



Tonkin for Port Augusta City Council
18ADL-0534
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**BIRD LAKE INFORMATION
SESSION
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**



Bird Lake Information Session Engagement Summary

26 March 2019

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In association with	Tonkin
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Contents

1.0	Background.....	1
2.0	The information session	2
2.1	Event objectives	2
2.2	Event details and format.....	2
2.3	Attendees	3
3.0	What we heard	4
4.0	Event photos.....	6
	Appendix A – Bird Lake Fact Sheet.....	8



1.0 Background

Bird Lake in Port Augusta is being rehabilitated with local native plants in selected areas to reduce the potential for odour issues and improve the area.

The project is being delivered by the Port Augusta City Council with the cooperation of land owners and funding support from the South Australian Government.

Community engagement is an important part of the project and an information session was held as one of the ways through which the local community is engaged.

This report provides a brief summary of the event and what was raised by the community.



2.0 The information session

2.1 Event objectives

Bringing the community along for the journey is an important part of the project. The information session was held as one of the ways through which local people could learn more about the project. The objectives of the event were to:

- Raise awareness and support of the Bird Lake Project
- Provide open and accurate information about what is being done, why, where, how and when
- To enable people to ask questions directly of those involved with delivering the project
- Manage community expectations regarding the outcomes that will be delivered, and the time required to achieve those outcomes
- Manage concerns regarding perceived potential impacts (eg dust and biting insects)
- Promote opportunities for community participation through the community reference group.

2.2 Event details and format

The information session was held on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at the Central Augusta Football and Community Club, 3 Hannagan Street, near to Bird Lake in Port Augusta. The event was a drop-in format whereby people could drop in any time between 5.30 and 7.30pm.

The event was promoted through a postcard delivered to 1500 nearby properties, a sign at Council offices and via Council's Facebook page.

The event included a series of posters including:

- Project background and timeline
- About Bird Lake and why it smells
- How it is being rehabilitated
- Examples of the plants being established
- How to stay in touch with the project or be involved in the Community Reference Group.

A very large poster of the project area was spread across tables on to which participants could write questions and provide feedback about what they see as issues or opportunities for the project.

A table of sample seeds that will be used for the project was also set up. A slide show of the proposed plants was also presented throughout the evening.

Project staff were on hand to answer any questions participants may have and a fact sheet (Appendix A) was available for participants to take away.



2.3 Attendees

Approximately 40 local community members attended the event.

The event was also attended by the Port Augusta City Council Mayor (Brett Benbow) and Councillors (Ann Johnston, John Naisbitt, Louise Foote, Maralyn Marsh, Matt Leonard, Phillip Brown and Sunny Singh) as well as members of Council's executive team including CEO John Banks, Anne O'Reilly, Melanie Jenkins, Melissa Kretschmer and Suzanne McKell.



3.0 What we heard

The following table summarises the types of issues, comments or questions raised by the community at the event. The final Column in the table provides a response to the topic – these responses have been developed after the event and will be used to feedback to the community.

Topic	Types of comments or questions	Response
Dust concerns	<p>How will dust be managed?</p> <p>Prevention of sand drift in to homes (already a lot coming from the Ash Dams)</p> <p>Is there fly ash in Bird Lake? Is it safe?</p>	<p>During construction, water carts will be used at the borrow pit and along haul roads. Dust suppressant may also be used.</p>
Site access	<p>Will there be lots of new track and roads? Will this encourage people to drive in – hoon behaviour?</p> <p>New access road near Rifle Club or Pistol Club – Is it safe? Need to ensure safety to public when shooting (clearances)</p>	<p>Access roads will be for construction only. All access roads around Bird Lake will be ripped and seeded once construction is complete.</p> <p>Contractor will ensure that when red flags are up at the Rifle/Pistol Club, minimum clearance is maintained.</p>
Rehabilitation process	<p>How will the plants survive the harsh environment?</p> <p>Has the rehabilitation approach being used been proven elsewhere?</p> <p>Why only some areas and why some sections wider than others?</p> <p>How will the rehabilitation areas be maintained and monitored to improve plant survival?</p>	<p>Seeds of plants that have proven to survive in similar environments will be used.</p> <p>Seed spreading provides the best opportunity for success (compared to planting tubestock) but is dependent on favourable weather.</p> <p>The width of rehabilitation areas varies around the site because capping and seeding is only happening where the decaying algal mats (that are making the smell) are located. A monitoring program will be established, and additional seeding may occur, depending on how effective the first round of seeding is, which is dependent on the weather.</p>
Clontarf Street area and Pink Lake	<p>Concerns of odour and public health impacts from Pink Lake. Why is Bird Lake being done and not Pink Lake where more people live?</p> <p>Desire for Pink Lake to be rehabilitated</p>	<p>Funding for this project was provided by the State Government to support the remediation of the Lake following closure of the power station. Pink Lake is a naturally occurring part of the lake system, not directly impacted by the works from the power station.</p>
Aboriginal Heritage	<p>How is cultural engagement being undertaken?</p> <p>There are Stories important to Aboriginal community (eg about natural water flow)</p> <p>Are significant areas being covered?</p> <p>No works should take place on area with a Native Title Claim on it.</p>	<p>A desk top study of Aboriginal cultural heritage is being undertaken.</p> <p>No works are being undertaken on areas for which there are Native Title claims.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Engagement Group for Port Augusta is will be consulted regarding anthropological heritage and stories.</p>



Topic	Types of comments or questions	Response
Stormwater	<p>What happens at high tide if water can't get in or out?</p> <p>How will stormwater from Pink Lake be Managed?</p> <p>Stormwater movement near corner of Old power Station Road and Augusta Highway needs to be better managed to reduce erosion and stagnant water</p> <p>Does water/pollutants runoff from nearby properties into the lake?</p>	<p>The inlet and outlet of Bird Lake are not being affected by this project. They will remain as is to allow for the movement of water in and out of the lake.</p> <p>An area of erosion and stagnant water near corner of Old power Station Road and Augusta Highway will be investigated.</p> <p>Private property are required to appropriately manage stormwater from their sites.</p>
Highway area	<p>Will the area along the highway be beautified?</p> <p>Why is the area being rehabilitated along the highway so narrow?</p> <p>Is there an opportunity for the local community (eg Arid land Botanic Gardens) to be involved in planting along the Highway?</p>	<p>Rehabilitation works will occur along the highway. The mound will be removed and the strip between the highway and Bird Lake seeded. This area will extend to where the algal mat changes to a salt crust.</p> <p>The opportunity for community planting along the highway will be discussed with the project's Community Reference Group and Council's asset managers to determine if it is feasible.</p>
Viewing platform area	<p>Is a mess and is falling down</p> <p>Upgrade the toilets, seating and BBQ area for tourists</p> <p>Car club is looking for an area, could the area adjacent the viewing platform be suitable?</p>	<p>The three ageing timber structures adjacent to the lake will be removed as part of this project.</p> <p>Upgrading the toilets, seating and BBQ area or licence arrangements for clubs are not part of the scope of this project or within the funding provided by the State Government. These matters will be investigated by Council outside of this project.</p>
Migratory Birds	<p>Where will they land?</p>	<p>The project's rehabilitation works are not reducing habitat of migratory birds.</p> <p>The drying up of the lake following the closure of the power station has returned it to its natural cycle of wetting and drying.</p>



4.0 Event photos



Bird Lake Information Session



Poster of project area with community comments



Appendix A – Bird Lake Fact Sheet