

Vision for Werribee Plains

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Zoo to Get Feral-Proof Fence

Werribee Open Range Zoo will get a feral-proof perimeter fence around 190 hectares, thanks to a grant of \$459,658 from the Vision for Werribee Plains.

The feral-proof fence is part of a much larger project to transfer the breeding program for the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoots from Melbourne Zoo to Werribee and to give the bandicoots a much larger range in which to roam.

Part of the project will be the total eradication and exclusion of feral animals from the site – in particular rabbits, cats and foxes.

It will also enable staff at the zoo to further develop the indigenous flora in the zoo and possibly release other small native mammals.

Director of the zoo, Sally Lewis, said that the staff are truly excited as the installation of a feral proof fence will enable the zoo to do more animal conservation work with local species.

“Our dreams of releasing threatened native species into our vast grasslands will now become reality,” Ms Lewis said

Eastern Barred
Bandicoot (EBB)

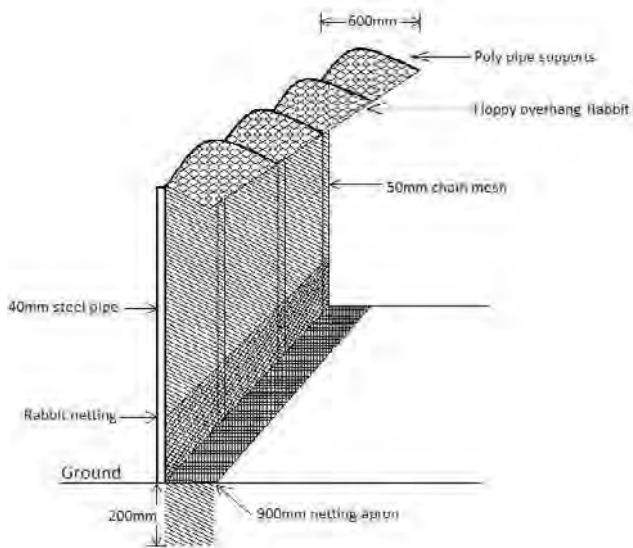




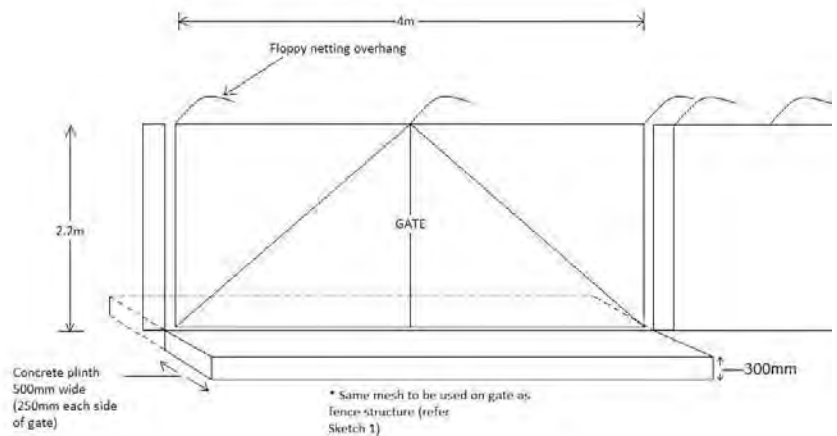
“On top of the additional capacity to release animals into the Zoo, we are also creating a safe haven for the many indigenous species that already live in our grasslands, river flats and wetlands.”

“This is an absolutely pivotal development in the long term future of our Zoo and we are most grateful for the support to make it happen.”

The fencing project will start immediately and is expected to be finished within 12 months.



Sketch 1



Sketch 2

Sustainability Forum Hits Right Note

The ‘ooh! aaahh’ presentation at a recent environmental sustainability forum was the one where people in Melbourne’s west got a glimpse of the new solar mapping coming their way.

The 80 people who attended the forum at Victoria University, Sunshine, on October 8 saw how they could quickly assess their roofs for the potential for solar and water capture. The project is being developed by DSE and the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

Also on offer was the results of mapping the large industrial roofs across the Werribee Plains region (all 14 square kilometres), and a project to develop guidelines for owners of big roofs in how they can take advantage of solar energy.

A stunning nature reserve at Altona North, created from an industrial wasteland, was featured and is the work of a large consortium from industry, community and government and managed by the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek.

The final presentation was on recent work to roll-out recycled water from the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee by City West Water. The \$3million project will enable nearly 20 ovals to be irrigated using recycled water.

A copy of the slides used in the presentations will be made available on the LeadWest website who hosted the forum to launch the implementation of the regional environmental sustainability framework.

Don Henry, the CEO for the Australian Conservation Foundation then chaired a panel session with fellow panel members with expertise in the areas of water, energy and biodiversity.

Myrniong – Korkuperrimul Creeks Biolink

Don't know where the Korkuperrimul and Myrniong creeks are? Neither did I until a few months ago until I visited members of the Pentland Hills Landcare Group who took me on a tour of their district.

North-west of Bacchus Marsh (on your right as you wind your way up the hills out of Bacchus Marsh towards Ballarat) there are two creeks that deliver water into the Werribee River.

Landowners, Catchment Management Authority, and Moorabool Shire Council are trying to establish a continuous line of native vegetation (biolink) between the Lerderderg Forest in the north and the Brisbane Ranges in the south.

Members of the Pentland Hills Landcare Group have been looking for a suitable alignment of the biolink and have reached agreement with a number of landowners to take a route down the creeks as a first stage which will cover around 13 kilometers.

Connecting native vegetation through biolinks enables native animals (and some plants) to migrate – especially important

as the climate changes. It will also improve water quality in the creeks and help restore the environment for species such as the indigenous Black Fish.

The biolink will also help reduce silting in the creeks, a problem that results in reduced holding capacity of reservoirs, as well as poorer quality water for irrigation and aquatic species.

Landowners who use the creeks for watering livestock will have the opportunity to have new off-stream watering points provided.

The Vision for Werribee Plains has provided \$229,270 toward the \$637,475 project, with co-funding by Melbourne Water Corporation, and in-kind support from landowners and volunteer environmental groups who will help with revegetation works.

The project is to be managed by Grow West.

Parwan Gorge Springs to Life

Native plants of all sizes are springing to life at Parwan Gorge following good rain this year. The Parwan Landcare Group has commenced the 2nd stage of a project to remove woody weeds, control rabbits, fence off sensitive native vegetation, and revegetate over 3.5km of the Parwan Gorge at Exford.

The project now has six neighbouring landowners involved and two schools and will provide a continuous line of revegetation work along the southern escarpment of the gorge. The schools are using local properties for environmental studies and assisting with the planting.

To make the scene complete the Melton reservoir is currently backing-up through the gorge and is 80% full.

The Landcare Group are holding a wildflower walk along the gorge to celebrate their work and the results being achieved

The Landcare group has been the recipient of a second grant from the Vision for Werribee Plains fund for \$13,650 following the success of its first project.

For more details go the Group's website at <http://micronica.com.au/~parwanlandcare/home.html>



Leadwest Moves on Environmental Sustainability

LeadWest is forming an Environmental Sustainability Working Group to implement the recommendations in the Werribee Plains Regional Environmental Sustainability Framework, supported by specialist groups in the areas of water, energy and natural environment.

The initiative is aimed at supporting Leadwest's emphasis on sustainable development, as outlined in the prospectus Western Agenda: A Strategic Action Plan for Melbourne's Western Region 2008-2011" - March 2008

Further details are available from the project manager:

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Mobile 0417 387 678

The project is supported by funding from the Vision for Werribee Plains.

Timelines

The next deadline for applications is COB on Monday, 7 February, 2011.

Expressions of Interest may be submitted at any time, and members of the project team will call within 7 working days to organise an interview to discuss the submission.

Applications should be sent to Werribee.plains@dse.vic.gov.au

Stage 2 of the Vision for Werribee Plains is due to finish on June 30, 2012.



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www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/recycling/v4wp

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