

Community Webinar – Questions Raised

The Trust held a community webinar on Thursday 24th February 2022, with over 100 people registering to attend this virtual forum. The Trust is committed to ongoing community engagement as evidenced through the development of the Issues and Opportunity paper and the Land Management Plan.

The Trust acknowledges the diverse views within the communities of interest at Caulfield and is seeking to find a balance across this diverse spectrum of expectations and beliefs to ensure the Reserve is a place for everyone.

The presentation is available on the Trusts Web page.

Below is a Summary of the themes / questions and response from the evening:

Biodiversity, retention of the Southern Lake and dogs

The Trust acknowledges the diverse views expressed through the issues and opportunity paper and in developing the Land Management Plan and has had to find the right balance in planning for the future of the Reserve. Biodiversity is important and will be enhanced through the implementation of the Land Management Plan. Both water features have been constructed as water storage dams and are drawn down regularly in the irrigation of the racetracks and surrounds.

The Land Management Plan envisions a larger northern lake with storage of water and a wetland planned and managed for biodiversity outcomes.

The redrafting of the regulations for the Reserve will seek to provide clarity on the dog off lead areas, dog on lead areas and no dog areas to protect diversity, improve the experience for all and reduce conflicts.

Urban Heat Island and Shade

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve has been set aside for three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park. The Trust acknowledges the impacts of increased built form and hard surfaces on the local environment and climate. The Trust has sought to find a balance of protecting the sight lines for racing, providing irrigated turf areas for sport and shade trees where possible and seeking to locate car parks below other infrastructure minimising hard stand / paved areas where possible. Synthetic playing surfaces will enable car parking below grade and for these areas to be utilised for greater hours.

The Trust is mindful of the potential waste to land fill in the longer term and will seek to ensure recyclability is considered in any design and procurement process.

Will the Model Aeroplan Club be recognised as a user of the Reserve

The 2018 regulations introduced by the State Government removed reference to the flying of model aeroplanes at the Reserve. The Trust is seeking in the review of the regulations, to address this and allow the ongoing use of areas of the Reserve for this use. The use for model aeroplanes will need to be balanced with other users to ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Glen Eira has limited open space and the Reserve needs to be protected and opened up for community use

The Trust is aware that Glen Eira and Stonnington have the lowest areas of open space per person in Victoria and the Land Management Plan seeks to improve access to the Reserve through tunnels and the provision of facilities outside the track to support the local area and broader community access to the Reserve.

Access to the Reserve as a community park and recreation facilities is a feature of the Land Management Plan acknowledging this need.

The excellent access to public transport extends the catchment for the Reserve as a destination.

Cycling and Access around the precinct.

The Land Management Plan identifies the desire from the Community for a 24-hour, 7 day a week 'tan style' running track around the Reserve. This external track is proposed to be located on the surrounding road reserves, in Glenhuntly Reserve, within the proposed MRC freehold development and within the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve. The detailed design of this path will be undertaken with Council.

The Reserve will be well connected to the principal bicycle network, with a new path proposed along Queens Road, being delivered by the Level Crossing Removal Authority with Council. This path will connect into the broader cycling and walking network and will be co-ordinated by Council and the Precinct Structure Plan.

Implications for Water Table

The Trust is developing an integrated water management plan for the Reserve, seeking to address the capture, storage, and reuse of water efficiently and effectively at the Reserve. This includes the use of ground water, potable water, and recycled water, to ensure the water table is managed appropriately and minimise the reliance on potable (drinking) water.

Detailed modelling of the water table has been undertaken at the Reserve and for the Level Crossing Removal Authority works and will inform the development at the Reserve.

Loss of Heritage & Trees

The presentation summarises the approvals from the Trust, from the Department and the Minister for Planning. The Trust supported the Melbourne Racing Club works packages based on advice from the heritage consultants and in the expectation of the normal planning permit process. The Trusts approval sought significant replanting to be undertaken as part of the works in the northern precinct, particularly along the fence line.

How can community use be integrated with racing with extended closures for racing?

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve is set aside for three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park. The Land Management Plan seeks to deliver on the three purposes through providing for an enhanced racing experience, recreation and sports areas, events areas, and public park spaces.

The Trust is working with the Melbourne Racing Club in line with the *Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Act 2017*, the Ministers second reading speech introducing the Act to Parliament and the Lease with the Melbourne Racing Club, to improve access to the Reserve for everyone. The Melbourne Racing Club advise that they are closing access to the Track 5 days prior to a race meeting to undertake safety works and inspections. The Trust is seeking to reduce this period and achieve broader community outcomes. Access remains through the tunnels during this period.

Historically the Reserve has hosted 23 race days a year and is planned to host 22-night races. The Trust is working with the MRC to develop an access plan which will see the Reserve open earlier and not closed for whole race days. The Trust needs to work through the terms of the existing lease with the Melbourne Racing Club.

The second racetrack will be located immediately inside the main track and will be lit for night racing as part of the broader vision to activate the Reserve for the community in the evenings.

Climate Emergency and the need to commit to being carbon neutral

The Trust acknowledges climate change and the need for action. The Trust also acknowledges the significant health benefits derived from connection with nature and active communities. The Land Management Plan seeks to find a balance in the planning for the Reserve and will work to minimise the impacts of any works / development on the environment. The Trust will be seeking to work with Monash University, the Council and Community to ensure we can lead with best practice where possible.

The Reserve is well located to public transport, which has enabled the car parking to be minimised. Car parking will still be required by many to be able to participate in our community.

How many staff were sacked / made redundant through closing horse training at Caulfield?

The relocation of horse training to new, contemporary, and safer training facilities was part of a broader racing program. All trainers and their staff have been given the opportunity to relocate to one of several facilities recently developed.

Funding

The Melbourne Racing Club are funding the second track, new northern entrance, new administration building and day stalls from their own funds.

The Trust is working with Government to secure funding to unlock the potential of the Reserve through improving access & tunnels, through infrastructure works, regrading and walking / cycling paths. At this time the Trust is waiting on an announcement by Government on funding.

Ideally any announcement will include commencing on the public park infrastructure.

The Trust is currently running a request for proposal process which will seek to find partners with whom to design, develop and manage the Reserve as a place for everyone.

How much is the MRC paying in Rent?

The Melbourne Racing Club have been paying \$375,000 per annum in rent for the use of the Reserve. With the departure of training there is a trigger for a review of the rent which is currently underway.

What is the future of MRC owned assets outside the Reserve?

The future of the freehold land owned by the Melbourne Racing Club outside the Reserve will be the subject of the Caulfield Station Precinct Structure Plan process currently underway with Council. The Trust through the Land Management Plan, has expressed a view on how areas interact with the Reserve and how these could be managed and developed into the future including historic stables, the access roads, etc.