
Request to be heard?: No - Copy of Directions and

Precinct: General

Full Name: Amy Hahs

Organisation: Urban Ecology in Action

Affected property: 4 Woodside Ct

Attachment 1: FishermansBendF

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Please see the accompanying document



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13 December 2017

Fishermans Bend Taskforce
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
East Melbourne VIC 8002

To whom it may concern,

Fishermans Bend draft Framework- Response to Draft for Consultation

As an urban ecology researcher and practitioner with many years of experience working in Melbourne, it was with great interest that I read through the Fishermans Bend draft Framework during the public consultation. Overall, I found it to be a comprehensive and well considered plan. I offer the following feedback and suggestions on two of the Sustainability Goals where I believe some additional details would be beneficial.

Sustainability goal 3- An inclusive and healthy community

Access to food is a key element of liveability. Some planning around optimal locations for supermarkets and other types of food providers (e.g. butchers/ greengrocers/ delis/ food cooperatives/ markets) as well as other basic services (e.g., chemists, Medical clinics, post offices, school and uniform suppliers) would make a valuable addition to the framework in ensuring that they match with the transport network and the other objectives in this goal.

Incorporating a sustainability lens to the planning, design, construction and operation of new or upgraded parks (Objective 3.6) can also be achieved in a similar way to strategy 7.2.1 (Require new developments to meet 4 Star Green Star Standards or equivalent now, and clearly indicate future increases to performance requirements), by requiring that all major open spaces (or potentially even all infrastructure) must meet a minimum level of accreditation using the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia's Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Tool (<https://isca.org.au/is-rating-scheme/about-is>)

Sustainability goal 6- A biodiverse community

The objectives and actions identified in this goal are important components of delivering the outcome of a biodiverse community. However, they don't capture or reflect the opportunities that biodiversity can bring to feeding in to the identity of the different precincts, or provide guidance around how biodiversity should respond to the context it is placed in (e.g. laneways in Montague offer a different opportunity for biodiversity compared to a new destination open space in the Employment precinct, due to both the size of the area and differences in the environmental conditions they are likely to encounter. Therefore, there are subtleties that probably aren't captured correctly in 6.1.5 if the words "for large tree canopy growth (such as medians)" is kept in. If 6.1.5 is shortened to "...-Plant native or indigenous trees where conditions are favourable" then it

better matches the spirit of the action, which is to look for native or indigenous species first, and if they don't work then look for introduced species that offer habitat benefits.

A second important consideration for ensuring the biodiversity outcomes are successful is to consider how biodiversity can contribute to enhancing the experiences of the residents and visitors to the area. Offering a portfolio of experiences will ensure that the biodiversity enhancements are compatible with and enhance the additional uses of the site. This is a relatively new area of work, but reflects growing understanding of the different ways that people can value the environment, and also that an individual person can prefer different compositions and arrangements of landscape elements depending on the activity they are undertaking. For example, the placement of mid-story vegetation at a sporting ground facility can enhance the experience at the site, but needs to be approached differently than the placement of mid-story vegetation in a park with a stronger biodiversity encounter focus. Therefore, a successful framework needs to identify how it will provide biodiversity actions that respond sensitively and creatively to context, and link in with other objectives in this framework, such as sense of place (Objectives 3.6 – 3.9)

A simple way to recognize this in the framework would be to:

- restate 6.2.2 "Design all public spaces to enhance biodiversity [and human experiences, through] the provision of a diversity of native and indigenous species"
- revisit the second sentence in 6.1.4 "Encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure such as green roofs and walls into new development to increase biodiversity. New private open space should be designed [to include (a minimum extent of) multi-layered] vegetation volume to support a rich ecosystem"

By ensuring a fine-scale biodiversity response is incorporated into the planning, design and construction, there is a much higher likelihood that it will become something valued and cared for by the new community of people in these precincts and hence indirectly the long-term health and viability of the biodiversity is more likely to be maintained through compliance with any secondary actions required to support the plants and animals that will also call this area 'home' (e.g. domestic cat curfews or dog control measures, vegetation maintenance/management activities, etc).

"More than 90% of the trees will be in good health by 2050" is an admirable target, but doesn't accurately reflect the outcomes that are likely to be created through the objectives and actions identified for Sustainability Goal 6. If this is a target, it would either require an additional objective (e.g., "6.3 Healthy and flourishing green infrastructure") with supporting actions such as getting the planting environment right (e.g. Metro Tunnel's Living Infrastructure Plan¹), or an alternative target should be sought, such as a landscape permeability² target for public and private greenspaces.

Thank you for considering this submission. Please let me know if you have any questions- my contact details are provided below. I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely,



Dr Amy Hahs
Director

¹ http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111832/Metro-Tunnel-Living-Infrastructure-Plan.pdf

² <https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/Documents/ModelingLandscapePermeability.pdf>



Urban Ecology in Action provide specialist urban ecology advice to state and local governments, industry, businesses and other organisations, and work collaboratively with them to deliver projects that sympathetically integrate biodiversity into urban landscapes, and help connect people with nature.

Urban Ecology in Action regularly form consortia with other consulting groups and partner with specialist organisations. Together, we deliver tailored solutions and exceptional outcomes for our clients. We are proud to work regularly with Loci Environment & Place Inc. as a Registered Provider in The Urban Well, Loci's advisory service for government, business and community.

Urban Ecology in Action is proud to be a member of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA). ISCA is the peak industry body for advancing and setting the industry standards in sustainability in infrastructure. Its mission is to Improve the productivity & liveability of industry & communities through sustainability in infrastructure.

Director and Principal Ecologist



Dr Amy Hahs is the founding Director and Principal Ecologist at *Urban Ecology in Action*. She is an urban ecologist with an established research career investigating how urban landscapes impact the local ecology. Now, as a specialist consultant, Amy works on a diverse range of building projects to develop green, healthy cities and towns, and conserve resilient ecosystems where we live and work.

Amy has extensive research experience in the field of urban ecology, working directly on projects studying how urban vegetation and habitat features influence the biodiversity in those spaces, how to conserve indigenous plants and animals, and how to incorporate positive biodiversity outcomes into the design and management of urban landscapes. She also has over 8 years of experience in providing advice and information related to urban ecology and biodiversity to local and state government agencies in Australia and overseas.

From small development projects, such as roadside planting audits and local parks, to largescale metropolitan infrastructure projects, such as building sub-city tunnels and planning development precincts, Amy's expert skills, deep knowledge and strong industry connections ensure a sustainable strategy will be developed to expand biodiversity in—and add value to—your important urban environments.

Intellectual Property & Knowledge Sharing

At *Urban Ecology in Action*, our passion for building better cities where people and nature co-exist, inspires us to share cutting-edge knowledge, ideas and advice with engaged and interested audiences.