Onkaparinga River Recreation Park Wetland

A new wetland is going to be constructed in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park.

Where is the wetland going to be located?

The new wetland will be located in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park near the Commercial Road entrance.

How was the location and design decided?

The location and design were informed through an understanding of the catchment and hydrogeology of the area – how water moves through the land. The wetland will receive stormwater run off and treat it, improving water quality naturally, before it moves through the water catchment into the Onkaparinga River.

The wetland design includes:

- A large sediment basin at the stormwater inlet pipe location
- A gross pollutant trap to catch litter and sediments from the urban catchment to catch litter and protect the wetland
- A system of open water ponds with aquatic plants of more than 5000m2
- Wet and dry marshes, rock spillways and flood plain areas
- Planted ponds that create habitat and slowly release water into the samphire marsh flood plains
- Revegetation with indigenous species suitable to the different wetland zones

The wetland is designed to meet best practice industry standards for Water Sensitive Urban Design and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

Will it be publicly accessible?

Yes, as part of the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park, this wetland will be fully accessible to the public. Paths will be designed to accommodate prams and wheelchairs.

When and how will it be constructed?

Construction is planned to start later this year and take 4 months to complete

Who is funding the construction of the wetland?

The wetland is being delivered through a tri-party agreement between the City of Onkaparinga, the Department for Environment and Water and the Hickinbotham group. Hickinbotham are making a significant financial contribution, with the Department also providing some funding, and in-kind support from the City of Onkaparinga.

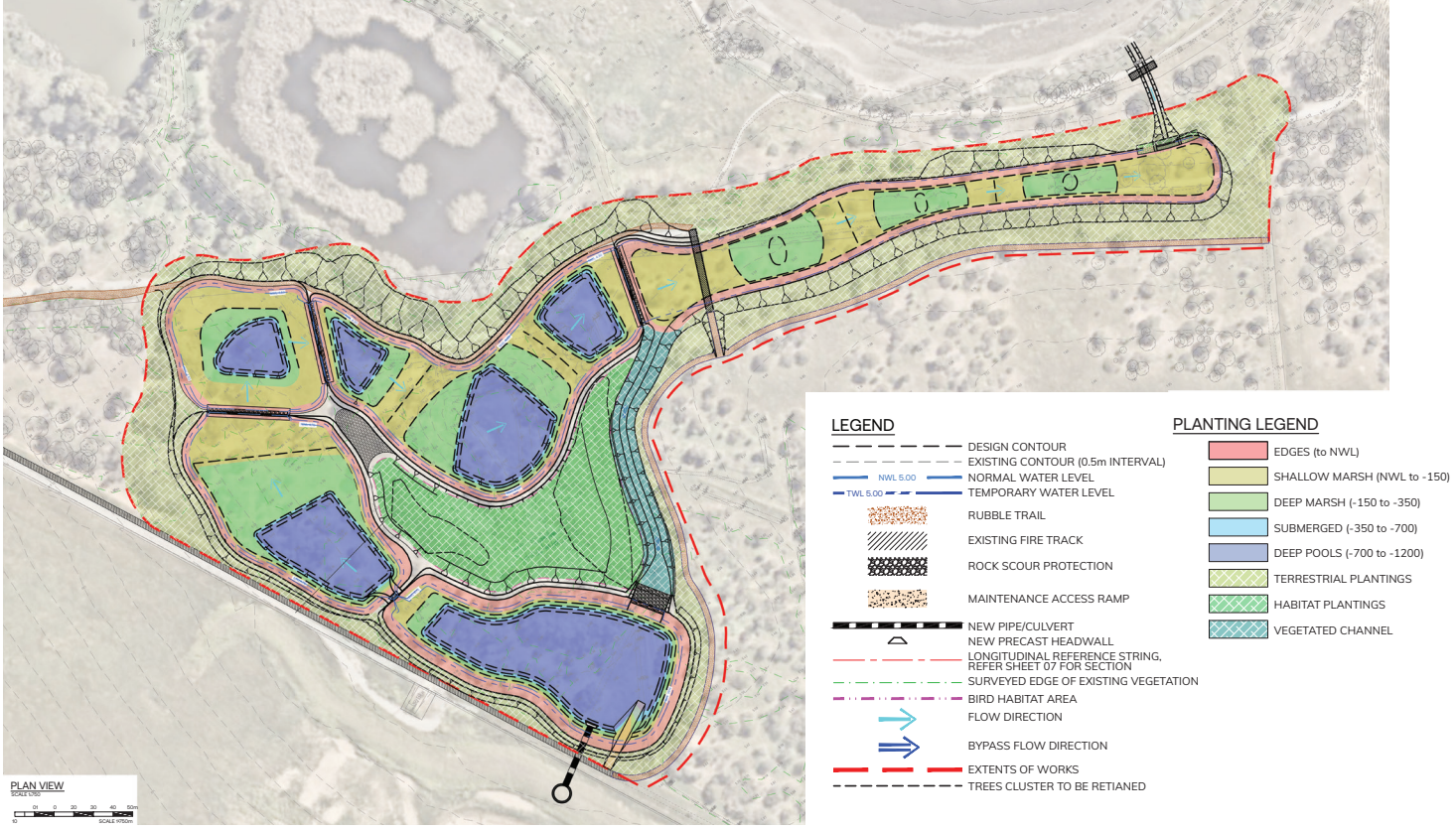
Who will own and maintain the wetland?

Once constructed, the wetland will be owned by the Department for Environment and Water and maintained by the City of Onkaparinga.

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA

Hickinbotham



Will there be any impact on existing flora and fauna?

The wetlands will compliment and be an important part of the complex ecosystem in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park. It will create greater biodiversity and a range of habitat types for flora and fauna.

Revegetation throughout the wetland and open space will also extend the butterfly habitat that is being restored by the Department for Environment and Water. The design takes care to minimise impact on the large trees on site.

During construction, the environment will be protected through a soil erosion drainage management plan and tree protection plan. Kangaroos that currently use the area will naturally move away from the construction area and may return once the wetland is established for water and food.

How can I use the wetland?

The wetland will include walking paths, boardwalks, lookout points and seating. It will be a great place to walk and enjoy the natural environment. Paths will be designed to accommodate prams and wheelchairs.

We expect the wetland to have water in it year round. See parks website for more info: www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/onkaparinga-river-recreation-park.

How will the wetland impact on water quality?

Water quality is particularly important in this area given the proximity to the Aldinga Wash Pool, marine park and Onkaparinga River Sanctuary sone. Wetlands – natural or constructed – are the perfect way to improve water quality. Healthy wetlands act as filtering systems, removing sediment, nutrients and pollutants from water. The wetland will improve water quality, ensuring that water meets EPA standards before it discharges into the Onkaparinga River.

Healthy wetlands do not smell due to natural filtration, vegetation and oxygenation of the water. For similar reasons, a healthy wetland environment discourages mosquitoes by supporting diverse biodiversity and maintaining water movement, which disrupts mosquito breeding habitats.

How will the wetland impact on downstream flooding?

The wetland will also help to manage the risk of downstream flooding by capturing and slowly releasing water. The wetland design includes a permeable weir – which allows water to release slowly.

How could a flood event affect the wetlands?

Wetlands manage flood events by acting as natural sponges, absorbing and slowing down the flow of floodwaters, which reduces the impact on surrounding areas. They temporarily store excess water, allowing it to gradually seep into the ground or slowly release back into rivers and streams, thereby reducing erosion and mitigating the risk of downstream flooding. Additionally, the vegetation in wetlands helps stabilize soil and further disperse the water, contributing to flood control.

What feedback are we seeking?

The draft concept design has already been consulted on with stakeholders, which has refined and improved the design you see today. We would like to hear from you if you have any further feedback on the design.

How will my feedback be used? What will happen with my feedback?

We will collate all feedback received, review common themes and include them in a feedback report. This feedback will help determine the final design of the wetland in line with the technical requirements and site constraints.

Following engagement, we will complete the final design and incorporate any changes. This final design will be shared with the community via the website.

How can I speak with someone or get more information?

Specialist community engagement consultants URPS are here to receive your feedback. **Please contact Anna on 8333 7999 or engage@urps.com.au.**