

Jones Bay Nutrient Stripping Wetland and McMillan Street / Phillips Lane Upgrade

Fact Sheet 1

November 2019

East Gippsland Shire Council is working to improve drainage in the Lucknow area south of the Princes Highway. This will address the area's needs and considers the future development of the McMillan Street and Phillips Lane industrial area.

The existing drainage system

The site of the planned wetland is relatively flat and generally falls from west to east. During prolonged and intense rain floodwater flows along McMillan Street with ponding regularly seen. This is mostly due to the lack of a formal drainage system or defined outlet for the catchment in McMillan Street and Phillips Lane. Overland flows move into the rural land east of Phillips Lane and heads towards the Princes Highway culvert. Water then travels through farms along a natural drainage line which is often a series of small ponds, and eventually meets Middle Creek. There is no clear drainage line where water enters Jones Bay.

What improvements are planned?

We have a concept design to drain the Jones Bay eastern catchment to solve drainage issues.

This council-led project evolved from recent detailed design work associated with proposed road upgrades in Hadfield and McMillan streets, Lucknow. The project also links to other council strategic directions including its commitment to maintain and improve the region's environmental values and minimise the built environment's impact on the natural environment, in this case the local waterways and ultimately the Gippsland Lakes.

The wetland will enable council to complete the road upgrades in McMillan Street and Phillips Lane.

After a tender process, Council awarded the contract to Cranes Asphalt and Bitumen Sealing at its September meeting.

Who will be responsible for maintenance?

Council will maintain the constructed wetland, doing work such as inspections, managing weeds and pests, and removing silt.

What is Water Sensitive Urban Design?

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) has a range of benefits, such as a clean environment, lush vegetation, improved amenity for recreation and healthy habitat for native birds and wildlife.

WSUD uses better urban planning and design to reuse stormwater. It also reduces water impacts by slowing, capturing, and treating stormwater. The aim is to reduce high volume nutrient and sediment loads reaching waterways and the Gippsland Lakes.

WSUD includes a range of treatment options like rainwater tanks, raingardens, swales, sediment ponds, and wetlands.

What approvals are required?

A Works on Waterways Licence has been issued by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

A native vegetation assessment has been undertaken and there is no trigger for a planning permit application. Vegetation along Phillips Lane will need to be removed to facilitate the road upgrade. The road safety exemption for low impact construction works applies, an offset for the loss of native vegetation will be established.

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How are the projects funded?

The projects are funded by Council and other government sources, including the Victorian Government Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee and the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program.

How will traditional owners be involved?

Council has made a statement of intent to engage with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), in the Wetland Project's construction and landscaping.

This partnership will have strong benefits in capacity building of traditional owners, facilitate cross-cultural knowledge sharing and understanding whilst creating direct employment opportunities for the Indigenous community.

What will happen next?

Contract documents have been finalised, including a Construction Environmental Management Plan. The main aim is to prevent, or minimise to an acceptable level, potential negative environmental impacts from construction activities.

Cranes Asphaltting and Bitumen Sealing have started works including establishing the site, setting up environmental controls, fencing and traffic management controls. Construction is planned to take place in the drier summer months.

The road upgrade will align with the upgrade of Stage 1 of McMillan and Hadfield streets.

For further information contact Council

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