



# Lake Claremont Management Plan

2024 - 2029



## Development

This revision of the Lake Claremont Management Plan is the latest in a series that identifies the current needs of the Lake Claremont reserve and recommends actions required to preserve and enhance the area. The Plan has been completed to assist the Claremont Council, the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, and the Friends of Lake Claremont, establish future budget requirements, make informed decisions and recommendations, and appropriately prioritise and schedule works.

## Disclaimer

This document may not be relied upon by any other party without the express written agreement of the Town of Claremont.

## Confidentiality

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# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	4
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	5
<b>Management Plan Structure</b> .....	8
<b>1. OVERVIEW</b> .....	9
1.1 The Vision or Management Plan Purpose .....	9
1.2 Management Plan Objectives .....	9
1.3 Management Plan Consultation.....	9
1.4 Management Plan - Ongoing Review and Development .....	9
<b>2. LAKE CLAREMONT PARKLAND</b> .....	11
Lake Claremont Recreation and Sport Spaces .....	11
2.1 Recreation Spaces .....	11
2.1.1 Enhanced Recreation Opportunities .....	11
2.1.2 Dog Walking and Exercise .....	14
2.2 Sport Spaces .....	16
2.3 Infrastructure to Support Sport and Recreation .....	16
2.4 Access .....	18
2.5 Signs.....	18
2.6 Fencing .....	20
2.7 Lake Views .....	20
<b>3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LAKE CLAREMONT MANAGEMENT</b> .....	21
3.1 Lake Claremont Advisory Committee.....	21
3.2 Friends of Lake Claremont.....	22
3.3 Education Centre .....	23
3.4 Dual or Renaming.....	23
3.5 School Programs.....	24
3.6 Celebrate Lake Claremont .....	24
3.7 Public Art .....	25
<b>4. REFERENCES</b> .....	28

## **Acknowledgements**

The Town of Claremont acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this Town.

The Town of Claremont acknowledge the assistance of the following participants for their contribution in the preparation of this management plan:

- Lake Claremont Advisory Committee (LCAC)
- Board of management of the Friends of Lake Claremont Limited (FOLC)
- Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)
- Southwest Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)
- City of Nedlands

## Executive Summary

This management plan was developed to protect and enhance the environmental, recreational, and cultural values of Lake Claremont and its surrounds by:

- Identifying the Values and appropriate strategies and works to complement and enhance them.
- Outlining current management priorities and requirements to address these in both the short and longer term.
- Identify a strategic direction and how this can be achieved over the next five years via a list of actionable recommendations for management.

This management plan is the latest iteration in a series of management plans for Lake Claremont and its immediate surrounds (Lantzke, Haynes and Gabriel 1992; Haynes, Lantzke and Lantzke 1998; North Metro Conservation Group Inc 2007; Town of Claremont (TOC) 2010a; TOC 2010b). The earliest of these plans focused on work conserving the ecological values of the lake and the remnant bushland to the west of the waterbody. Following the closure of the long nine-hole golf course in 2009, the Lake Claremont Parkland: Concept Plan (TOC 2010b) extended the work area covered by management plans for the area and formalised planning for recreational activities around the lake.

The 'Recreational Precinct' constituted by the Claremont Aquatic Centre, Claremont Par 3 Golf Course and Tennis Club were exempted from the Lake Claremont Parkland: Concept Plan (TOC 2010b; TOC 2013a). However, Council Resolution 99/14 regarding the Consultant Brief for the development of this plan integrated those facilities into the area covered by this management plan. That resolution aligns with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Identities (DLGSCI) framework for managing public open spaces. The DLGSCI framework recognises that best practice management of urban public open space requires the effective integration of 'nature spaces', 'recreational spaces' and 'sporting spaces' (DLGSCI, 2012).

Concurrent with the development of this plan, TOC completed several reviews of the recreational and sporting needs of the community. Under the Corporate Business Plan 2022 - 2026, AND 2021-2025 the Town worked with key partners to 'determine the needs for community recreation facilities which includes the golf course and effectively plans for any redevelopment of the Aquatic Centre' (TOC 2013a; TOC 2013b). The Lake Claremont Parkland Recreation Use Working Party of Council also considered 'the use of the park as a recreation resource for the community'. The outcomes of the study and working party guide the development of recreational and sporting spaces at Lake Claremont.

Key outcomes of this updated Management Plan are:

1. The review and consolidation of recommendations developed under earlier management plans.
2. Establishing the need for any new actions for delivery over the next five years, understanding that a period of significant site restoration works has been completed.
3. Inclusion of a Recreation Precinct to the area managed under this plan.

Lake Claremont is a seasonal ephemeral wetland that will typically dry out in summer and refill in the wetter months when groundwater levels rise and rainwater falls into the lake, as well as being conveyed to the lake from the local road network via a network of stormwater drains. In addition to the lake itself, important components of Lake Claremont reserve are:

- a buffer of native vegetation that has being re-established around the lakebed
- large grass areas primarily in the southern and eastern areas
- recreational play and gathering spaces with barbeque and picnic facilities, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, and dog walking and exercise areas
- shared cycle and pedestrian paths
- remnant and revegetated bushland primarily to the west and north of the lake
- the Claremont Aquatic Centre, Claremont Lawn Tennis Club and Claremont Par 3 Golf Course sport spaces in the south-eastern quadrant of the lake
- Scotch College and Cresswell Oval sport spaces adjacent to the south-western quadrant of the lake.

Lake Claremont has a number of statutorily designated values that require ongoing management and protection. Lake Claremont and its 50m buffer is Conservation Category Wetland (Western Australia. Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) 2015). The State Government declared Lake Claremont as a Bush Forever Site 220 in 2000 and reaffirmed that status in 2010 (Government of Western Australia 2000; Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC) 2011).

Among the wetlands that remain in Perth's western suburbs, only Lake Claremont and Herdsman Lake have both Bush Forever and Conservation Category status (Zelinova et al., 2013). Lake Claremont is a declared Environmentally Sensitive Area under the Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005 to protect all naturally occurring and revegetated native vegetation growing at the site (State Law Publisher 2005). The area is an Aboriginal Site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 2022).

The Claremont Council is the managing authority over the Lake Claremont reserve and has appointed the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee to assist in providing them with regular updates and advice on the management of the area.

The Friends of Lake Claremont Limited is an independent community group that assists re-establishing and managing the natural assets within the Lake Claremont reserve and provides advice, assistance, and ongoing voluntary work to assist with the delivery of the recommendations within the management plans. Working closely with the Town, FOLC have been instrumental in gaining almost half a million dollars of grant funding to support environmental improvement at Lake Claremont. Activities carried out by FOLC include general 'busy bees', coordination of corporate and school volunteer groups, ongoing planting of local native plants, weeding, and education of the community by facilitating talks by experts in various environmental and cultural fields.

## **Management Plan Structure**

This management plan consists of an overarching document and standalone appendices that contain supporting information for specific aspects of environmental or heritage import establishing the various Values. Specifically, the document structure is:

### **Lake Claremont Management Plan 2024-2029**

This document sets out operational and capital works requirements for the next five years.

### **Appendix 1: Historical Values and Site Context**

This document provides an historical perspective, focusing on Aboriginal Heritage, post European settlement heritage, legal requirements, tenure and zoning and land uses within Lake Claremont and its surrounds.

### **Appendix 2: Biophysical Wetland Values**

This document provides a description of the environmental aspects of the park. The description includes the location, climate, geology, topography, soil and vegetation associations, an overview of water quality in the lake and a review of activities that can affect the biophysical and wetland values.

### **Appendix 3: Flora & Vegetation Values**

This document provides information about the flora of the park, including vegetation associations and condition, significant local native species growing, approaches for managing exotic plants and out of area Australian natives (both of which can be woody weeds in certain circumstances) and revegetation of the local native bushland. Fungi and pathogens are included for convenience because of their associations with the flora.

### **Appendix 4: Fauna Values**

This document describes the terrestrial and wetland fauna species that reside in or visit Lake Claremont, which includes native and introduced varieties of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

### **Appendix 5: Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)**

This document describes the species information, quarantine zones, treatment, host species lists, and Lake Claremont confirmed cases regarding PSHB.

### **Appendix 6: Management Recommendations Summary**

Management recommendations for implementation by the Town of Claremont, delegates, and volunteer groups are made throughout the Plan and are collected in summary form within this Appendix.

## **1. OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 The Vision or Management Plan Purpose**

This management plan was developed to protect and enhance the environmental, recreational, and cultural values of Lake Claremont and its surrounds by:

- Identifying the Values and appropriate strategies and works to complement and enhance them.
- Outlining current management priorities and requirements to address these in both the short and longer term.
- Identify a strategic direction and how this can be achieved over the next five years via a list of actionable recommendations for management.

### **1.2 Management Plan Objectives**

- Respect Lake Claremont and the surrounding land's status as an Aboriginal Site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA).
- Manage the aquatic environment of Lake Claremont as a natural seasonal ephemeral wetland, with recognition of its Conservation Category Wetland designation.
- Manage the terrestrial areas as mixed-use nature, recreation, and sport spaces, giving due consideration to the sites cultural and heritage values, its listing as Bush Forever Site 220, and its classification as an Environmentally Sensitive Area.
- Maintain and enhance the cultural, environmental, recreational, social, and sporting values of the Lake Claremont and surrounds.
- Provide quality infrastructure that is appropriate for the usage of Lake Claremont and its surrounds

### **1.3 Management Plan Consultation**

In preparing this plan, consultation has occurred with:

- Town of Claremont's Lake Claremont Advisory Committee (LCAC);
- Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC)
- Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)
- South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)
- City of Nedlands

### **1.4 Management Plan - Ongoing Review and Development**

Implementation of the 2016 Lake Claremont Management Plan, as well as previous management plans, has resulted in significant improvements in the health of Lake Claremont, its flora and fauna. The new

management plan continues to build on previous works while ensuring that we properly manage and caretake the work which has been completed.

The Town of Claremont has endeavoured to carry out works at Lake Claremont applying 'best practice' principles. The ongoing aim is to maintain and enhance the ecological, recreational, and cultural values of the Lake Claremont environs.

The assessment of activities undertaken during the preparation of this management plan has identified a range of values that require ongoing management with recommended management strategies for these values appearing throughout this plan.

Background information and data supporting the recommended management strategies appears in the various appendices.

This management plan is making operational and capital works recommendations for implementation or commencement within the next five years.

Annual reviews are to occur ensuring the Plan remains contemporary and can address any unknown management issues as they arise over the life of the Plan.

The development of the next management plan should commence in 2028 for implementation from 2029.

## 2. LAKE CLAREMONT PARKLAND

### Lake Claremont Recreation and Sport Spaces

Research has found much confusion within local government concerning the terms used to describe recreational and sporting activities and that problems arise from the lack of clear and consistent terminology (Caroll, 1995; WA Department of Sports Recreation, 2012). The DSR's Public Open Space Planning and Design Guide WA (2014) states 'These criteria and terminology [active or passive open space] is now generally regarded as inadequate and confusing'.

For those reasons, it is important that readers of this management plan share a common understanding of terms such as 'recreation', 'sport' and 'nature space'. Table 1 provides definitions for key terms used in this management plan.

**Table 1:** Glossary of recreation and sport associated terminology utilised in this management plan. These definitions come from the DSR Classification framework for public open space 2012.

Term	Meaning
Recreation	Recreation activities provide relaxation, amusement or stimulation. Recreation activities allow humans to play, socialize, exercise, celebrate or participate in other activities that provide personal satisfaction or intrinsic reward.
Recreation Spaces	Recreation spaces provide a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction.
Sport Spaces	Sport spaces provide a setting for formal structured sporting activities, which have elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisation.
Nature Spaces	Nature spaces provide a setting where people can enjoy nearby nature and protect local biodiversity and natural area values.

### 2.1 Recreation Spaces

#### 2.1.1 Enhanced Recreation Opportunities

Active recreational opportunities are available and include:

- Exercise equipment for adults is located adjacent to Stirling Road Park (Figure 1)
- Nature play-space playgrounds at both Stirling Road Park and Lapsley Road (Figure 2)
- Extensive cycle and pedestrian path network to facilitate accessible community access
- Swimming and other water related activities at the Claremont Aquatic Centre, which also hosts competitive water polo matches

- A Par 3 Golf Course for encouraging beginners, youngsters and other golfers developing their short game located next to the Aquatic Centre.
- Informal catching, running, and throwing games occur within the turf areas, primarily along the southern and eastern side.
- Dog walking is an extremely popular active recreation pursuit.
- An oval used for cricket in summer and hockey fields in winter at Creswell Park.
- 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> of off-lead dog exercise area.

Less strenuous recreational activities enjoyed by Lake Claremont users include barbeques, bird watching, coffee at the café, viewing the waterbody of the lake, family play time, photography, picnicking, reconnecting with nature and resting or relaxing. Infrastructure installed to support this style of recreation includes:

- An observation platform for watching water birds and swimming turtles that projects into the deepest section of the lake's waterbody.
- The Ted and Joan Tockock commemorative benches installed at the edge of the bank on the south-eastern corner of the lake.
- The sculpture "together" at the Ted and Joan Tockock commemorative benches.
- Barbeques and picnics tables available at Stirling Road, Lapsley Road, and at John and Jean Mulder Parks.
- Bench seats installed with different perspectives at points throughout the area.
- Selected access points for bird watchers to access the lake and bushland habitats.
- Public toilet facilities at the Golf Course Tee Box Café.

The commercial Aspire Fitness gym is operating on the southern side of the Golf Course Building, which provides users with facilities and consultation in the arenas of health and fitness, exercise rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and personal training.



**Figure 1:** Exercise equipment located adjacent to Stirling Road Park



**Figure 2:** Lapsley Road nature play area (left), and Stirling Road Nature play area (right)

**Recommendations:**

- Monitor and maintain installed infrastructure in accordance with TOC policies and procedures.
- Maintain separation for recreational activities to minimize conflicts between different user groups.

### 2.1.2 Dog Walking and Exercise

The walking of dogs is an extremely popular recreational activity within Lake Claremont. It has also proven a contentious issue with respect to the competing values of dog walkers, the enjoyment of the area by other visitors, and the importance of protecting the flora and fauna of this environmentally important conservation area. The complexities associated with facilitating and encouraging dog walking and exercise while guaranteeing the safe recreational experiences of all park users, especially the young and the elderly, and meeting statutory requirements to protect the native flora and fauna are many.

An example of the complexity of facilitating dog exercise and walking in public places is the three levels of laws and policies that specify the responsibilities of people exercising or walking a dog in public within Lake Claremont. These laws and policies are the *Dog Act 1976 (WA)*, *Dog Regulations 2012 (WA)* and *Dogs in Public Places Policy LV133*. The key requirements of these laws and policies are that:

- Every person who is exercising or walking a dog in a public place is liable for the control of that dog.
- Any dog in a public place must be wearing a suitable collar and its registration tag.
- Except where permitted in officially designated off-lead dog exercise areas, a person capable of controlling the dog must hold it on a chain, cord, leash, or harness that is not more than 2m long when walking in public. These types of chains, cords, leashes, or harnesses are commonly called a 'lead'.
- Dogs must not enter the playgrounds at Stirling Road, Lapsley Road or John and Jean Mulder Parks.
- Dogs must not enter the exclusion zone around Lake Claremont as described in *TOC Policy LV133*.
- The person in control and supervising a dog within exercise areas is to be in reasonable proximity to the dog and:
  - They are the person liable for control of the dog
  - They can control the dog
  - They are carrying and capable of attaching a lead to the dog to control it

In summary, a dog in a public place must be under effective control of the person who is responsible for it, whether it is being walked on or off lead. Most well-behaved and controlled dogs have minimal impacts on

other visitors and other dogs. Uncontrolled dogs interfere with the enjoyment and recreation of other users. This is especially so when they display aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump up on other people or dogs. This behaviour can be particularly intimidating to toddlers, children, and the elderly. The Town of Claremont receives many formal and informal complaints about owners who allow their dogs to behave in an uncontrolled manner to the detriment of other users. There have been ten attacks reported of dog on persons at Lake Claremont in the last five years, and several incidents with attacks on wildlife, including oblong turtles and water birds.

Another antisocial and unhygienic behaviour is people not picking up their dogs' faeces, despite the presence of dog poo bags and bins around the Lake. In addition to spoiling the aesthetic value of the area and being unpleasant when inadvertently stepped on, uncollected dog excrement releases harmful bacteria and increases nutrient levels in the environment. These bacteria and nutrients can kill local native plants, be harmful to children, reduce water quality and promote algal blooms, which can cause the death of frogs, turtles and waterbirds. Not immediately picking up dogs' excreta is an offence under the *Litter Act 1979* (WA) and *Town of Claremont Animal Local Law 2024*.

In accordance with the Lake Claremont Parklands Concept Plan, approximately 45,000m<sup>2</sup> of the recreation space adjacent to the corner of Alfred and Davies Road has been designated dog exercise area. The City of Nedlands has recently designated all the nature and sport space across Alfred Road at the Mount Claremont Oval Reserve as dog exercise space. The 3.8 hectares of the Mt Claremont Oval Reserve and the space provides almost 6 hectares of dog exercise space on the northern boundary of the Town of Claremont.

Dogs can walk and exercise off-lead in these areas but must remain under control as required by the *Dog Act 1976* (WA). Additional dog exercise areas near the Lake Claremont surrounds include:

- Maclagan Park, with the exception of the playground area (0.8 hectares);
- Asquith Park (0.1 hectares);
- Pine Tree Park (1.8 hectares);
- Rowe Park, except for the playground area (2.4 hectares); and
- Stubbs Terrace/Mofflin Avenue Park, except for the playground (0.2 hectares).

Council resolved not to fence the dog off-lead exercise areas within Lake Claremont in May 2016, as there was limited community support for the fence during community consultation and considerable costs involved.

In 2021, nature-play dog agility equipment was installed on the northern section of the dog off-lead area (Figures 3 & 4). Large log benches were also installed to provide seating to visitors to the dog off-lead area, as well as new trees to provide shade. This has proven very popular with visitor numbers increasing.



**Figures 3 & 4:** Lake Claremont dog agility equipment (Nature Based Play, 2017)

**Recommendations:**

- Maintain requirement for dogs to be on-lead outside of designated off-lead dog exercise areas
- Install fallen logs when available within off-lead areas increasing the availability of seating
- Continue to use informative signage alerting visitors when entering or exiting on-lead and off-lead zones, and of the restrictions and penalties that apply
- Rangers to conduct patrols of Lake Claremont and enforce requirements of the Dog Act 1976 (WA), Dog Regulations 2013 (WA) and Town of Claremont Animal Local Law 2024.

## 2.2 Sport Spaces

Sporting space included within the area are the 9-hole par-3 golf course at Lapsley Road, tennis courts at the corner of Davies and Shenton Roads and the summer cricket/winter hockey ground at Cresswell Oval.

Immediately adjacent to Lake Claremont are the multisport Scotch College playing fields, the Claremont Football Club Oval, the summer cricket/winter soccer Mount Claremont Oval and the ovals, and sport spaces of the Mount Claremont and Swanbourne Primary Schools. While primarily a recreation space, the aquatic centre also hosts matches and training sessions for local water polo clubs.

The Town of Claremont is also progressing with various refurbishment projects at the Claremont Aquatic Centre.

## 2.3 Infrastructure to Support Sport and Recreation

A range of infrastructure is located around the lake, including drink fountains, barbecues, seating, and bins (Figure 5, 6, 7, & 8).

- The facilities are of a high standard and in good repair.
- The only public toilet facilities are located at the Golf Course Tee Box Café and are only available during business hours.
- The main car parks are located on Lapsley Road and Stirling Road.
- A bicycle rack is also available at the Stirling Road entrance.
- Parking is also available at the golf course and aquatic centre car parks, with some street parking available off Elliot Road, Strickland Street and Lakeway Street.



**Figures 5,6,7 & 8:** Drink Fountain, Seat, BBQ and Bin

**Recommendations:**

- Have an ongoing infrastructure (furniture) cleaning and inspection program
- Initiate repairs or replacement in accordance with current Asset Management Plan provisions ensuring that the condition of assets is maintained as condition 3 or better
- Review the demand for additional toilet facilities to accommodate the increasing visitor numbers, where it could be located and what type would be suitable
- Conduct regular visitor satisfaction and information gathering surveys
- Install and maintain wayfinding and educational signs directing visitors to the various sport and recreation facilities

**2.4 Access**

Sealed dual-use and compacted limestone paths extend around the Lake in an interconnected network that allows ready access to all areas. The remaining section of limestone track along the Scotch College boundary was replaced with a fully accessible shared path, completing the loop around the entire lake in the 2022/23 financial year. These paths are accessible to all ability levels, including the mobility impaired. The layout of the park paths also provides access to maintenance and emergency service vehicles from the adjacent roads when required.

**Recommendations:**

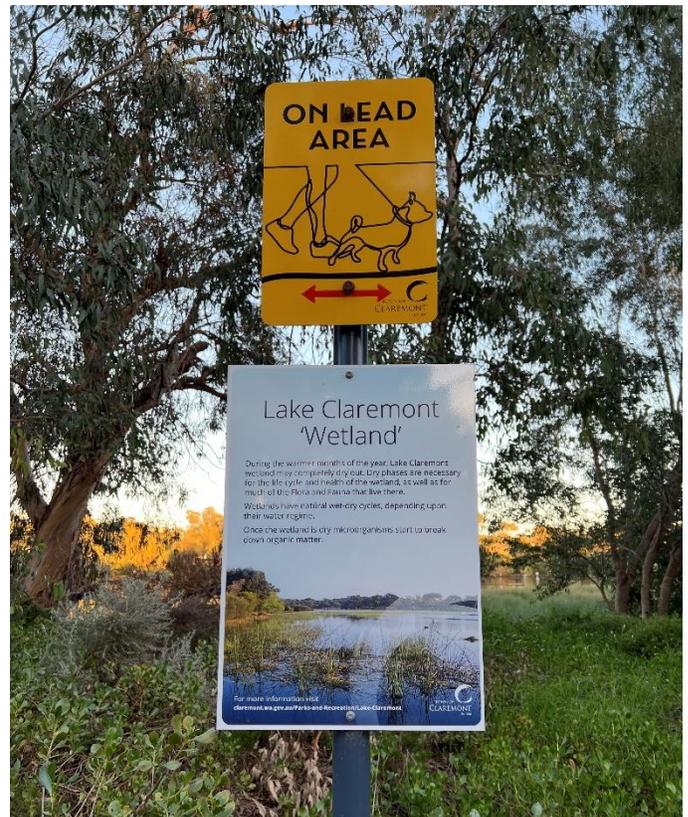
- Have an ongoing path inspection program
- Initiate repairs or renewal in accordance with current Asset Management Plan provisions ensuring that the condition of sealed paths are maintained as condition 3 or better
- Undertake annual remediation of compacted limestone paths
- Enhance the path network with wayfinding and education on key features, cultural heritage, ecological and recreational values.
- Maintain the sealed path along western Scotch College fence line completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

**2.5 Signs**

Existing signs impart a range of messages to visitors of Lake Claremont. There are environmental signs, educational signs, as well as regulatory signs such as dog on-lead signs (Figures 6, 7 & 8). Signs are generally in good repair, although of inconsistent styles having been installed incrementally over many years.

With the introduction of *Isodon obesulus* (Southern Brown Bandicoot) to the area in 2022, advisory signs were installed along Alfred Road to alert drivers of the possibility of wildlife crossing. The sign at the intersection of Alfred Road and Lisle Street displays an image of a bandicoot, and the sign at the intersection of Alfred Road and Davies Road displays an image of a snake-necked turtle. The signs were installed with the intent to reduce incidents of roadkill of these two vulnerable native animals in the Town's efforts to preserve biodiversity.

Wayfinding signs are located around Lake Claremont however interpretive signs providing information on cultural significance are lacking.



Figures 9, 10 & 11: Some of the educational signs on display at Lake Claremont.

**Recommendations:**

- Overhaul signs to ensure cohesive, discreet interpretive signage that adds knowledge and value without detracting from the aesthetics, while adhering to necessary regulatory standards
- Review extent of signs and install additional wayfinding and educational signs as warranted
- Consult with relevant stakeholders and install interpretive signs providing information on points of cultural interest.
- Maintain signs in accordance with current Asset Management Plan provisions ensuring that the condition of signs is maintained as condition 3 or better
- Regularly update noticeboards on the Lapsley Road and Gloucester Street paths notifying visitors of the Town of Claremont's and Friends of Lake Claremont's upcoming events and activities

**2.6 Fencing**

In accordance with the previous management plans, active revegetation sites are fenced prior to planting to allow the undisturbed establishment of a diversity of over, middle, and understory species. It was subsequently a recommendation of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee that the fences be retained to protect the flora and fauna from disturbances and to reduce incidents of dogs entering these areas.

**Recommendations:**

- Undertake regular fence clearing works to minimise damage being caused to fences by overgrowing vegetation
- Initiate repairs or renewal in accordance with current Asset Management Plan provisions ensuring that the condition of fences is maintained as condition 3 or better
- Install fencing to protect new areas of revegetation

**2.7 Lake Views**

Some community members have raised concerns regarding the height of vegetation and impacts to views, both around the lake and from nearby properties.

It is agreed that views of the Lake contribute to the social values, as do the presence of local native vegetation. Environmentally, the presence of vegetation enhances ecological and other values of the lake through improved water quality, providing increased habitat for various fauna species and reducing the presence of nuisance organisms such as midges. An additional benefit of the protection provided by fences and the revegetation in the northern end has been the reestablishment of at least one colony of Splendid Fairy Wrens that had previously been locally extinct at Lake Claremont for more than a decade.

It has previously been identified there is a need to actively manage vegetation in the wetland buffer, which will improve lake views. This will reduce the establishment of seedlings and saplings of exotic and out of area Australian native trees, and local native vegetation that has become overly dense. Management of the local native vegetation shall comply with the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (WA).

An assessment of locations to maintain views was previously undertaken. Three viewing corridors along the lake buffer are now managed to preserve lake views, with a trimming program undertaken throughout the year. At these locations hedges and shrubs are trimmed to a suitable height that maintains views to and across the waterbody. In 2017, benches were installed at such a location in commemoration of Joan and Ted Tocock.

**Recommendations:**

- Manage exotic vegetation in the wetland buffer to improve and maintain the views that enhance the connection of users with the waterbody of the lake.
- Inspect and maintain viewing corridors to preserve views to the waterbody of the lake.

### **3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LAKE CLAREMONT MANAGEMENT**

There is a long history of community involvement in the ongoing management of Lake Claremont. The principal stakeholders are the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee, the Friends of Lake Claremont, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Knowledge Holders, and the Scotch College school, with both the FOLC and Scotch College having representatives on the LCAC. Members of the community can also nominate to join this committee.

When adopting a new management plan or commencing planning on any new capital works, consultation shall always be sought with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Knowledge Holders to ensure that we are representing their values and are not causing harm to their cultural heritage.

#### **3.1 Lake Claremont Advisory Committee**

The Town of Claremont formed the Lake Claremont Management Committee (LCMC) in 1992 to assist with the implementation of the environmentally focused management plan prepared by Ian Lantzke and Bruce Haynes in 1992. The LCMC became a standing advisory committee of the Town of Claremont Council in 1995. The terms of reference of the committee are to provide advice to Council on matters relating to:

- The care and maintenance of Lake Claremont and its immediate environment
- The rehabilitation of Lake Claremont and its environs
- Plans for amenities proposed at Lake Claremont and its immediate environs
- Proposals for the lake from the Friends of Lake Claremont

In 2015, the Lake Claremont Management Committee had a name changed to an Advisory committee to provide consistency across all of Council's committees and to properly reflect its role.

**Recommendations:**

- Convene regular meetings of the Lake Claremont Advisory Committee and publish of meeting minutes and agendas for public access
- Undertake regular consultation with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Knowledge Holders via the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation to ensure that we are representing their values and are not causing harm to their cultural heritage
- Apply for Regulation 7 and 10 approvals through Department of Planning Lands and Heritage for maintenance and project activities that involve soil disturbance and follow their approval conditions once/if granted
- Support and provide direction to the Friends of Lake Claremont
- Consult with the wider community on large capital projects and any proposed significant changes or additions

### **3.2 Friends of Lake Claremont**

While formally established in 2003, the Friends of Lake Claremont beginnings date back to the early 1990s (Friends of Lake Claremont 2017a). Incorporation of FOLC as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee in 2009 coincided with the closure of the since replaced and reduced 9-hole golf course. While FOLC is an independent community-based organisation, it works very closely and collaboratively with the Town of Claremont and local schools to enhance the ecological, social, and recreational values of Lake Claremont. The group actively contributes to the ongoing management of Lake Claremont, undertaking weeding and planting activities. With the support of the town, FOLC is regularly awarded grants to assist with restoration projects of both wetland and dryland vegetation. FOLC has obtained more than \$750,000 of grants since 2009 and has contributed at least as much value again through volunteer labour.

Amongst other activities the Friends of Lake Claremont have directly contributed to:

- Restoration and revegetation of native local flora
- Improved water quality of the waterbody in the lake
- Improved habitat for wildlife
- Reestablishment of previously locally extinct flora and fauna such as the Wembley Wax variety of *Chamaelaucium uncinatum*, the Splendid Fairy Wren and priority 4 threatened species Quenda (*Isodon obesulus*)

- Enhanced opportunities for the community to access high quality nature-based recreation activities

**Recommendations:**

- The Town continue to support and authorise the volunteer work being done by the FOLC
- The Town provide materials and assistance to FOLC whenever resources allow

### **3.3 Education Centre**

The provision of either an Environmental and Indigenous Education Centre or an Environmental Education Centre located at Lake Claremont has been included within previous versions of this management plan as well as within previous versions of the Town of Claremont Corporate Business Plan. The Town is reviewing the need and demand for such an educational space, and of what type and form would be best suited, with plans for a study to be undertaken relative to the recommendation as recently set out within the Town of Claremont Corporate Business Plan 2023 to 2026.

**Recommendations:**

- Review and consult on the need and demand for an educational space, and of what type and form would be best suited, and present this information to LCAC and the Claremont Council

### **3.4 Dual or Renaming**

The Lake Claremont Advisory Committee has recognised the importance of acknowledging the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage of Lake Claremont and recommend dual naming the lake with the appropriate Aboriginal name for the site. Previous consultation and records indicate that the names Galbamaanup and Beereegup are potentially the appropriate names for the Lake Claremont site. Council has endorsed the furthering of this for locations across the Town of Claremont including Lake Claremont.

Consultation with local families and knowledge holders is required to determine the appropriate name for the site. Once this has been determined and agreed, the information will be presented to LCAC and Claremont Council and the process then commenced to consult with the wider community.

**Recommendations:**

- Establish the Aboriginal name(s) for Lake Claremont in consultation with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Traditional Knowledge Holders
- Present the information to LCAC and the Claremont Council for review and resolution to proceed to community consultation

### 3.5 School Programs

The environmental status, ecological values and the Aboriginal and European cultural heritage of Lake Claremont makes it an ideal location for experiential learning. Local schools have actively participated in the rehabilitation of Lake Claremont over the past twenty years.

The Friends of Lake Claremont have implemented the Year 10 Community Service Program with Scotch College and Christ Church Grammar School under which students participate in projects to enhance and restore the lake and its environs (Friends of Lake Claremont 2017b; Bushland Council of WA Inc 2014). These activities occur on Friday afternoons and have included planting, weed removal, seed collecting, spreading mulch, and pruning of dense and overhanging vegetation. This program is also available to other interested schools. Volunteers from local schools are also invited to attend planting days, busy bees (held the second Sunday of each month) and other events held at the park. The efforts from the school programs continue to be an important contribution in conserving and maintaining the rich biodiversity of the site.

#### Recommendations:

- Continue to assist the Friends of Lake Claremont in their School Program management.

### 3.6 Celebrate Lake Claremont

Celebrate Lake Claremont is an annual event organised by the Town of Claremont during Spring and held at the lake parkland. This festival encompasses a range of activities, including those relating to the ongoing management and values of the lake. Previous events have included bird watching walks, displays with sustainable living tips, food stalls, damper making, wildlife interaction and children handcrafting timber toys.



**Figure 12:** Celebrate Lake Claremont event.

#### Recommendations:

- Run the Celebrate Lake Claremont event to promote and activate the site.

**3.7 Public Art**

The below art pieces were installed in 2021:



**Figure 13:** Volunteer shed Painting by Brenton See with overhanging tree.



**Figure 14:** Together Sculpture by Simon Youngelson (eastern path)

The below art piece was installed in 2023:



**Figure 15:** Tree of Wonder by Anne Gee and Tony Pankiw (lake parkland/golf course boundary)



**Figure 16:** People and the Land by the Bodney Family (Ballaruk Bushland)



**Figure 17:** Food Stories by the Bodney Family (Ballaruk Bush)

The above pieces form part of the art trail throughout the whole Town of Claremont. These create an extra element of interest and share indigenous historical cultural knowledge with visitors to the site.

#### Recommendation

- Continue a cleaning and inspection schedule to ensure adequate maintenance of the art.

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