

## Media release

25 July 2018

### All in all, another rock in the wall saves river foreshore

Stage two of the river wall restoration project at the Nedlands foreshore is now complete – and savings made will go towards the next stage.

Repairs were made to the worst sections of the wall from the Sunset foreshore (Iris Avenue) to the Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club groyne, coinciding with the construction of the recently opened Jo Wheatley All Abilities Play Space.

The \$1.2 million project was achieved in partnership with the City of Nedlands and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Riverbank Program, a program that supports the protection and enhancement of the Swan and Canning River foreshores.

It involved building a new rock revetment wall, landscape softening, reticulation and lighting adjustments over 300m, as well as adding an accessible walkway to the beach to complement the new play space.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said the rock revetment wall would provide a cost-effective, low maintenance and sustainable environment to protect and enhance the river foreshore for future generations.

“The restoration works had to be undertaken due to the age and very poor condition of the location – the vertical walls were totally failing in some places because they were at the end of their useful life,” he said.

“The rock revetment option was chosen after it had been used successfully in various high wave impact locations along the Swan River, particularly in South Perth and near the Narrows Bridge.

“Rock revetments are a system of graded, interlocked, quarried armour stone laid on an embankment, designed to absorb erosive forces and protect the adjacent foreshore embankment.”

Mayor Hipkins said savings made in managing and delivering stages one and two of the restoration work had put the City in a good financial position to design and construct stage three at Charles Court Reserve.

“An agreement to address this section has already been discussed with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions,” he said.

“Designs are currently being undertaken with a view to deliver as much as we can with the remaining funds in the summer of 2018-2019.”

In 2015, the City of Nedlands investigated options for restoration that considered the longevity and aesthetics, impacts on the parkland and its natural environment and relevant costs.

Consultation was undertaken with the community to canvas their thoughts and a report was presented to the council.

“It’s been three years in the making and I’m pleased that, with the assistance of the Riverbank Program, the City has been able to re-establish the river wall,” Mayor Hipkins said.

“The Riverbank Program has been vital in maintaining and restoring our local river systems and this project is no exception.

“The ultimate goal at this site is full integration, ensuring all projects – such as this one and the Jo Wheatley All Abilities Play Space – have strong links to each other so the area has a major rejuvenation once all are complete.

“We want to protect and enhance the river foreshore for future generations, making it a true asset for the City of Nedlands.”



The completed river wall work on the Nedlands foreshore.

### **About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of more than 21,000 lives in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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