



Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9938 6809
DX 210098
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

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Mr Stephen Davis
Structure Planning Manager
Victorian Planning Authority
Level 29, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE, VIC, 3000.

Dear Stephen,

Re: Draft Lindum Vale Precinct Structure Plan PSP

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Lindum Vale Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) recently exhibited by the Victorian Planning Authority.

The Integrated Water Management (IWM) Branch at DELWP has reviewed the draft PSP and would provide this submission in relation to the integrated water management issues.

The IWM Branch is aware of the drainage approach set out in the PSP. Following discussions with the City of Hume, and following consideration of the alternative drainage solution prepared for them by Stormy Water Solutions (SWS) consultants, the IWM Branch offers the following comments.

It is understood that the City of Hume engaged SWS to look at how an alternative drainage solution could meet the drainage requirements of the PSP. This would include delivering a system that would passively irrigate the open space network and incorporate the most appropriate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) measures to benefit the ongoing health of one of the major biodiversity assets in the Precinct, being the remnant River Red Gums.

It is also understood that this approach would achieve this outcome by replicating the natural watercourse and flow regime through the PSP area and treating the open space areas, particularly those with large stands of River Red Gums as artificial floodplains. It would require the subdivision to be designed to direct storm water to the open space network and the installation of an environmental culvert on Mickleham Road just north of the local access street, but would not require changes to the future urban structure.

The SWS drainage proposal also captures the opportunity to dispose of and treat some of the excess runoff through a decentralised solution. This would reduce the size of the retarding infrastructure required by the standard drainage solution and the negative impacts of urban development on the water cycle.

The IWM Branch understands that the SWS concept also minimises the need for additional fill across the site and that, whilst detailed costings are not (possible until the subdivision detail is known, it is considered likely to be within the same cost range as the drainage outcome proposed in the PSP.

A key issue would be the need to preserve the opportunity for this alternate drainage proposal to be fully considered and costed when the subdivision plans are produced. It is the preservation of this opportunity that the IWM Branch is particularly keen to have occur.

This consideration would be in line with the overall investigation of opportunities for the integration of stormwater management with the open space network and biodiversity protection, as outlined in the PSP Practice Note for Integrated Water Management.

Additionally, and in accordance with the Practice Note, the SWS concept produces an Integrated Water Management (IWM) solution that is particularly “area specific and tailored to the needs of the precinct”. Further, the SWS concept responds to key objectives in the State Government’s recently released *Water for Victoria*, which seeks to “better align water management, drainage, urban design and planning to deliver broader resilience and liveability results for our communities” (Section 5.4).

The IWM Branch would be happy to discuss these issues further, and inquiries can be addressed to Dennis Corbett, Senior Project Manager, Integrated Water Management at dennis.corbett@delwp.vic.gov.au and on 9938 6809.

Yours sincerely



Abby Farmer

Manager, Integrated Water Management - Metropolitan