserve; however there may be unique circumstances in the future where it may be utilised. In some circumstances fire is able to be used as an adaptive management tool to modify the species composition of vegetated areas. Any use of fire should be conducted under sound scientific information and guided by expert advice.

### 7.1.3 Revegetation Activities

A range of revegetation activities have been proposed for each of the zones throughout the Reserve. Specific detail regarding these activities can be found in the Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan and will be reported against at regular RiverConnect Land Management Working Group meetings.

## 7.2 Weed Control

### 7.2.1 Types of Weeds

A large variety of introduced grasses and groundcover species are present within the Reserve. These are both perennial and annual. Significant weeds within the catchment were also found across the site: Paterson's Curse, African Lovegrass and Bathurst Burr are *Regionally Controlled Weeds*; Spear Thistle and Variegated Thistle are *Restricted Weeds*; Jerusalem Cherry, Tall Fleabane and Phalaris are *Undeclared Weeds* (DSE 2008).

A full list of introduced species can be found in the Vegetation List for Boulevard Bush Reserve (Appendix A) (Guinane, S., 2012).

### 7.2.2 Weed Management

Any works to manage terrestrial weed species should be undertaken with due care. Appropriate herbicides and application rates should be used for the specific species being targeted, with the least toxic spray being the preferred option. Care should be taken to ensure that any herbicide application does not impact on desirable native plants.

A works program has been identified in the Boulevard Bush Action Plan and will be incorporated into the appropriate Council work plans. Typically this will involve the application of an appropriate herbicide at the most appropriate time.

All spray operators require a Chemical Users Certificate and the designated Council contacts must be notified of any spraying activity, including type of chemical being used, and a list of non-Council employees undertaking spraying.

## 7.3 Fauna

A range of fauna species have been identified in Boulevard Bush Reserve and these species utilise the range of habitats available. A full species list can be found in the Fauna Observe in Boulevard Bush Reserve document (Appendix B) (Guinane, S., 2012). Most notable are the presence of the endangered Squirrel Glider (DSE 2013) and the near threatened Brown Treecreeper (DSE 2008).

### 7.3.1 Indigenous Fauna

Many species of native mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian have been observed and recorded within the Reserve. Notable species identified include Short Beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) (Figure 11), Azure Kingfisher (*Alcedo azurea*) and Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) (Guinane, S., 2012).

The current species list for Boulevard Bush Reserve is incomplete as initial survey timelines were too short. A detailed species survey has been included in the Boulevard Bush Reserve Action List.





Figure 11: Short Beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) (Roberston, P., n.d)

### 7.3.2 Pest Animal Control

Along with a significant range of Indigenous fauna species there are also numerous introduced fauna species that utilise the Reserve. The Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*), European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) have been identified within the Reserve (Guinane, S., 2012), with each of these species having a negative effect on the environmental values of the Reserve. Foxes and feral and domestic cats are predators that potentially predate upon native species that utilise the Reserve and are not permitted in the Reserve. Rabbits inhibit the regeneration and revegetation of native plants.

The location of the Reserve and its proximity to urban areas limits the control measure for these species. Control measures such as shooting or baiting are inappropriate. Cat trapping trials have recently been undertaken by Greater Shepparton City Council in the Reserve. Detailed management options are outlined in the Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan, Section 14.

### 7.4 Cultural Site Management

The Goulburn River was a permanent water source to Aboriginal people and European settlers. The resources the River system supports and the Rivers themselves were, and continue to be, the lifeblood of these communities.

#### 7.4.1 European Heritage

Timber, particularly red gum harvesting, was an important early industry for the region. Red gum was a prized timber and was harvested for local consumption as well as for the Melbourne markets. Transport of the timber

was via Paddle Steamer, which once travelled up the Goulburn River to Shepparton.

Travelling labourers did much of the early colonial timber milling with hand tools. The colonial hard woods were difficult to work. Initially trees were felled by cutting notches into the timber which would support planks of timber for the timber cutters to then stand on. Crosscut saws or axes were used to then saw the timber to appropriate lengths. There is an example of a crosscut saw tree in Boulevard Bush Reserve.

During its varied history, Boulevard Bush Reserve was also used to stable horses that would race at the nearby racecourse. Horses were stabled in barbed wire pens across the site, of which remnants have been located.

A European Heritage Assessment is recommended for Boulevard Bush Reserve.

#### **7.4.2 Aboriginal Heritage**

The protection and preservation of Cultural Heritage in the State of Victoria is governed by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is the designated Registered Aboriginal Party for the protection of Cultural Heritage within their traditional country, which encompasses Boulevard Bush Reserve.

Given the close proximity to waterways of the Boulevard Bush Reserve, it can be assumed that Indigenous occupation occurred along these waterways prior to colonial times. For legislative purposes “areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity” are defined by the Regulations as including:

- Areas within 200 metres of a waterway, prior waterway, lake, waterhole, natural spring wetland, or lunettes
- Land within 50 metres of a registered cultural heritage place, and
- Landscape features such as prior waterways

Accordingly, it is strongly advised that a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the site be completed prior to the commencement of any major works on site.

#### **7.5 Litter Management**

At present there are low levels of litter in Boulevard Bush Reserve. This is partially due to the low use of the Reserve but also due to the efforts of the Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group members, who regularly collect litter in the Reserve. The Reserve has a ‘carry in, carry out’ policy with no rubbish bins provided.

This approach will continue into the future with appropriate signage being developed to inform Reserve users of their responsibility with regard to their litter.

In the event of the dumping of large rubbish items, Council and/or Parks Victoria contacts should be notified (refer to Section 5.6).

## **8 Infrastructure**

There is some existing built infrastructure located in Boulevard Bush Reserve which includes fencing, gates, paths and signage.

### **8.1 Reactive Management**

Along with a regular maintenance schedule there will be circumstances where reactive maintenance is required to infrastructure as a result of storm, vandalism, flood or other unexpected events.

In the event of reactive maintenance being required the persons identifying the maintenance requirement should contact Council.

### **8.2 Signage**

Signage has an important role within Boulevard Bush Reserve; however its function, style, design, materials and location will need to be carefully considered.

Interpretative signage is proposed at both entrances to the Reserve with a series of smaller signs that identify key species and sites to be located occasionally through the Reserve. Each entrance sign will include educational, directional and regulatory information. An information board will also be located at both entrances for up to date information exchange with Reserve users.

All signage in Boulevard Bush Reserve will conform to Greater Shepparton City Council's Style guide. A standard design format will be developed through the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group and will incorporate a similar style to the existing 'Flats' signage and use QR technology. Maintenance of these signs is the responsibility of Greater Shepparton City Council.

### **8.3 Walking Paths**

Visitors are encouraged to use the existing paths within Boulevard Bush Reserve. A single gravelled walking path runs between the main two entrances to the Reserve. The maintenance of this is the responsibility of Greater Shepparton City Council Recreation and Parks department. Path maintenance includes:

- Crushed brick re-laying as required;
- Maintenance to a width of 1.5 metres;

- Slashing along either side of the path, one mower width wide, a minimum of 6 times per year;
- Spraying of all vegetation as it appears on the crushed brick path; and
- Maintenance of the risk from overhanging and fallen tree limbs as per section 7.1.2.

There are two smaller unformed paths intersecting the more remote patches of the Reserve. Visitors are encouraged to use these paths during the cooler months, when the risk of snake bite and fire is minimal. These paths will require:

- A single width slashing once mid-autumn and once early spring; and
- Fallen timber is to be maintained as per section 7.1.2

#### **8.4 Gates and Access**

Gates have been constructed at the eastern and western end of the Reserve. Since their installation, these gates have remained closed to restrict vehicle access to the Reserve. Emergency and management vehicles can access the site via these gates. A key can be obtained from Council or Parks Victoria.

Bollarded pedestrian entrances have been constructed at the eastern and western end of the Reserve. This enables pedestrian access to the site, whilst restricting vehicle and motor bike access.

All walkways from car parks to entrances will be formalised with crushed brick of 1.5 metres wide and slashed per section 8.3.

#### **8.5 Fencing**

There is currently a ring-lock fence located along the northern and eastern boundaries of the Reserve. This majority of this fence runs parallel to The Boulevard. Fencing has been installed to eliminate unauthorised vehicle access through the Reserve. Greater Shepparton City Council is responsible for the maintenance of this fence.

#### **8.6 Car Parks**

There are two un-sealed, semi-formal car parks at the eastern and western ends of the Reserve. Greater Shepparton City Council is responsible for the maintenance of these car parks.

#### **8.7 Seating**

At present, there is no formal seating located in Boulevard Bush Reserve, however it has been identified that seating is required. The design and location of this seating will take into account the likelihood of future flooding and potential fire, and should

be sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Greater Shepparton City Council is responsible for the maintenance of this seating.

## 9 Education

The use of Boulevard Bush Reserve as a venue for educational activities is encouraged and forms a key part of the vision for the Reserve. The RiverConnect Land Management Working Group, Greater Shepparton City Council, Parks Victoria and Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group will promote the venue in this context and identify funding opportunities for appropriate activities to be undertaken within the Reserve.

There will be an increase in the number of various Educational activities and events throughout the duration of the Environmental Management Plan, which are outlined in detail in the Action Plan. These activities include:

- An annual open day
- Installation, maintenance and monitoring of nesting boxes
- Bird and plant surveys
- RiverConnect spotlight walks
- European and Aboriginal Heritage walks
- Bat monitoring sessions, and
- General informational walks.

## 10 Human Interaction

### 10.1 Vehicle Access

No vehicles, including motorbikes, are permitted in the Reserve, other than those involved in maintenance activities, as per Greater Shepparton City Council Local Law Number 1 – Section 2.15 Recreational Vehicles (GSCC 2008).

### 10.2 Dogs

All visitors to Boulevard Bush Reserve are required to have their pets on a leash (GSCC 2008). Pets, particularly dogs, are not permitted to disturb any native wildlife. The inappropriate management of dogs and other domestic pets has the potential to compromise the natural values of the Reserve and to discourage other visitors, such as bird observers.

The management of dog excrement in Boulevard Bush Reserve will comply with Greater Shepparton City Council Local Law No 1 – Community Living Section 6.9; *'No person in charge of an animal shall allow any part of the animals excrement to remain in a highway or council land'* and *'a person in charge of a domestic animal*

*must carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of that animal's excrement from a highway or council land' (GSCC 2008).*

### **10.3 Cats**

Domestic cats are not permitted in Boulevard Bush Reserve as per Greater Shepparton City Council's *Local Law Number 1 – Community Living Section 6.3.* (GSCC, 2008) They are a potential predator to endangered and threatened wildlife species and compete with similar species for food.

### **10.4 Bardi Grubbing**

The digging or removal of any ground cover for the purpose of bardi grubbing is an activity that can cause substantial damage to the vegetation of the Reserve, potentially leading to the death of native plants and the introduction of weeds. Bardi grubbing is not prohibited in Boulevard Bush Reserve and is generally an activity that is not permitted in other areas of public land and is only allowed to be undertaken in state forests with a permit under the *Forests Act 1958* (Forests Act 1958).

### **10.5 Camping**

Overnight camping is not permitted in Boulevard Bush Reserve or its car parks. The Reserve does not have the appropriate facilities to allow it to be used as a site for camping. This position is consistent with the *Greater Shepparton City Council's Local Law Number 1 – Community Living, Section 2.17 (a)*; which states '*A person must not, except with a permit, camp on any Council land or on any privately owned land within the municipality unless within a designated camping area*' (GSCC 2008).

### **10.6 Camp Fires**

Due to the fragile environment and conservation values of the site, camp fires are prohibited in Boulevard Bush Reserve. This position is consistent with *Greater Shepparton City Council's Local Laws Number 1, Section 2.5* (GSCC 2008).

### **10.7 Firewood Collection**

Ground timber, particularly larger diameter materials, provide valuable habitat for a range of fauna species. The Flora and Fauna assessment found there was little timber on the ground in the Reserve, which is presumably due to continuous removal of this timber by members of the public (Guinane, S., 2012).

The collection of firewood within Boulevard Bush Reserve is therefore not permitted. It has been recommended through the Flora and Fauna Assessment that managers increase the number of ground cover logs within the Reserve (Guinane, S., 2012).

### 10.8 Recreational Fishing

As the majority of the boundary of Boulevard Bush Reserve is bordered by the Goulburn River, fishing is accepted as an appropriate recreational activity, provided that Victorian Fishing Regulations are followed.

### 10.9 Horse Riding

The riding of horses in the Reserve is prohibited. The riding of horses is not compatible with the other users of the park. This policy is consistent with the *Greater Shepparton City Council's Local Law Number 1 – Community Living*, Section 2.16; which states *'A person must not without a permit ride or lead a horse or cause or authorise another person to ride or lead a horse on any land set aside by the Council for the purpose of recreation, whether active or passive, or a pleasure ground, or place of public resort, or playground being Council land unless such place has been signposted by the Council as being available for horses or horse riding'* (GSCC 2008).

### 10.10 Graffiti

Graffiti of any form is not permitted in Boulevard Bush Reserve. Any graffiti needs to be reported to either of the Greater Shepparton City Council contacts and removed as soon as possible.

### 10.11 Functions

The use of the Reserve as a venue for functions such as weddings is not considered to be a priority by the working group. However, if there are individuals or groups who wish to stage functions they should contact the working group or the Council (contact details are found in Appendix D), to determine whether the proposal is appropriate. Any functions held within the Reserve should be managed in such a way to ensure that they do not impact on the existing visitor base and values of the park.

### 10.12 Other

The following shall apply in the park:

- Under no circumstances is shooting permitted
- All paths are considered to be shared between all visitors
- All native wildlife is protected and park users should not harass or harm wildlife at any time;
- Walking off the paths is not encouraged, and
- The construction of "rope swings" or "swings" of any kind is not permitted and will be removed by Parks Victoria.

## 11 Urban Development

Boulevard Bush Reserve is bordered by the Goulburn River on its western, southern and eastern boundaries. Its northern boundary is bordered by The Boulevard which runs parallel to the Reserve.

There is a new development area opposite Boulevard Bush Reserve to the north. Whilst this development does not share a boundary with the Reserve, additional pressures for the site increase as population rises. These pressures include: increased recreational use by neighbours including pet animals, increased access to river, spread of introduced species, and increase in ground cover removal, noise pollution and litter for native species.

## 12 Emergency Management

### 12.1 Flooding

Bordering the Goulburn River, Boulevard Bush Reserve will flood at a moderate flood level of 10.2m. With this in mind, it is essential that all management objectives take flooding into consideration.

#### 12.1.1 Preferred Flood Mitigation Options

No other fencing beyond the current extent is to be erected to ensure flood waters pass unimpeded.

#### 12.1.2 Reactive Management

There may be an increase in weed species after a flood event and management will need to take this into consideration.

It is also likely that existing fallen timber will be re-located within and outside the Reserve and management will need to take this into consideration.

### 12.2 Wildfire Risk Management

Due to the close proximity of Boulevard Bush Reserve to housing, it will be necessary to monitor and act accordingly to fire risk. Fire risk will be managed through ongoing monitoring and slashing of the road side area 3 times per year or as required. This will provide a buffer zone between Boulevard Bush Reserve and residential properties.

## 13 Occupational Health and Safety and Risk Management

All members of the RiverConnect Land Management Group and their representative agencies must demonstrate a strong commitment to workplace health and safety and public risk management, and take all reasonable care in the performance of their duties to prevent injury to themselves or others.



Members of the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group and their representative agencies are responsible for complying with the relevant Occupational Health and Safety legislation, the Council's Occupational Health and Safety Management System (My Safety), and the Council's Risk Management Policy. They must ensure that appropriate work practices and procedures are in place, including the correct use of equipment and the identification and reporting of workplace incidents and hazards.

#### **14 Insurance**

At all times during the term of the Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan, all land managers of the Reserve be the holder of a public liability policy of insurance (effected with an insurer which is authorised to carry on non-life insurance business in Australia under the Insurance Act 1973) in the name of the relevant authority for an amount no less than \$20 million and a WorkCover policy complying with the provisions of the Accident Compensation (WorkCover Insurance) Act 1993 in respect of all of its employees.

Any user of the land promptly notify the relevant land owner of any accident, injury, property damage or environmental damage which occurs during performance of the services and provide details of the investigation and any recommendation or strategies for future prevention.

#### **15 Review**

The Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan should be reviewed every three years by Council, in consultation with the RiverConnect Land Management Working Group, or more often if necessary.

#### **16 Boulevard Bushland Reserve Action Plan**

The Boulevard Bush Reserve Action Plan was developed in response to the findings and recommendations of the *Flora and Fauna for Tassicker's Block, Shepparton* (Guinane, S., 2012).

The implementation of the Action Plan will be dependent on Greater Shepparton City Council's annual budgetary process, Parks Victoria's budgetary process and external funding opportunities.

The following actions are recommended to Greater Shepparton City Council and Parks Victoria to enhance habitat values, improve the opportunities for passive recreational use and provide educational opportunities for the community.

The table has been colour coded to reflect existing (Black) and additional (Blue) budget required for various items.

No.	Item	Strategic Link	Budget Estimate (\$)			Information required to complete the task	Priority
			2014 - 15	2015 - 16	2016 - 17		
1.	Seating	Seating - 8.7	\$1500			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bench seating mid-way along the main walking path</li> </ul>	High
2.	Cultural Heritage Assessment	Terrestrial Management - 7.4	\$10000	\$5000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European</li> <li>Aboriginal</li> </ul>	Medium Medium
3.	Flora and Fauna Assessment	Terrestrial Management – 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3			\$3000		High
4.	Nesting Box	Terrestrial Management – 7.3.1	\$1000	\$2500		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation – with school group</li> <li>Monitoring - \$ for camera</li> </ul>	Medium Medium
6.	Cat Trapping	Human Interaction – 10.3	\$800	\$800	\$800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct trappings 3 times per year</li> </ul>	High

7.	Signage	Infrastructure – 2.8	\$3000			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance signs (2)</li> <li>• Species specific signage (different tree species, or culturally significant trees)</li> <li>• Information Board</li> </ul>	High
				\$2000			Medium
				\$1500			Medium
8.	Educational Walks	Education - 9	\$300	\$300	\$300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotlight</li> <li>• Walk and talk</li> <li>• Annual Event (report back to community on Management Plan/Action Plan)</li> </ul>	High
			In-kind	In-kind	In-kind		Medium
			\$1000	\$1000	\$1000		Medium
9.	Brochure for local new home owner kits	Education - 9		\$1000			Low

10.	Site Inspection – Weed Management – Grass Management – Rubbish	Terrestrial management 7.2, 7.1 and 7.5	\$450  In-kind	\$450  In-kind	\$450  In-kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal site inspections to be conducted by Aquatic Bushland Care team</li> <li>Annual site inspection to be conducted by RiverConnect Land Management Working Group in August each year, with an action list developed.</li> </ul>	High  High
11.	Fuel Load Monitoring	Emergency Management – 12.2	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	CFA – Municipal Fire Prevention Officer undertake annual assessments prior to the Fire Danger Period.  Parks Victoria – The site will be assessed for consideration as part of the annual Fire Operations Plan.	High

## 17 References

*Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, No.16/2006 (Victoria)

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GSCC (2008). *Local Law 1 – Community Living - 2008*. Greater Shepparton City Council.

*Forests Act 1958*, No. 6254 (Victoria)

Roberston, P., (n.d), Museum Victoria Australia, accessed 5 December 2013, <http://museumvictoria.com.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/acullive.htm>

### Appendix A Vegetation List for Boulevard Bush Reserve

Vascular flora has been recorded for presence in Boulevard Bush Reserve. This information has been collected from Flora and Fauna Assessment – Tassicker’s Block, Shepparton (Guinane, S., 2012) and recorded in the Table immediately below.

An asterisk denotes an introduced species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>
Hedge Wattle	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i> (planted)
Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i> (planted)
Varnish Wattle	<i>Acacia verniciflua</i> (planted)
Sheep Sorrel	<i>Acetosella vulgaris</i> *
Lesser Joyweed	<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>
Box Mistletoe	<i>Amyema miquelli</i>
Capeweed	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i> *
Hill Wallaby-grass	<i>Austrodanthonia eriantha</i>
Wild Oat	<i>Avena fatua</i> *
Quaking Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i> *
Prairie Grass	<i>Bromus catharticus</i> *
Great Brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *
River Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>
Rounded Water Starwort	<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>
White Cypress-pine	<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> (planted)
Shepherd's Purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> *
Tall Sedge	<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>
Chinese Scrub	<i>Cassinia arcuata</i> (planted)
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *
Flaxleaf Fleabane	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i> *
Canadian Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadiensis</i> *
Austral Stonecrop	<i>Crassula sieberiana</i>
Drain Sedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i> *
Leafy Flat-sedge	<i>Cyperus lucidus</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomeratus</i> *
Grey Parrot-pea	<i>Dillwynia cinerescens</i>
Sand Rocket	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolius</i> *
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i> *
Annual Veldtgrass	<i>Ehrharta longiflora</i> *
Climbing Saltbush	<i>Einadia nutans</i>
Common Club-rush	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>
Smooth Willow-herb	<i>Epilobium billardierianum</i>
Common Storksbill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Common Eutaxia	<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Desert Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> *
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i> *
Austral Cranesbill	<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i>
Rough Raspwort	<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>
Yorkshire Fog-grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> *
Barley Grass	<i>Hordeum leporinum</i> *
Cat's Ear	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> *
Pale Rush	<i>Juncus pallidus</i>
Blown Grass	<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *
River Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i> *
Wimmera Ryegrass	<i>Lolium rigidum</i> *
False Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>
Small-flowered Mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i> *
Barrel Medic	<i>Medicago truncatula</i> *
Red-flowered Mallow	<i>Modiola caroliniana</i> *
Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>
Soursob	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> *
Red Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i> *
Warrego Summer Grass	<i>Paspalidium jubiflorum</i>
Paspalum	<i>Paspalum dilitatum</i> *
Water Couch	<i>Paspalum distichum</i>
Creeping Knotweed	<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>
Toowoomba Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i> *
Ox's Tongue	<i>Picris echioides</i> *
Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *
Winter-grass	<i>Poa annua</i> *
Tussock Grass	<i>Poa labillardiera</i>
Poison Pratia	<i>Pratia concolor</i>
Jersey Cudweed	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>
River Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> *
Onion-grass	<i>Romulea rosea</i> *
Swamp Dock	<i>Rumex brownii</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i> *
A Groundsel	<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>
Cotton Fireweed	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>
Variegated Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i> *
Jerusalem Cherry	<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i> *
Rough Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i> *
Milk Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *
Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda australis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Strawberry Clover	<i>Trifolium fragiferum*</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens*</i>
Subterranean Clover	<i>Trifolium subterraneum*</i>
Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa ssp. sativa*</i>
Squirrel-tail	<i>Fescue Vulpia bromoides*</i>
River Bluebell	<i>Wahlenbergia fluminalis</i>
Bathurst Burr	<i>Xanthium spinosa*</i>

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### Appendix B Fauna Observed for Boulevard Bush Reserve

Fauna have been recorded for presence in Boulevard Bush Reserve. This information has been collected from Flora and Fauna Assessment – Tassicker’s Block, Shepparton (Guinane, S., 2012) and recorded in the Table immediately below.

An asterisk denotes an introduced species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation
<b>Birds</b>		
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	
Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>	
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Near Threatened
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>	
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>	
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	
Great Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	
Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	
Mallee Ringneck	<i>Barnardius barnardi</i>	
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	
Red-rumped Parrot s	<i>Psephotus haematotus</i>	
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	
Welcome Swallow a	<i>Hirundo neoxen</i>	
White Plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>	
White Winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	

Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	
<b>Mammals</b>		
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosorus vulpecula</i>	
Domestic Dog	<i>Canis familiaris*</i>	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes*</i>	

## # Near Threatened in Victoria (DSE 2008)

Further Fauna species have been identified in Boulevard Bush Reserve. These are shown in the Table immediately below.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	
Short Beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	
Squirrel Glider	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Endangered

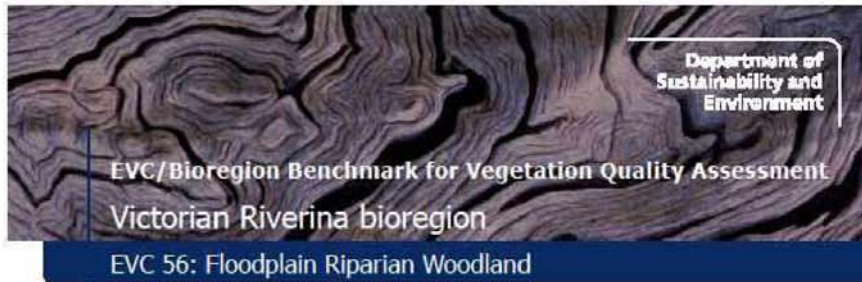
## # Endangered in Victoria (DSE 2013)

**Appendix C      Consultation and Community Feedback**

Will be included in Final Document

DRAFT

Appendix D EVC Benchmarks



**Description:**

An open eucalypt woodland or open forest to 20 m tall over a medium to tall shrub layer with a ground layer consisting of amphibious and aquatic herbs and sedges. Occurs along the banks and floodplains of the larger meandering rivers and major creeks, often in conjunction with one or more floodplain wetland communities. Elevation and rainfall are relatively low and soils are fertile alluviums subject to periodic flooding and inundation.

**Large trees:**

Species	DBH(cm)	# /ha
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	80 cm	15 / ha

**Tree Canopy Cover:**

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
20%	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	River Red-gum Yellow Box

**Understorey:**

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree	1	5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	T
Medium Shrub	2	5%	MS
Small Shrub	1	1%	SS
Medium Herb	4	10%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	1%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	5%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	6	35%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL
<b>Total understorey projective foliage cover</b>		<b>90%</b>	

LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle
MS	<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i> s.l.	Tree Violet
MH	<i>Sida corrugata</i>	Variable Sida
MH	<i>Oxalis penninans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel
SH	<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	Slender Knotweed
SH	<i>Chaenocya drummondii</i>	Flat Sponge
SH	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Pacific Azolla
LTG	<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
LNG	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
LNG	<i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i>	Tall Spike-sedge
MTG	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass
MTG	<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass
MTG	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
MTG	<i>Arctida behriana</i>	Brush Wire-grass
MNG	<i>Pseudoraphis spinescens</i>	Spiry Mud-grass
MNG	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Common Spike-sedge

Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



EVC 56: Floodplain Riparian Woodland - Victorian Riverina bioregion

**Recruitment:**  
Episodic/Flood - Desirable period between disturbances is 10 years.

**Organic Litter:**  
40 % cover

**Logs:**  
30 m<sup>3</sup>/0.1 ha.

**Weediness:**

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	high	high
SH	<i>Tribulum gibberatum</i>	Cluster Clover	high	low

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Department of Sustainability and Environment

## EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

### Victorian Riverina bioregion

#### EVC 295: Riverine Grassy Woodland

**Description:**  
 Occurs on the floodplain of major rivers, in a slightly elevated position where floods are infrequent, on deposited silts and sands, forming fertile alluvial soils. River Red Gum woodland to 20 m tall with a groundlayer dominated by graminoids. Occasional tall shrubs present.

**Large trees:**

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	80 cm	15 / ha

**Tree Canopy Cover:**

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
20%	<i>Eucalyptus camaklensis</i>	River Red-gum

**Understorey:**

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	T
Small Shrub	1	1%	SS
Medium Herb	2	1%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	1%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	5%	LTG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	5	20%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	20%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL
<b>Total understorey projective foliage cover</b>		<b>65%</b>	

**LF Code**      **Species typical of at least part of EVC range**      **Common Name**

T	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle
MH	<i>Sida corrugata</i>	Variable Sida
MH	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel
SH	<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	Flat Spurge
SH	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Pacific Azolla
LTG	<i>Austrostipa gibbosa</i>	Spurred Spear-grass
LTG	<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>	Hollow Sedge
MTG	<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass
MTG	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
MTG	<i>Artisida defriana</i>	Brush Wire-grass
MTG	<i>Elymus scaber</i> var. <i>scaber</i>	Common Wheat-grass
MNG	<i>Pseudoraphis spinescens</i>	Spiry Mud-grass
MNG	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Common Spike-sedge


**Recruitment:**  
 Continuous

**Organic Litter:**  
 10 % cover

**Logs:**  
 20 m<sup>3</sup>/0.1 ha.

**Weediness:**

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	high	high
MTG	<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Wimmera Rye-grass	high	low

Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark


**Description:**

Riverine Sedgy Forest occurs on the floodplain of major rivers in areas of frequent flooding. The overstorey is a tall forest of River Red Gum to 25 m tall. The groundlayer is dominated by flood-related grass and sedge species. Depending on time of year and flooding level, associated water plants may be present.

**Large trees:**

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	90 cm	20 / ha

**Tree Canopy Cover:**

% cover	Character Species	Common Name
30%	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red-gum

**Understorey:**

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	T
Large Herb	2	5%	LH
Medium Herb	7	15%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	3	10%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	4	5%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	3	20%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL
Total understorey projective foliage cover		80%	

LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
LH	<i>Epilobiumillardierianum</i> sp. <i>chenseum</i>	Grey Willow-herb
MH	<i>Myriophyllum crispatum</i>	Upright Water-milfoil
MH	<i>Goodenia gracilis</i>	Slender Goodenia
MH	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Small Loosestrife
MH	<i>Marsilea drummondii</i>	Common Nardoo
SH	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Pacific Azolla
SH	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>montevideensis</i>	Clove-strip
SH	<i>Lobelia concolor</i>	Poison Pratia
SH	<i>Elettaria graciloides</i>	Waterwort
LTG	<i>Amphibromus nervosus</i>	Common Swamp Wallaby-grass
LTG	<i>Juncus arkilicola</i>	Tussock Rush
MTG	<i>Triglochin procerum</i> s.l.	Water Ribbons
MTG	<i>Carex inversa</i>	Knob Sedge
MTG	<i>Setaria luteiflora</i>	Wamego Summer-grass
MTG	<i>Austrodanthonia duttoniana</i>	Brown-back Wallaby-grass
MNG	<i>Eleocharis pusilla</i>	Small Spike-sedge
MNG	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Common Spike-sedge
EP	<i>Muellera eucalyptoides</i>	Creeping Mistletoe

Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



EVC 816: Sedgy Riverine Forest - Victorian Riverina bioregion

**Recruitment:**  
Continuous

**Organic Litter:**  
10 % cover

**Logs:**  
20 m<sup>3</sup>/0.1 ha.

**Weediness:**

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	high	high
MTG	<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Wimmers Rye-grass	high	low

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**Description:**

Collective label for the various zones of vegetation associated with wetlands of riparian floodplains, best developed in association with Floodplain Riparian Woodland. Potentially includes mosaics of scrub/shrubland, meadow, sedgeland, mudflat, grassland and/or herbland zones. The following components are variously recognizable within Floodplain Wetland, Aquatic Herbland, Aquatic Sedgeland, Tall Marsh, Swamp Scrub, Wet Vedge Sedgeland, Floodway Pond Herbland and Dwarf Floating Aquatic Herbland. Billabong Wetland is also an aggregate EVC including many of these components. Floodplains of major streams, principally in less arid areas.

**Indicator species** (some or all of these species should be present)

See descriptors of component EVCs above.

**Conditions when the EVC should not be assessed**

None recognised but may be impossible to access and sample during floods.

**1. CRITICAL LIFEFORM GROUPINGS**

**Conditions when specific critical lifeform groupings should not be assessed**

Small aquatic/mud colonizing herbs may not be visible or expressed during extreme wet or prolonged dry conditions.

**General comments on assessing critical lifeform groupings**

Score zones with trees and/or shrubs under respective EVCs.

**Critical lifeform groupings and threshold values for determining if lifeform is substantially modified**

Critical lifeform	No. spp.	% Cover	Comments
Herbs	2	+	broad-leaved, not aquatic but moisture-requiring, tolerant of shallow inundation periods
Small aquatic herbs	2	+	or mud-colonizing
Tall grassoids	3	+	
Medium grassoids	3	+	

+ denotes presence

Ecological Vegetation Class benchmark for Index of Wetland Condition



## EVC 172: Floodplain Wetland Aggregate

### 2. WEEDS

#### High threat weed species

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Alopecurus</i> spp.	Fox Tail
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Hoistate Orache
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Starwort
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Nyctophaea</i> spp.	Waterlily
<i>Paspalum distichum</i>	Water Couch
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willow
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Lesser reed-race

Conditions where weeds are considered to have a negligible impact  
While plants are inundated or otherwise inactive.

### 3. INDICATORS OF ALTERED PROCESSES

Indicator	% cover	Scale of severity
Scattered individuals	<1%	Minor
Invasion by woody species	Dense regeneration of invasion fronts apparent	Moderate
	Denser regeneration	Severe

Circumstances where some critical lifeform groupings may not be evident  
None recognised, provided relevant vegetation zones are visible rather than obscured by turbid water.

### 4. VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND HEALTH

Where present, score each lifeform separately and average. See component EVCs and note also EVC 334 Billabong Wetland Aggregate.

Structural dominant	Benchmark cover
Sedges	
Reeds	
Rushes	
Herbs	

Assess for scoring category of >50% benchmark cover

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Appendix E Spray Data Form

■ Record keeping template - Agricultural chemical use

Agricultural chemical application details						Weather details (If product is being sprayed outdoors)		Contact details	
Date of application	Product trade name	Application rate	Crop/commodity treated OR situation product was applied	Extent of use (area/volume /weight)	Location where product was used	Wind speed	Wind direction	Name and address of applicator and (if applicable) supervisor	Name and address of person for whom the application was carried out

Agricultural chemical details must be recorded within 48 hours of use.

For pest animal baiting, use the 'Poison Baits used for Pest Animal Control' record keeping template.

For details of your legal requirements when using agricultural chemicals visit: [www.depi.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse)

GREATER SHEPPARTON  
GREATER FUTURE

## Community Engagement Plan – Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan

GREATER  
SHEPPARTON

**Project Name:** Boulevard Bush Reserve Management Plan

**Reason for engagement:** Plan development

**Level of engagement:** various depending on stakeholder

**Project Organising Officer/s:** Renee Ashmore, Sharon Terry

**Branch:** Sustainability and Environment

**Branch Manager:** Greg McKenzie

**Engagement and consultation during the life of the project must incorporate targeted stakeholders and community groups. The following are identified target groups who will be consulted with during the life of the project:**

- **RiverConnect Land Management Working Group.** (Direct Advisory Group) Includes, Parks Victoria, Greater Shepparton City Council, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group, Gemmills Swamp Working Group
- **RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee.** Includes, Greater Shepparton City Council, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Rumbalara Cooperative, Education Sector, community representatives.
- Expert agencies or individuals. Includes, Keith Ward, Steve Wilson, Paul Dainton, GSCC internal departments.
- Other RiverConnect Working Groups
- North Shepparton residents - Goulburn Valley Environment Group
- Boulevard Corporation - BirdLife Murray Goulburn
- GV Fishing
- GO Tafe
- Shepparton Golf Club
- General Public

<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultation Tool</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Stakeholder Details</b>	<b>Activity Plan</b>	<b>Stage of Consultation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<i>Date of consultation</i>	<b>Type of consultation undertaken:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> <li>• Involve/ Collaborate</li> <li>• Empower</li> </ul>	<b>Consultation strategy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated session</li> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Community Information Session</li> <li>• Small Meetings</li> <li>• Tele conference</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Letters</li> <li>• Working Groups</li> </ul>	<i>List all stakeholders and community groups involved in the engagement strategy/project.</i>	<i>Describe who is involved in the consultation process, how they will be consulted, where they will be consulted and why they are being consulted.</i>	<i>Identify what stage of consultation you are at – whether it is providing information or feedback etc.</i>	<i>List who is responsible for consultation responsibilities – Any meetings that need to be organised, potential quotes to be organised. All actions to be listed with action officer.</i>
8 August 2013	Collaborate	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group	Email papers 1 week prior to meeting. Draft Engagement Strategy, Draft Communication Strategy and Draft management Plan template. Collaboration during facilitated session.	<b>Planning</b> - Providing draft planning documents for feedback, before progressing to next stage.	GSCC – RA, ST
21 August 2013	Consult	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee	Email papers 1 week prior to meeting. Update as part of LMWG report and facilitate discussion.	<b>Draft</b>	GSCC – RA Chair LMWG - BW
30 August 2013	Inform	Letters and Letter box drop	GVEG, Field Nats, GV Fishing, Shepp Golf Club, GO Tafe, BirdLife, Boulevard Corporation	Letters/email to inform of Management Plan and option for input.	<b>Draft</b>	GSCC - RA
10 October 2013	Collaborate	Facilitated workshop	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group	Monthly email updates will be sent to LMWG members for regular input and feedback. Circulate draft V1 1 week prior to meeting.	Endorsement of <b>Draft V1.</b>	GSCC – RA, ST Chair LMWG - BW

24 October 2013	Consult	Information Session (part of regular meeting)	Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group	Circulate papers 1 week prior to meeting. Review draft V1 in an information session.	<b>Draft</b>	GSCC – ST SMULG rep - GG
October/ November 2013	Consult	Email/telephone/ meetings	Expert individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keith Ward (GB CMA)</li> <li>- Steve Wilson (GB CMA)</li> <li>- Paul Dainton (GSCC)</li> <li>- Phil Hawkey (CFA)</li> <li>- Deb Kemp (Heritage)</li> </ul>	<b>Draft</b>	GSCC – ST GSCC – ST GSCC – RA GSCC – ST GSCC - RA
16 October 2013	Consult	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee	Circulate papers 1 week prior to meeting. Updating draft V1	Endorsement of <b>Draft V1</b>	GSCC – RA LMWG chair - BW
5 December 2013	Collaborate	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group	Monthly email updates will be sent to LMWG members for regular input and feedback. Final draft will be circulated 1 week prior to meeting. Endorse final draft.	Endorsement of Final <b>Draft</b>	GSCC – RA
11 December 2013	Consult	Regular meeting	RiverConnect IAC	Circulate papers 1 week prior to meeting. Endorse final draft	Endorsement of Final <b>Draft</b>	GSCC – RA LMWG Chair - BW
18 February 2014	Consult	Regular meeting	Council	Endorse draft management plan and proceed to community consultation	<b>Endorsement of Draft</b> Approval to progress to public consultation.	GSCC – RA, ST, GM
24 February/ 18 March 2014	Consult	Onsite Event, Letters, Website, Public Notice, RC Newsletter	North Shepparton residents, Boulevard developers, GV Fishing, Shepparton Golf Club, general community	Mail box drop to neighbouring residents' direct letter/email to others to inform of draft plan and date for onsite event.	<b>Draft Consultation</b>	GSCC – RA, ST LMWG - BW

24 Feb/18 March 2014	Consult	Onsite session	Adopt-a-reach school	Phone call to set onsite session date and structure.	<b>Draft Consultation</b>	GSCC – BS, RA
10 April 2014	Collaborate	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group	Community comments and updates will be sent via email prior to meeting. Presentation of community comments.	<b>Review</b> of community consultation	GSCC – RA, ST
16 April 2014	Consult	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee	Papers circulated 1 week prior to meeting. Presentation of community comments.	<b>Review</b> of community consultation	GSCC – RA LMWG - BW
12 June 2014	Collaborate	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Land Management Working Group	Endorsement of Final management plan.	<b>Final</b> - Endorsement	GSCC – RA,
18 June 2014	Consult	Regular meeting	RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee	Endorsement of Final Environmental Management plan.	<b>Final</b> – Endorsement	GSCC – RA LMWG - BW
19 August	Inform	Meeting	Council	Council adoption of Boulevard Bush Reserve Environmental Management Plan.	<b>Final</b> - Adopt	GSCC – RA, ST, GM
August	Inform	Event	Council, all stakeholders. Media	Launch event, onsite.	<b>Launch</b>	GSCC – RA LMWG - BW