

Mundaring Water Treatment Plant Site Selection Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA): Recreation and Tourism Scoring Process

Outcomes from Workshop: 19th July 2007

Facilitated by Megan Dilly (GHD)

Participants:

Anne Brake (National Trust)

Gwen Plunkett (Bibbulmun Track Foundation)

Jamie Ridley (Parks and Visitor Services, DEC)

Jens Jorgenson (Mundaring Tourism Association)

Jill Frances (Perth Hills National Parks Centre)

Kirk Kitchen (Recreation Field Co-ordinator, Shire of Mundaring)

Megan Griffiths (Executive Manager Community Service, Shire of Mundaring)

Stefan de Haan (DEC)

Stuart Harrison (DEC Trails and Recreation) – could only attend part of workshop

Apologies

Jenni-Verne Taylor (Munda Bididi Foundation)

Recreational and Tourism Values

This criterion relates to the potential impacts of the WTP on the users and managers of recreational and tourism facilities in the area, in terms of convenience and enjoyment. Some of these impacts may be direct, for example, some walking trails pass through proposed WTP sites or their buffer zones and these may have to be rerouted. Other impacts are less tangible, for example, the WTP may impact on the visual amenity of people using facilities such as picnic areas, museums, or scenic lookout.

General Issues Raised by Participants

Site One

Site One is currently used for tourism and recreation significantly more than any of the other sites and has the highest value of all the sites for this aspect. A WTP would not be appropriate in this area, and would impact on recreation and aesthetic values, particularly through visual impact.

DEC Land

This site is very close to the tourism and recreation area. Light and noise from the site may impact on the campground, Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema, the Treetops Bed and Breakfast and walktrails. This site would reduce the reason why people use these facilities, ie. the natural setting.

This site has the potential to be used as a tourism and educational facility in the future, through use of the heritage values of the site. A WTP at this site would result in loss of potential future tourism. However, this site would enable provision of educational facilities associated with the plant, as it is in close proximity to the other educational areas.

A number of walk and cycle trails may be impacted by this site. The heritage trails should not be moved because they follow the old rail-line and have historic meaning in the location that they are in.

Pine Plantation

The traffic to this site would need to go along Allen Rd, which passes the visitors centre and campground. Last year there was 45 000 visitors to the centre, this is a high use tourism and recreation centre. Traffic on Allen Rd could be a risk issue, with pedestrian movements across Allen Rd and may also be a nuisance issue.

The site itself is remote from the tourism and recreation facilities. However, this may mean that potential educational value of the site is lost.

It was raised that if an alternative access to this site could be found (ie by upgrading Firewood Rd and existing firebreaks) that this site would have few tourism and recreational impacts.

The Bibbulmun Track shouldn't be impacted by this site, and if there was any indirect impacts (ie. visual) then the track can be moved in this area.

O'Connor Site

This site was generally seen to have a low potential impact on tourism and recreation as it is removed from the main tourism and recreation areas. Potential issues with this site are aesthetic impacts (particularly visual impact) on users of the walking and cycling trails that pass along the western boundary of the site and on users of Mundaring Weir Rd.

Final Rankings (1 is the best outcome and 4 is the worst outcome (most impact)). Consensus was reached on all rankings.

- 1 O'Connor Site
- 2 Pine Plantation (with access as Allen Rd)
- 3 DEC Land
- 4 Site 1 (all possible combinations of Chlorine store)

However, if an alternative access could be found to Pine Plantation that would mean that traffic would not need to use Allen Rd (ie. if Firewood Rd and existing firebreaks were upgraded to allow access to the Pine Plantation from the north) then the rankings would be as follows:

- 1 Pine Plantation (with access north of Allen Rd)
- 2 O'Connor Site
- 3 DEC Land
- 4 Site 1 (all possible combinations of Chlorine store)

The participants were in all agreement that Site 1 and DEC Land would have the worst impact on tourism and recreational values and that the impacts from these sites is significantly greater than any impacts from the Pine Plantation and the O'Connor Site.