

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL - FOR COUNCIL DECISION**

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	13.3
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Concept design for Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1, Silverwater Park
<b>REFERENCE</b>	F2024/00282 - D09519216
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Senior Project Officer Transport Planning

**CSP THEME:** Accessible

**WORKSHOP/BRIEFING DATE:** Nil

**PURPOSE:**

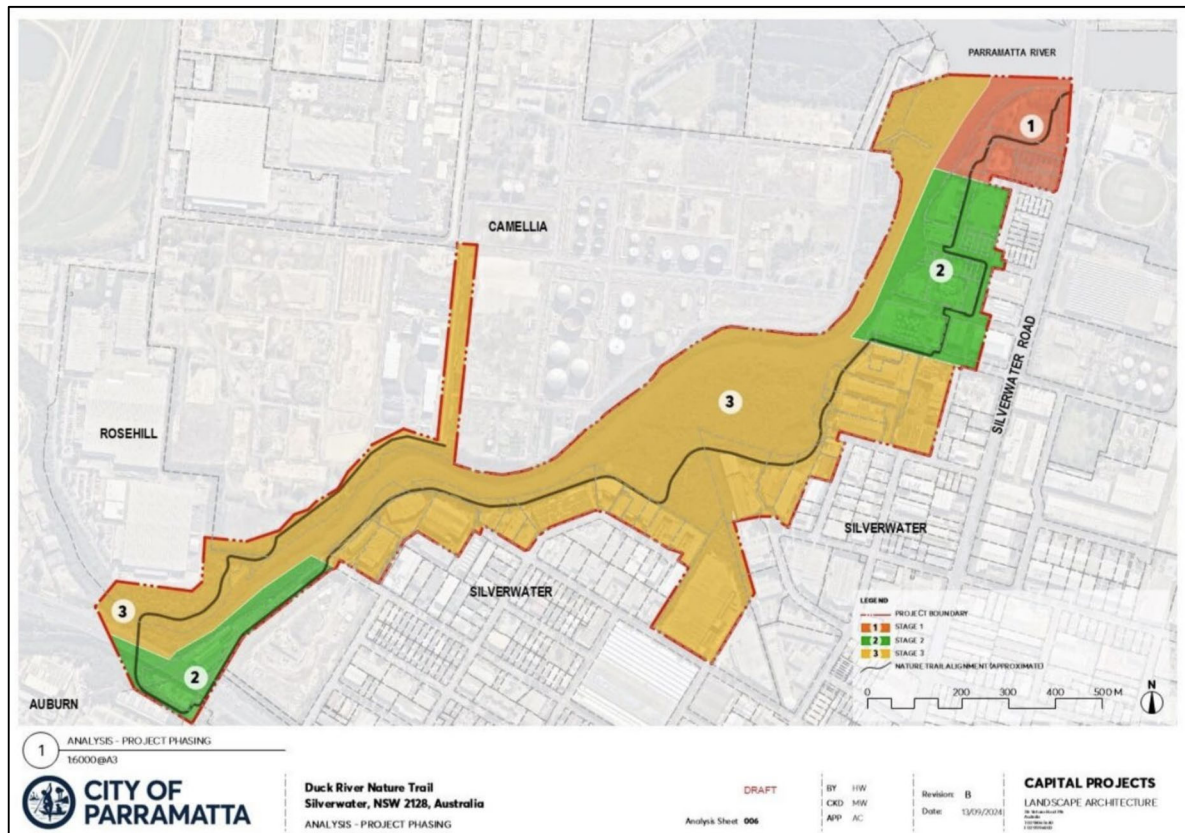
To approve the concept design for Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1 – Silverwater Park.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- a) That Council approve the final concept design for Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1 – Silverwater Park as detailed in this report and shown in Attachment 2.
- b) That Council officers progress the detailed design, planning and technical approvals, and documentation and tendering of the works.

**BACKGROUND**

1. In 2022, Council applied to WestInvest (now known as Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants – WSIG) for a wide range of community projects.
2. One of the successful applications was the \$27.2 million *Duck River Nature Trail* in Silverwater and Camellia. Duck River is a transformational project that will provide the community with recreational opportunities within previously inaccessible saltmarsh, mangrove communities and river environments.
3. The proposed 4.5km pedestrian and cyclist paths along both sides of Duck River between the M4 and the Parramatta River will open the corridor to pedestrians and cyclists through a combination of concrete paths, boardwalks, priority crossings and separated cycleways. A high-level alignment and staging plan are shown at **Figure 1**.
4. Due to scale, complexity and land ownership, the Duck River Nature Trail is planned for delivery in three stages over four years, starting with the most straightforward sections.



**Figure 1: Duck River Nature Trail Alignment Plan (Staging)**

5. Stage 1 of the project is located in Silverwater Park, with proposals to improve the through-site route for walking and cycling without impacting on the open space amenity, the natural areas, or the capacity to host community events.
6. The draft concept design for Stage 1 exhibited to the public (refer **Figure 2**), proposed:
  - a. Replacing the existing narrow and deteriorating shared path with a wider path. The majority of the path will have a different coloured surface material for pedestrians versus cyclists, visually dividing the path.
  - b. Path lighting.
  - c. Tool stand, bike racks, seat and water fountain co-located with the existing amenities building.
  - d. Additional trees.
  - e. An improved connection under Silverwater Bridge to the Sydney Olympic Park (SOP) paths.



**Figure 2:** draft Concept Plan Stage 1 – as exhibited

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. The draft concept design was exhibited from 5 August to 2 September 2024. Numerous channels were activated to reach as many people as possible in the community surrounding Silverwater Park and Duck River. Residents could complete a short survey by following a weblink or the QR code provided on the collateral. Residents could also drop a pin and post a comment on the concept design, highlighting any items they did/did not support and adding comments.
8. Engagement activities included a letterbox drop in the local area, Media Release, Council's website (including the home page slider), social media, as well as Council's e-newsletters and on-site posters.
9. A total of 72 written submissions were received through Council's Participate Parramatta portal. Of those:
  - a. 58 supported the project,
  - b. 7 supported to an extent,
  - c. 5 did not support the proposal,
  - d. 1 was unsure,
  - e. 1 did not specify a view.
10. Of the submitters, 66 were located in the LGA and 5 from outside, demonstrating a good level of local engagement.
11. There were 23 comments on the online map from 5 submitters alongside 7 anonymous posts. The user categorisation of these submissions were 6 comments, 5 supports and 12 not in support. Council received one written response from a business within Silverwater that raised issues relevant to Stage 2 of the project (on-road section between Clyde Street and Holker Street).
12. Across social media, the campaign reached almost 35,000 people and generated 3,220 engagements (likes, comments, shares). 19 comments were made on

social media, were responded to at the time and are available in full in the Evaluation Report at **Attachment 1**.

13. The strongest themes from the consultation were:

Feedback Theme	Stage 1 Project Response
a) Careful management of open space and ecological areas is needed to minimise impacts	In Silverwater Park the path has been located at the outer edges of the park on a similar alignment to the old path to minimise impacts to the open space and existing vegetation. A total of 6 trees are to be removed and have not been identified to be of high value. However, a total of 10 new offset trees will be planted.
b) Opportunities for interpretation and education about the area would be welcomed.	Opportunities for education and interpretation will be explored in subsequent stages of the project as part of a holistic review, noting Stage 3 is situated in the natural environment.
c) Safety of the path, particularly for pedestrians and conflict with cyclists	The path proposed in Silverwater Park will be 4.5m wide for most of its length, with separate areas demarcated for pedestrians and cyclists for a majority of its length.
d) Provision of lighting, seating, shade, and bubblers (in Stage 1 and subsequent Stages).	<p>Post top lighting is proposed in Silverwater Park, to support safe use of the walking and cycling route after dark.</p> <p>In future stages, lighting improvements are planned along local streets, but not proposed within the high value ecological areas, or areas that are too isolated to create safe nighttime use.</p> <p>A seat is proposed as part of Stage 1 to complement the large number of seating options available in Silverwater Park, along with a water fountain for people and pets.</p>

14. Overall, there was strong support for the Stage 1 project proceeding to detailed design and construction.
15. The exhibition of Stage 1 provided context and general information on the future stages of the project, but no draft designs. Nevertheless, some community feedback was received on Stages 2 and 3. Key themes mirrored those for Stage 1, but also focused on the surrounding pedestrian and cyclist network outside of the project area, Duck River itself and safety concerns about the short section through the industrial streets of Silverwater. This early feedback will be used to inform the development of draft designs for Stage 2 and Stage 3 that will be

subject of a future report to Council on draft designs for exhibition. This subsequent report will detail this early feedback and how the draft designs have responded.

## CONSULTATION & TIMING

### Stakeholder Consultation

16. Following endorsement of the concept design, relevant advisory committees (once established by Council), will be consulted to inform the next stages of the design.

Date	Stakeholder	Stakeholder Comment	Council Officer Response	Responsibility
1/7/2024	SOPA	Ensure there is a smooth transition from the shared path to the footpath and the bike path under the bridge.  Support for the improved paths at the boat ramp.	This feedback will be incorporated into the design.  Support noted.	Group Manager Infrastructure Planning and Design

### Councillor Consultation

17. The following Councillor consultation has been undertaken in relation to this matter:

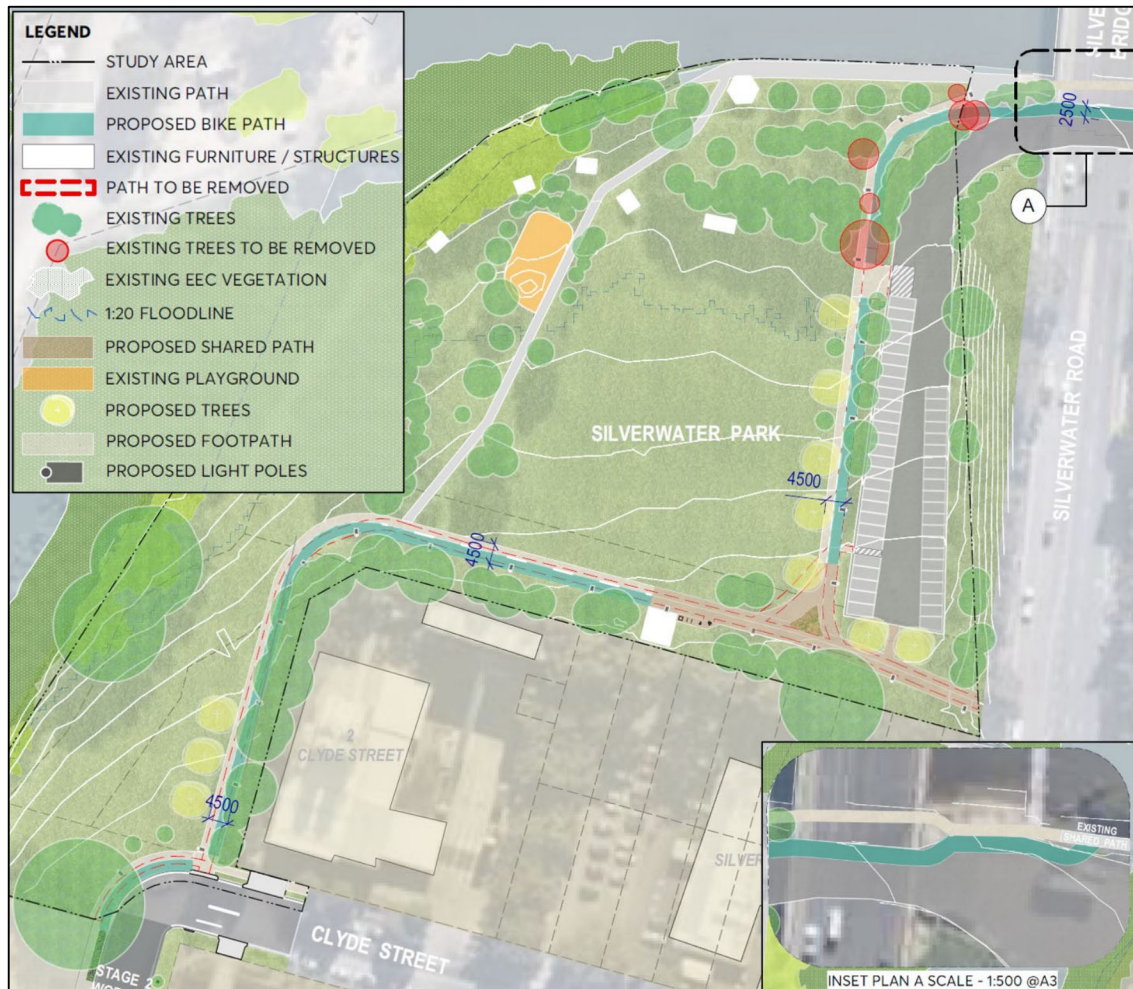
Date	Councillor	Councillor Comment	Council Officer Response	Responsibility
31 July 2024	Clr Prociv, Clr Noack	No objection to exhibition of Stage 1	Noted	Group Manager Infrastructure Planning and Design
24 October 2024 (Councillor Briefing Note)	All Councillors	NA	NA	Group Manager Infrastructure Planning and Design

## CONSEQUENCES / ISSUES / OPTIONS

18. As a result of feedback, the following has been incorporated in the recommended concept plan for approval (provided in **Figure 3** below and at **Attachment 2**):
- A further 3 new trees have been incorporated on the western side of the path closest to Clyde Street (to the extent possible due to in-ground utilities). This is in addition to the 7 new trees proposed in the draft design.



- b. A new path connection from the southern end of the carpark to the Silverwater Bridge path.
- c. Whilst there will be exclusive paths, protection and priority for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the boat ramp, additional advisory signage and line marking at the boat ramp will be developed to ensure all users take care, give way to one another when necessary and walk, ride and drive to the conditions.



**Figure 3: Proposed Final Concept Plan for endorsement**

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

19. There are no legal implications for Council associated with this report.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

20. If Council resolves to proceed with this project as recommended, there are no unbudgeted financial implications for Council at this time, in terms of capital costs. However, the tender process will reveal the final construction costs and whether the approved capital budget for the project will be adequate.
21. The capital components of the project are currently funded as follows:

- Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program (West Invest): \$26,941,047
- Council Contribution = \$300,000

**Total capital cost: \$27,241,047**

22. The operational impacts of Stage 1 (\$1.45m) of the project are forecast below and are also forecast for a completion date in mid-2025.
23. Council's Assets team has provided guidance based on the cost of construction that an allowance of 1% should be allowed for within the first 5 years (as per table below), however that rises to 2.5% (\$12,015) between Year 5 and 10, and 5% (\$24,050) every year thereafter.

	<b>FY 23/24</b>	<b>FY 24/25 (‘000)</b>	<b>FY 25/26 (‘000)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Internal Revenue			
External Revenue			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Funding Source</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Operating Result</b>			
External Costs (electricity)		\$1.4	\$1.4
Internal Costs (asset maintenance)		\$4.8	\$4.8
Depreciation		\$3	\$37
Loss on disposal of removed path		\$76	\$0
<b>Total Operating Result</b>		<b>\$85.2</b>	<b>\$43.2</b>
<b>Funding Source</b>	NA	General Revenue	General Revenue
<b>CAPEX</b>			
CAPEX			
External			
Internal			
Other			
<b>Total CAPEX</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Mark Crispin  
**Senior Project Officer Transport Planning**

Adam Fowler  
**Team Leader Infrastructure Design**

Anthony Newland  
**Group Manager Infrastructure Planning & Design**

Jennifer Concato  
**Executive Director City Planning and Design**

John Angilley  
**Executive Director Finance & Information**

Gail Connolly  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

<b>1</b>	Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1 - Engagement Report	59 Pages
<b>2</b>	Duck River Nature Trail - Stage 1 Silverwater Park Final Concept Plan for endorsement	1 Page
<b>3</b>	Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1 - long form submission	2 Pages
<b>4</b>	Duck River Nature Trail - Community Comments with Project response	10 Pages
<b>5</b>	Duck River Nature Trail Stage 1 Community Comments - Online	1 Page

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**