

Railway Dam Reserve 15782 Williams Location 15727

## FUTURE MANAGEMENT REPORT

JULY 2021

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report has been prepared to provide a direction for future management and use of the Railway Dam Reserve 15782 Williams Location 15727.

The principal objectives of this Report is to:

1. Instil a vision for Crown Reserve 15782 Williams Location 15727 centred on:
  - Collating the necessary background information and site details for better informed decision making in planning the establishment, maintenance, monitoring and management of the reserve;
  - Managing the respective uses, facilities and activities within the Reserve, whilst taking into account aesthetic character and environmental context, servicing requirements, strong community associations and needs;
  - Ensuring the provision of facilities accord with affordability and sustainability principles within the scope and capacity of the Shire over the long term:
  - Identify a vision and the values for the Railway Dam Reserve;
  - Set out the strategic direction for future management of the Railway Dam Reserve;
  - Out line management actions for the Railway Dam Reserve;
  - Propose a concept master plan for future development ;

In drafting, this report there has been an attempt to:

- review relevant background information;
- assess the site's characteristics, existing uses, context and constraints;
- identify compatibilities and synergies between user groups and sharing of facilities;

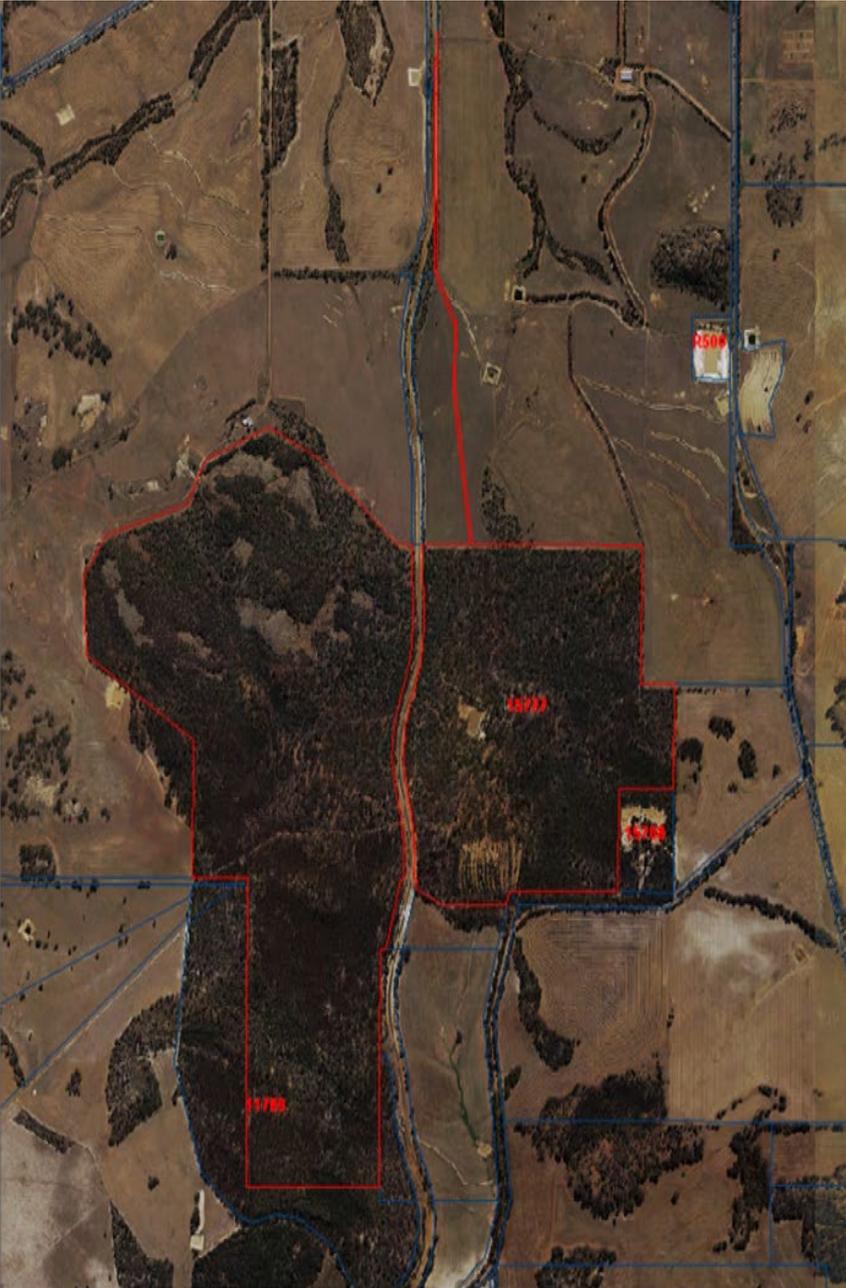
## Land

The land to which this report applies is Crown Reserve 15782 Williams Location 15727 vested as water supply and commonly known as the Railway Dam Reserve.

The original dam was built in 1912 and was first used in July 1913. The water was gravity fed to the railway water tank for supply to the steam trains. The railway water supply was later reticulated to a few Wickepin town outlets, which included the doctor's house and the Hospital. During the depression, labourers stoned the drains.

The reserve vesting order was transferred by the then Minister for Lands from the Water Authority to the Shire of Wickepin on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1994.

Legal flag <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-current <input type="checkbox"/>
Assess No. A6745	Old No. <input type="text"/>
Owner SHIRE OF WICKEPIN	
Property Address LOT 15727 BROOKS ROAD WICKEPIN WA 6370	
House <input type="text"/>	Lot 15727
Street BROOKS	
Type ROAD	
Suburb WICKEPIN	6370
Ward 03	WICKEPIN
Area <input type="text"/>	
Locality <input type="text"/>	
Zoning <input type="text"/>	
Land use R04	RESERVE
VEN Number <input type="text"/>	
Pens No <input type="text"/>	
Valuation Details	
Gross Rental Value <input type="text"/>	Unimproved Value <input type="text"/>



Legend	X
<input type="checkbox"/> Location Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> GRV or UV	
<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Usage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dogs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roads	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wickepin_lga.ecw	
wickepin_lga.ecw	



DOLA

Department of LAND ADMINISTRATION

Your Ref: T7072A

MIDLAND SQUARE, MIDLAND  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
Postal Address: PO Box 2222  
Midland, Western Australia 6056

*o/m 18/11/94 6.1.8*

Our Ref: 5399/914 NB:ND

Telephone: 273 7286

Enquiries: N. BUKHARY

SHIRE CLERK  
SHIRE OF WICKEPIN  
PO BOX 19  
WICKEPIN WA 6370



Dear Sir

RESERVE NO. 15782

I advise for your information that Executive Council has:-

1. issued Orders in Council, under Section 34B(1) of the Land Act 1933, revoking the Order in Council gazetted on 15 April 1988 vesting Reserve No. 15782 (Williams Location 15727) in the Water Authority of Western Australia for the designated purpose of "Water Supply".
2. issued Orders in Council under Section 33(2) of the said Act directing that Reserve No. 15782 (Williams Location 15727) shall vest in the Shire of Wickepin for the designated purpose of "Water Supply".

Notice to this effect was published in the Government Gazette dated 7 October 1994 and I enclose a print showing the said reserve with the relevant Vesting Order.

Yours faithfully

*N. Bukhary*  
For: PUMPHREY

MANAGER  
ACQUISITIONS, ROADS AND RESERVES  
LAND OPERATIONS DIVISION

October 17, 1994

Enc

10NDLP26

**LAND ACT 1933**

**(Section 33(2))**

**VESTING ORDER**

DOLA File 5399/914.

I, Major General Philip Michael Jeffery, Officer of the Order of Australia, Military Cross, Governor of the State of Western Australia, do hereby in pursuance of the powers enabling me in that behalf, and under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 33(2) of the Land Act 1933, direct that Reserve No 15782 (Williams Location 15727)

vest in and be held by the Shire of Wickepin

for the designated purpose of "Water Supply".

Given under my hand, at Perth

this            day  
11 OCT 1994  
of                19



**GOVERNOR**

The Railway Dam Reserve is an important water supply with bushland open space area, managed by the Shire of Wickepin. The Shire of Wickepin expanded the Railway Dam in 2021 to cater for more water to supplement councils reuse water scheme for the Wickepin Sports Ground.

There is an area set aside within the Railway Dam Reserve for gravel extraction. This is for use on Councils road network.

Following is an extract from the shire of Wickepin Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places

**MUNICIPAL INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PLACES** Shire of Wickepin  
**Reference No. 128**

**Place name:** Railway dam                      **Former or other names:**  
**Type of Place:** SITE  
**Address of Property:** Wickepin

**Land Description:** Lot      Loc No. 15782. Plan/Diagram      C.T. Vol.      Fol.  
**Map References:** Wickepin  
**Owner:** WAWA      **Address:**      **Phone:**      **Fax:**  
**Occupier:**      **Public Access:** restricted  
**Construction Date:** 1912      **Alterations/Additions Date:**  
**Architect:**      **Builder:**      **Associated Persons:**  
**Original Use:** dam      **Current Use:** dam  
**Description:** Earthen dam; capacity 5 million gallons, catchment area 290 acres.  
**Condition:**      **Authenticity:**      **Integrity:**

**Historical theme:** TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT OCCUPATION The earthen dam was built when the Railway came through to Wickepin because the steam trains needed a plentiful supply of water. The work commenced in February 1912, and the dam was first used in July 1913. The dam water was gravity fed to railway water tank for supply to the trains. The Railway dam water supply was later reticulated to a few Wickepin town outlets which included the Doctor's house and the Hospital. During the Depression, labourers stoned up the drains.

**Statement of significance:** The site is significant in terms of the railway and subsequent settlement and transport, and the water supply for the town. The association with the Depression work force is of considerable significance.

**Conservation Recommendation:** 5  
**Existing Heritage Classification:** none  
**Bibliography:** WAGR Annual Reports  
**Date of Assessment:** November 1995      **Revision date:**

**Category 5**

**An historic site without built features.**

Recommend that the site is recognised by means of a plaque, place name, interpretive material, or an architectural or urban design, in due course.

The *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA) is Western Australia's primary legislation dealing with the management of Crown land. The LAA is administered by the Minister for Lands (Minister), assisted by

the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). Part 4 of the LAA provides for the creation, administration and management of reserves over Crown land/waters.

*Land Administration Act 1997*

**51. Cancelling, changing etc. reserves, Minister's powers as to**

*Subject to sections 42, 43 and 45, the Minister may by order cancel, change the purpose of or amend the boundaries of, or the locations or lots comprising, a reserve.*

## Purpose

This report has been prepared to help guide Councils decision in requesting the Minister for Lands to amend the existing reserve vesting order from Water Supply to Water Supply and Recreation.

The report where possible is for the alignment of existing and proposed uses based on synergy, interface, and a practical level of compatibility.

This has involved consideration being given to:

- Broad community benefit
- Current and projected future uses
- Availability of utilities and services
- Retention of existing remnant vegetation and proposed landscaping
- Visual and social amenity

## Current Use

The current use of the reserve is a water supply to supplement reuse water scheme at the Wickepin Sporting Oval in Campbell Street Wickepin. The original dam was built in 1912 and was first used in July 1913. The water was gravity fed to the railway water tank for supply to the steam trains. The railway water supply was later reticulated to a few Wickepin town outlets, which included the doctor's house and the Hospital. During the depression, labourers stoned the drains. Council extended the volume of the existing railway dam in 2021.

## Future Recreation Uses

The reserve could be utilised for the following recreation pursuits.

- Walk Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Wildflower Walk trails

Signage, to formalise entries into the Railway Dam, need to be formulated and made obvious for visitors and thereby discouraging entry via blocked off areas similar to map below.



The reserve would need to be split into two areas as the main Railway Line splits the reserve and access through the railway reserve would be an issue for Walkers and vehicles. Vehicles would need to be discouraged from driving through the reserve and kept to parking areas only. Areas would need to be put aside for the provision of seating etc such as the following.



The cost for these structures would be approximately

**Shelters**

Supply and install 1 x 5m x5m

Powder coated skillion shelter.

Colour bond roofing and louvres.

Posts to be concreted in the ground and shelter erected once concrete is dry.

**\$9,130.00 each installed**

**BBQ's**

Supply and deliver 1 x single cabinet gas BBQ (SCPC8) powder coated.

**\$5,731.00**

**TABLES AND CHAIRS (WHEELCHAIR SETTING)**

Supply and deliver 1 x interactive wheelchair setting.

**\$1450 ex gst, plus delivery \$265 ex gst**

**SOLAR LIGHT AND POSTS**

Sunflare 30w LED solar light plus galvanised pole

**\$625.00 each, plus \$169 per pole.**

**Concrete Pads**

5x5 meter concrete pad

**\$1,000**

Council would also need to undertake a full and comprehensive survey of the reserve to see what was within the reserve, where each heritage drain is present, and where the other drainage channels run. The channels are generally in heavily wooded areas so they might not necessarily show up in photos but having the channel locations overlaid on up to date aerial imagery will provide some context as to where the channels are in relation to nearby features, roads, railways etc.

Scope of works required would be:

- Undertake an aerial survey of the area within which heritage drains are present.
- Process the aerial survey to produce an ortho photo suitable to be used as a background image with drainage survey data overlaid.
- Undertake a conventional GPS survey of the heritage channel paths leading to the town dam including silt traps and a dam outline.
- Process all survey data and produce an A0 (large size) plot with survey data overlaid.
- Submit the A0 plot to the Shire for comments and inclusions and we have allowed for 1 round of incorporating comments on the plot.

The breakdown of the fee estimates are.

<b>Shire of Wickepin - Town Water Asset Management Survey</b>					
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1</b>	Surveyor 1 - Drone Survey	HR	3	\$ 120.00	\$ 360.00
<b>2</b>	Surveyor 2 - Survey Control	HR	3	\$ 120.00	\$ 360.00
<b>3</b>	Surveyor 1 - Channel and Dam Survey	HR	17	\$ 120.00	\$ 2,040.00
<b>4</b>	Surveyor 2 - Channel and Dam Survey	HR	17	\$ 120.00	\$ 2,040.00
<b>5</b>	Accomm/Meals	ea	2	\$ 180.00	\$ 360.00
<b>6</b>	Processing Drone Data	HR	8	\$ 120.00	\$ 960.00

7	Processing Survey Data	HR	3	\$ 120.00	\$ 360.00
8	A0 Plots and Reports	SUM	1	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
9	Incorporate Comments and new plots	SUM	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
All rates and prices exclude GST				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,130.00</b>



### Vegetation Retention/Enhancement and Fire Management

The following vegetation and fire management actions would need to be put in place:

- Un-designated areas of Reserve 15782 to be retained and managed as remnant bushland.
- Assessment of 'dangerous' trees with necessary pruning to be performed.
- Retention and maintenance of mature trees with the broader reserve for shade and aesthetics purposes, where possible.
- Maintenance grading of firebreaks to be implemented in September each year.
- Assessment and where necessary prescribed burning of remnant native vegetation within the Reserve to be arranged by the Shire's Chief Bushfire Control Officer every 5 years.

Council would need to budget around \$25,000 to clean out and excavate the existing drains once located.

The grading of the internal roads would be around \$5,000 as Council would be able to undertake this task.

### Characteristics of Boundaries/Tenures and Management of Adjoining Land

The surrounding land-use to the Reserve generally consists of Arable broad acre farmland adjoining all the boundaries of the reserve.

### Community Consultation

The following advert was placed in the in the Narrogin Observer and the Watershed.



**SHIRE OF WICKEPIN**

The Shire of Wickepin is seeking public comment on a proposal to request the Minister for Lands to amend the vesting order for Reserve 15782 (Williams Location 15727 Railway Dam Wickepin) to allow for recreational pursuits including camping

Written comments are to be submitted via email to [admin@wickepin.wa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wickepin.wa.gov.au) or mailed to **PO Box 19, Wickepin WA 6370**

Submissions on the proposal must be made in writing and lodged with the undersigned on or before 5pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

If you have any questions about this application, please call Mark Hook at the shire of Wickepin 08 9888 1005

**MARK HOOK  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

At the close of the submission period, the CEO had received 11 submissions of these eleven submissions 3 Support the proposal 6 Object to the proposal and 2 are Indifferent.

The breakdown of the comments received are as follows.

<b>Support the Proposal</b>
I support the proposal
I am emailing about the proposal of railway dam Wickepin to allow recreational pursuits including camping. I strongly believe this is a great idea. Being able to go bush walking, camping, bird watching are great things to do in our community and there are not enough areas to do these activities. Would Also be good to allow the use of Off-road motorbikes in this area as well.
I refer to the proposed development of the Railway Dam reserve, for recreational pursuits as advertised in the Narrogin Observer. We support the proposal to develop this area for an alternative camping and picnic site as this type of facility has become very popular for local tourism especially at this time. Most Shires have this type of facility available for RV's and caravans and we feel it will add another dimension to the Shires tourism options. As the shire would be aware this area is a beautiful wildflower site in spring which is one of the main attractions of our shire. The Railway dam reserve is also quite an historic region, I have only recently come across some information relating

to its history. We do however have concerns regarding the safety aspects of this development, particularly from a fire access point of view. It is imperative that fire and emergency vehicles have easy access in the event of a fire or accident. As far as we are aware there is only one road into the reserve, this would need to be addressed as a matter of priority so there is access in and out in the event of fire. It is essential that campers are able to evacuate safely if required and fire fighters can entry the area easily. There would also need to be ongoing maintenance in the form of back burns to protect local land holder's property. Tim is happy to speak further on this matter if required. The improvement of the camping facilities so the beauty of the reserve can be maintained is also essential. To have this area damaged or just left in a mess would be unacceptable which means regular monitoring will need to occur to ensure this doesn't happen. In recent years Wickepin has developed history and art attractions that enhance a visit to the Albert Facey Homestead for the self-drive tourist. Encouraging visitors to stop in our town longer with additional accommodation options adds to our town's economy. I am happy to speak further on the tourist element of this proposal. We wish the shire well with this endeavour.

### **Object to the Proposal**

I would like to say No to the recreational pursuits including camping at the Railway dam Wickepin as us our children and grandkids always go out there winter time riding motor bikes and a BBQ

AS a ratepayer and adjoining landowner of Reserve 15782 I object to the proposed change of vesting to allow for recreation and camping. As I am deeply concerned about the real risk to public safety in the event of bushfires and accidents and also to the lack of consultation with local emergency services personnel and adjoining neighbours who will have to deal with these issues. Hope the matter can be discussed at yor next meeting with more suitable outcome.

In response to the proposal to request to the Member of Lands to amend the vesting order for Reserve 15782 to allow for recreational pursuits and camping, please consider the following concerns;

1. Fire risks.

We would like to draw attention to the multiple number of campfires which have been left burning or unattended in the past. Many of these have then started fires which the local land holders discover and have had to extinguish. This could pose a risk to the reserve, surrounding farm land and Wickepin town due to its proximity. At least four fires have got away through the reserve requiring further assistance. We believe fire breaks are not the solution to stop the fires escaping the reserve. In our view the increased number of visitors and camping, will only increase the risk of an already growing problem. In the past this has not been able to be managed.

2. During harvest bans/movement bans restricted burning periods and permit burning periods we have observed people not adhering to these restrictions in the reserve (eg hooning, 4 wheel driving, camp fires) Would this be policed and how would people be made aware?

3. The constant motor bikes and hooning contributes to the fire risk, road damage, noise and possible danger to campers. Approximately 11 abandoned vehicles have been discarded in the past after being destroyed whilst hooning in the area.

4. Accessibility for emergency services may pose a problem.

5. The only access into the proposed campground is via Brooks Rd. Being an essential RAV 4 route, there are road trains and oversize machinery using the road regularly. Therefore, this could pose a safety risk to those entering/exiting the camp grounds with caravans or towing rec vehicles. For safety, Brooks Rd (being a minor road) would require increased regular maintenance and upgrades due to the increased traffic.

6. The proposed camping/recreation area is closely surrounded by farming land. There is already damage to fences, vandalism, theft and trespass occurring regularly. This behaviour could increase due to the extra visitors in the area.

7. The regular shooting in the area which does not seem to be controlled, is of major concern and danger to campers.
8. Environmental impact on the bush. Biodiversity risk.
9. Increase of domestic animals and their impact on flora and fauna as well as surrounding livestock. (This is already an existing problem).
10. Currently there is no ablutions, drinking water or waste management and rubbish removal. Rubbish has been a problem in the past. If these issues are not dealt with, it may be unattractive to campers and surrounding farmland contaminated. On enquiring about these issues it was mentioned that campers would probably be self-contained. This is not always the case.
11. The western side of the reserve (where the rock is situated) is land locked and is only accessible by crossing ARC infrastructure corridor. Entry across and in this corridor is prohibited and liable to prosecution, therefore this side of the reserve is unable to be accessed. (Photo attached).
12. We understand from conversations regarding the purpose of the proposed campground it is to bring money and visitors to the town. Does this mean the camping will have a fee? The shire already has money invested in a RV stop over and toilet amenities in Wickepin. Also caravan parks in Wickepin, Harrismith and Yealering, the Lake at Yealering, and Toolibin Lake just to name a few. We are not opposed to bringing money into our lovely shire, but would it not make sense to better use these fantastic existing facilities. This would eliminate the expense of preparing the rec and camp area and ongoing costs to maintain the grounds and roads.
13. Agriculture is the main enterprise within the shire. As revenue generated from this proposal will be limited, consideration to the agricultural industry and the safety of the town should be a priority.

Therefore this proposal should not be approved.

I Object to the Proposal to request the Minister for Lands to amend the vesting order for this reserve to allow for recreational pursuits, including camping. There needs to be a full management plan undertaken prior to the reserve being amended into Recreation that covers all the fire implications with persons having camp fires etc, The management plan should include all the fire mitigations issues that would need to be carried out if there was Overnight Camping allowed on the reserve. This should include strategic fire breaks adjoining the land Owner's fire breaks to increase the width of them (ie increase width to 5 metres). If camping were to be allowed, the Reserve HAS to be able to be closed on Harvest Ban Days to keep campers out, and this includes over the Easter and Christmas periods where an automatic Harvest Ban and Fire Ban applies throughout the shire on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday of each year. The "Point of Interest" is approximately 1 km from the Railway Dam, so people are going to drive over, thus create more problems. There are NO fire breaks surrounding our adjoining boundary. This letter was written on 24th November, 2020, which had a Harvest and Movement of Vehicle in Paddock Ban put in place by the local Fire Control Officer's. The temperature is 40 degrees C and the wind is 35kph. Imagine having stray tourists going through this bush reserve on this day! As this site is a point of interest on the Shire's Face book page, I think all of the above need to be addressed, even if it doesn't get opened up.

We are Not in Favour of Reserve 15782 to be amended from its current status of "Water Storage" to "Recreation including Camping". This reserve is made up of 283 Ha (over 700 acres) of thick, virgin bushland with No gazetted road accesses throughout, or surrounding, the bush apart from the Railway Corridor which cuts the area in half; No boundary firebreaks; and is a nominated Bush Fire Prone area on the DFES WA map. Should this area be opened up for "Recreational Pursuits including Camping", there is a huge risk from the public safety point of view with extremely limited access for emergency service vehicles to be able to attend any incident that may, and will, occur. Two recent incidents of bushfire, and one of a vehicle crash requiring the RAC helicopter, in this inaccessible area has already proven the cost and inconvenience to local emergency service

personnel, shire plant, equipment and staff and adjoining landowners - not to mention long term damage to the environment. The long term cost to Council for the provision of public amenities to keep this area pristine, installation of adequate firebreaks, and the installation of a road access network (both In and Out, Not just "one way") - for the allowance of access for emergency service vehicles when needed, as well as for any "campers and relevant vehicles" to escape should the necessity arise - is a cost that Council does not need to make. Within the Wickepin Shire, there are such natural phenomenon's as Toolibin Lake Nature Reserve (Home to more species of Waterbird than any other Wetland in South Western Australia); Lake Yealering (Recently awarded regenerative funding from Living Lakes and State Government Infrastructure funding) and Malyalling Rock (Bushwalking, Bird watching and Wildflower opportunities)- which are ALREADY geared up and accessible as tourist, recreational and camping sites; which are within easy driving distance from the 3 caravan parks and RV stops in the Shire; and which should be promoted as such by Council. Within our travels through other shires, we have noticed that they have actually CLOSED to the public, any camping in their Bush Blocks (eg Perenjori Shire) -with NO CAMPING signs erected strategically in the entrances, and the tracks blocked off to vehicle traffic. Before any decision is made with regards to allowing "Recreational Pursuits including Camping" within Reserve 15782, we strongly suggest that Council undertake consultation with the local Emergency Service Volunteer Personnel (both Bush Fire Brigade and Ambulance), DFES and EPA with respect to a Management Plan for the Reserve, as They will be the ones that will have to attend and manage any incidents - should and when they occur. We are of the opinion that this proposed request should NOT proceed, and that the Vesting Order of Reserve 15782 should remain "As-Is".

I am responding to a small ad in the Narrogin observer regarding the Shire of Wickepin seeking public comment on a proposal to request the Minister for Lands to amend the vesting order for Reserve 15782 (The Railway Dam) to allow for recreational pursuits including camping. I am not sure how far advanced your plans are for the use of the Railway Dam or what your budget may be in regards to facilities for potential campers, but being campers ourselves my minds eye immediately pictures roadside stopping areas and camping areas where there are no facilities (toilets) or rubbish bins provided and the many little piles of toilet paper, human faeces, and much rubbish left around so that to camp, the area needs to be tidied up first. So I guess I have questions regarding the management of waste and the facilities to be provided in the area being considered for recreational use and camping .I also have questions regarding the value to the Wickepin Community from changing the status of the Railway Dam to Recreational use. If the area is to be "free camping" I consider that there would be minimal value returned to the community, as those that choose to free camp (ourselves included) are mostly self-sufficient, and do not need to spend money in the towns except to purchase fuel occasionally. No doubt you are aware that there is regularly folks using firearms in the area of the Railway Dam, it can be heard from the town, and is quite frightening to some town folks, and pets. I would be concerned that if there were campers in the area and people were shooting around them not knowing there were campers there (?) it would be very frightening for the campers, and could potentially cause an emergency .I have had conversations regarding the use of the Railway Dam area for camping with my adult children and considered what would be the value that would be returned to the Wickepin community from Recreational use of the Railway Dam. We consider that an attraction to the town to invite more people to stop in the town and spend more time in Wickepin would be more fruitful to the community, and provide value to the locals for recreation, social events and a meeting place for the local children/teens to meet and play. For example, Katanning has recently upgraded the Giants playground, it is always well utilised, lots of people stop there, it is near public toilets, and there is good food and coffee options in the townsite. It has also become an end destination, rather than a quick stop over. Williams have recently upgraded their local playground on Albany Highway, also now a destination in its own right, where families meet up and enjoy the facilities, often coming from afar, and enjoying what the town has to offer. Kulin has the water slide, people come from near and far to enjoy what the town has to offer, which includes the Tin Horse Highway and the

facilities in the townsite, staying several nights in the areas provided for free camping with facilities available. Could the Wickepin Shire consider an attraction in the town that could cater for all children, rather than just little children, that would attract people to come to Wickepin, stop, stay overnight in the current facilities available, being the caravan park, and the overnight stay area in the townsite? Perhaps a large nature playground or similar, to cater for older children, encompassing picnic areas and other features and themes that would benefit travellers, encourage stop overs, and provide much value to the locals who currently take their children to Kulin, Williams and Katanning for example for recreation other than sport. Not at all relevant to the Railway Dam, but I have been considering discussing with the Shire the town public facilities for some time. Could the Shire please consider having hand soap and paper hand towel in the existing public facilities opposite the Newsagency, being an extensive traveller, especially in the current climate of Covid 19, I would consider that it is appropriate to provide soap at least, and preferably hand towel also. Good public facilities in the town, also encourage folks to stop, take some time to stretch, and potentially spend some money in the town. People who travel regularly get to know where the best facilities are to stop, stretch, get lunch, refuel etc. Thanks for considering my opinion and request.

#### **Indifferent**

I am getting in touch to provide comment on behalf of Arc Infrastructure regarding the proposed amendment to the vesting order for Reserve 15782 to allow for recreational pursuits and camping on the reserve at Wickepin. As you may be aware, Arc Infrastructure manages the State's freight rail network in WA and has private Rail Corridor adjoining the reserve. Arc has recently been approached by neighbouring landowners with concerns about the potential increase of people in the area resulting in increased likelihood of trespass through the rail reserve and adjoining private properties. One landowner has noted that there are already a considerable number of people ignoring signage and accessing the rail reserve, four wheel driving, shooting signs and on occasion livestock. There are additional concerns that campers may be encouraged to trespass through Rail Corridor in order to reach the nearby rock formation on the western side without using designated rail crossings. Arc Infrastructure requests that the above comments and concerns are noted by the Shire when further considering the amendment.

We are writing to you concerning the proposed development of the Railway Dam Reserve. It is good to see the Shire giving consideration to actively preserve the water catchment drainage rock work as it is an important history of that era. We understand that the new proposal for the area will be encouraging camping and as a stopover point for visitors to the area. We, as land holders do have concerns with the aspect of fires starting from campers, and given that we are down wind in a south/south westerly direction from Railway Dam consider it could become more of a risk. Currently the area seems to be mainly used by 4 x 4 enthusiasts, impacting on the landscape and the vegetation in the area. As some of the area has been altered using the Shire machinery and perhaps with the Shire's permission to construct 4 wheel drive tracks, it is of concern if the Shire then has become liable for any injuries that may occur. The use of firearms in the area currently is of great concern and could result in significant undesirable consequences. People using firearms are breaching the condition of their firearms licence by using in the Railway Dam Reserve. So currently the area is not managed at all well and perhaps it is only a matter of time before a serious accident happens. Our question is; will developing the Reserve result in a significant improvement in the management and protection of its historic features, including the flora and fauna? The Railway Dam Reserve needs to have an improved management plan, which we would be keen to be a part of as we believe it is a very valuable historic aspect of the Wickepin Shire.

## Conclusion and Future Considerations

The Railway Dam Reserve has the potential to become a frequented leisure site for local residents and tourists. By implementing a Railway Dam Reserve management plan, the site will be preserved and further enhanced thus creating a native vegetation escape. Local residents will appreciate the improved picnic areas and benefit from the educational information regarding the history and nature of the Railway Dam Reserve.

As part of the management plan process, council would need to consider a possible action plan such as the one outlined below.

The action plan provides a systematic process to assist in prioritising management measures required at the Railway Dam Reserve.

AREA	ACTION	MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent all access to 4WDs and dirt bikes around the perimeter of the reserve (using a combination of gates with padlocks, fencing, planting and bollards)</li> <li>• Prevent all vehicle access beyond the car park area (using bollards or fencing)</li> <li>• Put up signage prohibiting 4WD and dirt bikes within the reserve and signage prohibiting vehicles to drive beyond the car park</li> <li>• Send a mail out or article in newspaper notifying residents of the rehabilitation at the reserve and therefore 4WD driving is prohibited</li> <li>• Undertake structural safety assessment of all current internal infrastructures, determine structural integrity and any further actions or refurbishments required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly inspections of reserve boundary to ensure access is securely blocked for first 6 months and then quarterly inspections</li> <li>• Quarterly inspections of signage for damage or vandalism</li> </ul>
Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalise walking trails by installing maps and signage</li> <li>• Prohibiting visitors to walk off the tracks and educating them of the importance of sticking to tracks.</li> <li>• Provide signage that dogs need to be on a leash and that dog waste must be collected and placed in bins</li> <li>• Develop a design for parking/picnic area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly inspections of walking trails to ensure pedestrians are adhering to pathways (for first 6 months and then quarterly inspections)</li> <li>• Quarterly maintenance of walking trails and signage</li> <li>• Fortnightly emptying of bins (depending on peak visitor</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for funding for parking/picnic area/walk trail upgrade and rehabilitation of bare areas</li> <li>• Provide bins around car park and picnic area and a dog waste bag dispenser</li> </ul>	season and volumes of waste being produced)
Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the network of drains leading into the dam and ensure water flow into the dam is established (and not being diverted around the dam)</li> <li>• Assess the potential of improving water flow into the dam from natural gravity fed catchments</li> <li>• Develop a water management plan which includes water quality monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly inspections of drains during the wet season to ensure water flow into the dam</li> <li>• Quarterly inspections of signage for damage or vandalism</li> <li>• Seasonal water quality monitoring</li> <li>• Monthly inspections of drainage control measures</li> </ul>
Weed Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a weed management plan for the reserve and ongoing weed control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up spraying of weeds monthly – and then 6 monthly (or after heavy rains)</li> <li>• Adhere to weed management plan</li> </ul>
Fire Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Fire breaks within the reserve through from the 1 November – 1 May (Bushfire Season)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to fire break requirements</li> <li>• Completion of fire breaks and fuel hazard reduction measures prior to the start of the summer bushfire season (by 1 November each year)</li> </ul>

