

W.L.J. CROFTS RESERVE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

What we heard and where to from now

Over recent months, Council and the Altona North community, including the Western Jets Football Club, Altona North Cricket Club, Williamstown Superules Football Club and the Agility Dog Club of Victoria, have engaged in the development of the W.L.J. Crofts Reserve Improvement Plan and the Pavilion Concept Plan.

Council acknowledges the significant input provided by the community and tenant clubs.

Now that the West Gate Tunnel Project works are well underway, with clarity on the physical structures included in the project, the W.L.J Crofts Reserve Improvement Plan has been established and Council has progressed with the implementation of the works.

Through Council's Capital Program with funding support from the Victorian Government, implementation of the W.L.J Crofts Reserve Improvement Plan will be undertaken over the coming three financial years.

The purpose of this document is to provide details on the components of the Reserve Improvement Plan, timelines for further design development and construction and temporary arrangements for the tenant clubs during construction works. As work on the project progresses, Council will provide further information.

Community Feedback

During the community consultation process for the development of the W.L.J Crofts Improvement Plan, 301 people visited Participate Hobsons Bay for W.L.J. Crofts Reserve. 105 participants downloaded the draft improvement plan and pavilion plan and eight participants provided Council with feedback through the online survey. The onsite drop-in session was held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 and attended by over 30 people.

Council heard that the W.L.J. Crofts Reserve is an important open space contributor to the local Altona North community and the pavilion is well utilised by the resident clubs as a place to meet, socialise and participate in club life. We heard there are increasing numbers of female participants in club activities but the existing facility is at capacity and not fit for the intended purpose.

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The new pavilion will be a purpose built facility that caters for the Western Jets Football Club, Altona North Cricket Club, Williamstown Superules Football Club and the Agility Dog Club of Victoria. The existing aged facilities will be demolished to make way for new pavilion.

The key themes identified through the development of these plans that will address community needs include:

- Formalised car parking
- Improved play spaces with shelter and connectivity throughout the reserve and surrounding residential areas.
- Maximising the sportsground areas

Key priorities that we have heard with regard to the pavilion included:

- A larger fit for purpose social space
- Weather protected areas for pavilion users
- Club storage facilities closer to the pavilion
- A fit for purpose kitchen layout
- Safe and secure facilities

Changes resulting from community responses

As a result of the consultation process, several changes have been made to the Reserve Improvement Plan and the Pavilion Concept Design.

Changes to the carpark

A new carpark area has been designed to consolidate the carparking in the reserve, addressing safety concerns while also providing views through to the oval. These views are further extended into the overflow carpark which will help to alleviate the parking issues experienced during peak periods.

The play space

An upgrade to the existing play space will incorporate a new shelter and new pathways to improve its connectivity with the rest of the reserve. The provision of a third playing field will maximise the playing and training capacity of the reserve.

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Pavilion design

In the pavilion, the social area has been expanded to 150 sqm and the kitchen layout was refined. During detailed design investigations will be undertaken to expand the veranda roof to between 1.2m and 2.4 metres. Club storage sheds have been relocated closer to the pavilion.

Next steps

In the immediate term, Council will continue to progress the design development of the pavilion. Tenders will be advertised from 31 August 2019 for the design and construction of the new pavilion with the plan to commence construction in December 2019.

Council will continue to engage with the tenant clubs as the design is further developed.

Design to the cricket practice nets and sports Ovals 2 and 3 will commence in the coming months and the tenant clubs will continue to be engaged in this process. It is anticipated that the cricket nets will be completed in the first half of 2020 while Ovals 2 and 3 are expected to be completed by 2021 together with new floodlights. Oval 1 will remain accessible during these works.

Council will continue to work closely with the resident clubs to manage the necessary temporary arrangements during the construction period.

The design for the new play space will commence in the coming months. Throughout this process the community will be consulted and it is anticipated that the playground will be constructed by December 2021.

Timeline of construction

Financial Year 2019-2020

- Pavilion construction
- Car park construction
- Cricket practice nets construction

Financial Year 2020-2021

- Sportsgrounds 2 and 3 construction
- Floodlighting construction on oval 2 and 3

Financial Year 2021 -2022

- Open space upgrades including play areas

Regular updates on the project will be available in the sporting pavilions, through onsite signage and on the project webpage at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WLJcrofts