



12.4 Infrastructure Directorate

APPENDICES

ORDINARY COUNCIL

MEETING

To Be Held

29th April 2026

Commencing at 5.00pm

At

ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive - EATON

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Upon request.

Appendix 12.4.1B – Ferguson Road Landscaping Plan Councilor Workshop, 15 April 2026, Minutes

Introduction

The DI welcomed all to the meeting, provided an introduction then handed over to the LDO who invited questions and comments from the Councillors on the draft plan.

Workshop Discussion Point 1: Trees in front of the Visitor's Centre and Rose Garden

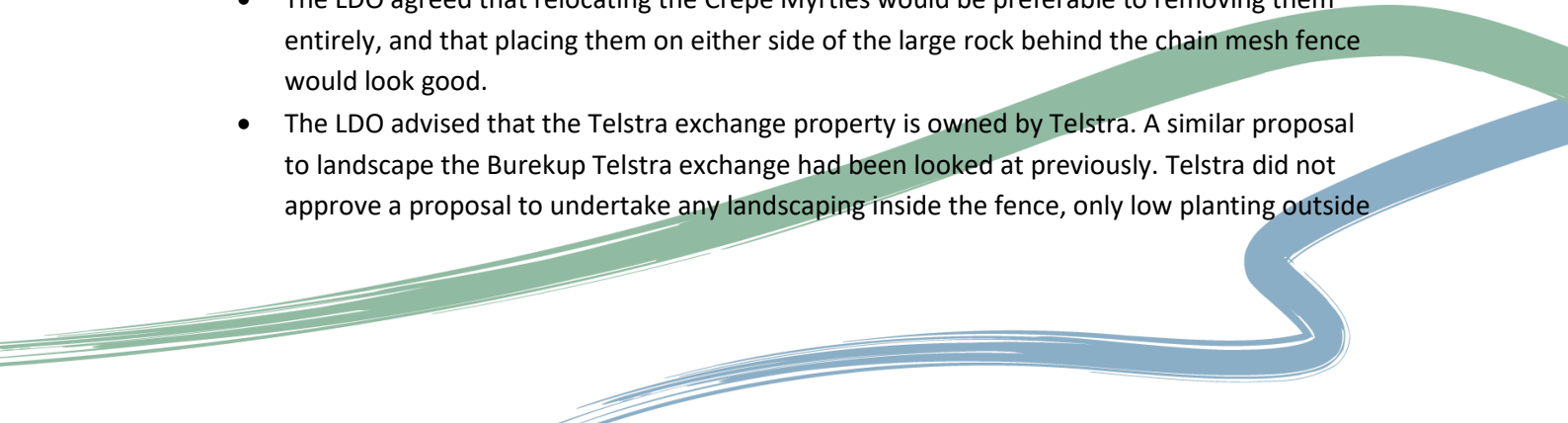
Councillor queries:

- Why are the trees at the Visitor's Centre still shown – has the plan been changed since the last meeting?
- Could the three Crepe Myrtles proposed for in front of the Visitors Centre be relocated to other positions nearby, to maintain the continuity of the streetscape?
- Could trees instead be planted on the other side of the fence, inside the Visitor's Centre property? (not that this had previously been suggested by Councillors during the site visit)
- Could landscaping be done inside the Telstra exchange? Who owns that property?

Councillor comments:

- Not keen on having trees in front of the rose garden due to potential impacts previously discussed, including the potential for shading by trees affecting the growth and health of the established roses, and the screening effects of new trees on both the rose garden and the Visitor's Centre, especially when the proposed new Crepe Myrtle trees were in bloom, which coincides with the rose blooming season.
- Preference for no trees in front of the rose garden.
- Adding trees in that location could detract from the rose garden.
- Overall, Councillors saw no benefit in planting trees in front of the rose garden.
- Suggestion to instead plant two trees behind the chain mesh fence of the Visitor's Centre.
- If trees are located further inside the property (such as behind the fence) then this could help to screen the Telstra exchange.

Staff comments:

- The LDO clarified that the plans had not been changed since the last meeting, as it was decided that any amendments would be made subject to the outcomes of this workshop. Therefore the draft plans presented in the workshop for discussion were the same as those from the February Council meeting (options 1 and 2, together with the original draft advertised concept.)
 - The LDO agreed that relocating the Crepe Myrtles would be preferable to removing them entirely, and that placing them on either side of the large rock behind the chain mesh fence would look good.
 - The LDO advised that the Telstra exchange property is owned by Telstra. A similar proposal to landscape the Burekup Telstra exchange had been looked at previously. Telstra did not approve a proposal to undertake any landscaping inside the fence, only low planting outside
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of the facility adjacent the fence, with limitations to ensure no impact on the Telstra facility or connecting services from either vegetation or watering. They require the gates and inside area to be kept clear and would not likely agree to maintain any landscaping.

- The CEO and DI confirmed that trees could be moved into the Visitor's Centre property, subject to the location of services.
- The LDO noted that this would be ideal for the continuity of the streetscape. While the original project scope was limited to the road reserve, the Shire owns the Visitor's Centre property, so planting could occur subject to approval. The LDO added that trees behind the fence, on either side of the rock, would look good.

Outcome:

- A proposal was made to move two trees of the same species to a different location on the other side of the fence, behind the heritage sign on either side of the rocks. This was seen as a good outcome, subject to a site inspection and checking for services. One tree would be dropped from the plan, resulting in no trees proposed to be planted in front of the rose garden.

Workshop Discussion Point 2: Trees in front of Retaining Wall

Staff comments:

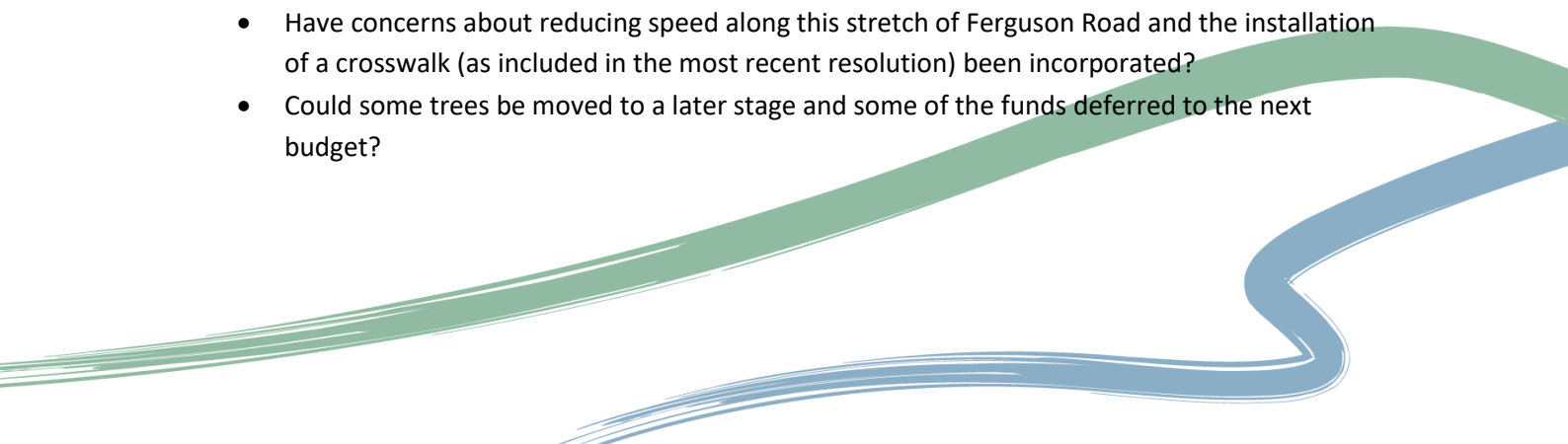
- A proposal to interplant Crepe Myrtles with existing small Native Frangipanis in front of a residential property was discussed. The LDO explained that the trees are proposed to be staggered (new proposed Crepe Myrtles closer to path than existing small trees, which are adjacent the existing private property retaining wall) so that if the existing trees were ever removed in future (due to their proximity to the power lines) then this could be done without as much visual impact on the streetscape. Planting the new trees at the same time as other new trees in the project area would mean that they would grow at the same rate and be the same size for continuity of the streetscape.

Outcome:

- Councillors were happy with this proposal, and it was approved to remain on the plan.

Workshop Discussion Point 3: Traffic Safety, Speed Reduction, and Integration with Landscaping

Councillor queries:

- Whether Councillor comments on traffic safety raised at the site visit have been incorporated into the plans?
 - Have concerns about reducing speed along this stretch of Ferguson Road and the installation of a crosswalk (as included in the most recent resolution) been incorporated?
 - Could some trees be moved to a later stage and some of the funds deferred to the next budget?
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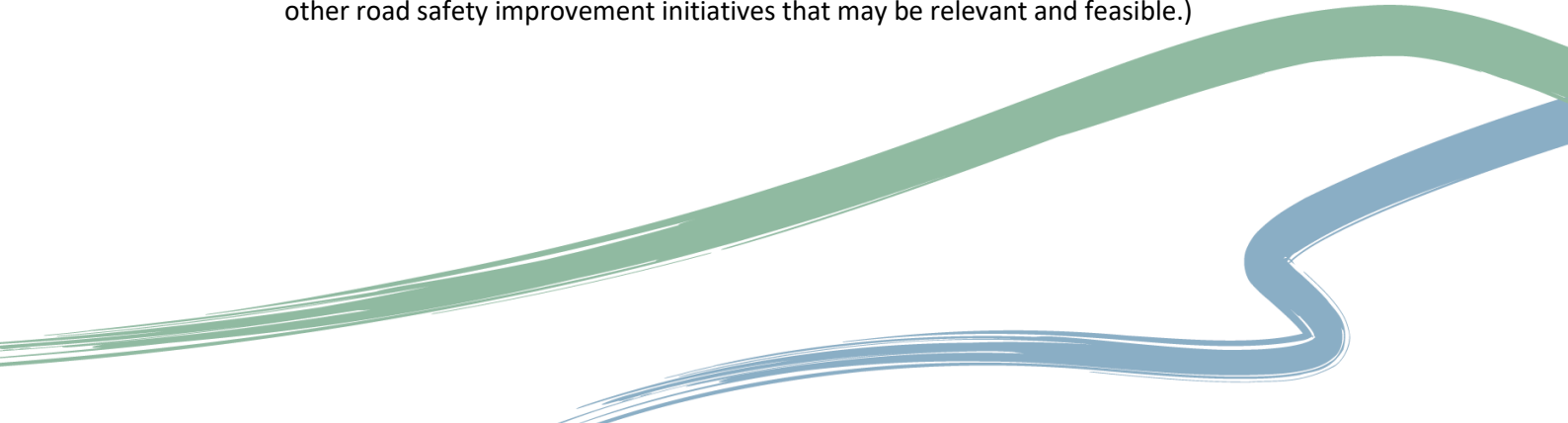
Councillor comments:

- That the two projects (landscaping and traffic safety) belong together and that trees should not be planted before addressing the traffic and road safety issues. It was suggested that perhaps the planting should be held off (at least near driveways and crossings) and also that there possibly be fewer trees, particularly near the school, due to concerns about the potential impact on school children crossing the road.
- Councillor support for combining the two (landscaping, and road traffic safety investigations and planning) into one project.

Staff comments:

- The DI explained that the original capital project was for landscaping only and that addressing traffic safety, including looking at a speed reduction and a potential crosswalk, would be a separate project.
- The LDO noted that as changes were subject to the outcomes of this workshop they had not yet been made. Some initial investigations had been made including sourcing traffic data but much more investigation is required, including liaising with external agencies which can take some time (I.e. Main Roads.)
- The LDO mentioned that discussions with the Manager Infrastructure Planning & Design (MIPD) revealed that initiatives such as a reduction in the speed limit and pedestrian crossing improvements were investigated in the past but were not successful at the time.
- The CEO supported the Councillor suggestion of possibly holding off on planting trees near pedestrian crossings until it could be assured that they would not impact sight lines at crossings and driveways. Other trees could be planted, subject to sight lines being confirmed.
- The CEO also suggested that pavement treatments, such as painting the surface, could be undertaken to help slow traffic. (Note that this would be subject to approval)
- The DI suggested that (rather than plant some trees now and some later) the project might be able to be carried forward as a whole, incorporating traffic and safety management as part of it. That way the tree planting, traffic management and other works can all happen at the same time.
- The CEO noted the need for the landscaping to be integrated with a safety plan for this section of road.

Outcome:

- Councillors were in favour of deferring the landscaping plan to the 2026-27 budget.
 - The project will need to be integrated with a local area traffic management study to investigate designated pedestrian crossings in front of the school or road treatments to slow traffic and reduce congestion before introducing trees to the road environment (and any other road safety improvement initiatives that may be relevant and feasible.)
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Workshop Discussion Point 4: Heat Island Effect and Other Matters

Councillor queries:

- Whether truck operating times could be changed to avoid peak school times.

Councillor comments:

Staff comments:

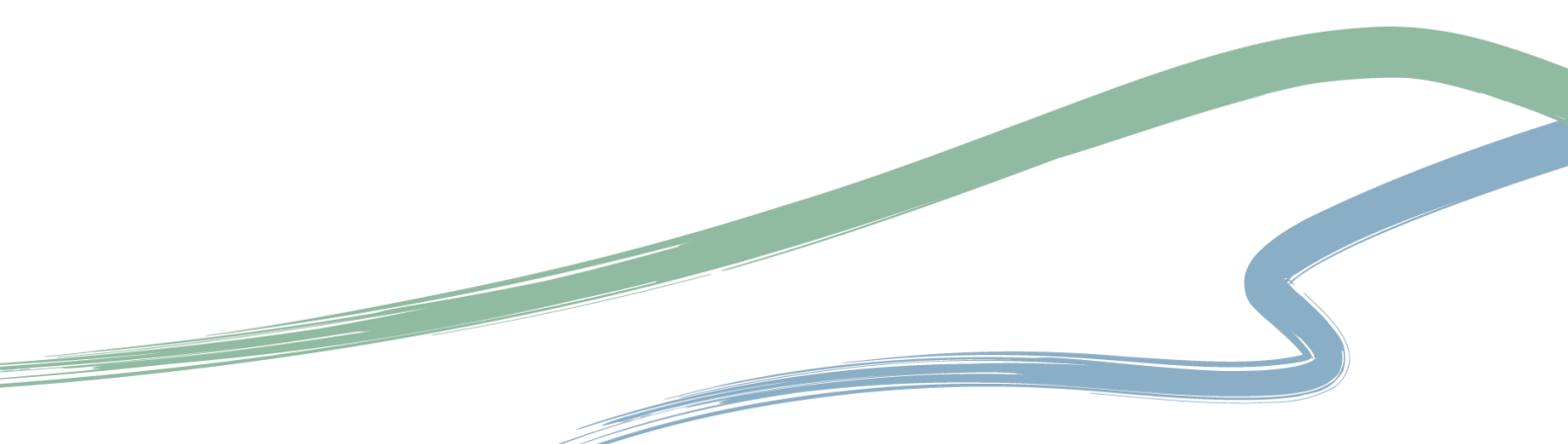
- The LDO invited the Shire Manager of Assets to share a GIS heat mapping image of the Dardanup townsite area. The map showed the difference in heat between Ferguson Road (roadway, dark paved surfacing, less vegetation) with Carramar Park (lots of trees, plus other vegetation including grass) highlighting how much hotter Ferguson Road was and the discomfort that can be experienced from walking along it on hot summer days. The LDO noted that that trees can help to cool a road corridor including pathway, making it more comfortable for pedestrians, such as children walking from the school to Dardanup Hall or other nearby locations (e.g. Wells Recreation Reserve, such as for sports training after school – with the period around 3pm being particularly hot for pedestrians.)
- The CEO advised that changes to truck operating times was probably not possible. They mentioned that following the Roseland Development, a proposed bypass route for trucks would help alleviate some of the traffic issues in town. This is in the longer term future and would require considerable expenditure of funds, which is not possible in the near future as a way of addressing current road traffic safety concerns.
- **Cr Jenour** gave thanks and acknowledged the consideration of the issues involved in the project.

Overall Workshop Outcome

Following consensus on road traffic safety investigations and planning as being a priority, the detailed discussion on the location of new proposed trees positions ceased.

It was decided by general consensus that a report is to be presented at the April Council meeting including a recommendation to defer the project and comments explaining why the project is proposed to be deferred.

It was agreed that this decision will need to be communicated to all submitters to the community feedback, including to the original mover of the proposal to plant trees along Ferguson Road.



RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

OVERALL RISK TITLE: Ferguson Road Landscaping – Consultation Outcomes

RISK THEME PROFILE:

1 - Asset Sustainability Practices

6 - Community Engagement

RISK ASSESSMENT CONTEXT: Project

CONSEQUENCE CATEGORY	RISK EVENT	PRIOR TO TREATMENT OR CONTROL			RISK ACTION PLAN (Treatment or controls proposed)	AFTER TREATMENT OR CONTROL		
		CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD	INHERENT RISK RATING		CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
HEALTH	No risk event identified.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Risk of actual costs exceeding available budget.	Insignificant (1)	Unlikely (2)	Low (1 - 4)	Monitor costs closely against budget.	Insignificant (1)	Rare (1)	Low (1 - 4)
SERVICE INTERRUPTION	No risk event identified.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE	No risk event identified.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
REPUTATIONAL	Potential for some negative feedback from community	Minor (2)	Possible (3)	Moderate (5 - 11)	Communicate the decision directly to respondents of the consultation and also the broader community	Insignificant (1)	Possible (3)	Low (1 - 4)
ENVIRONMENT	No risk event identified.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
PROPERTY	No risk event identified.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.

RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

OVERALL RISK EVENT: *Waste Transfer Station Lease*

RISK THEME PROFILE:

10 - Management of Facilities, Venues, Events and Services

7 - Environment Management

RISK ASSESSMENT CONTEXT: Operational

CONSEQUENCE CATEGORY	RISK EVENT	PRIOR TO TREATMENT OR CONTROL			RISK ACTION PLAN (Treatment or controls proposed)	AFTER TREATMENT OR CONTROL		
		CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD	INHERENT RISK RATING		CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD	RESIDUAL RISK RATING
HEALTH	Without a Waste Transfer Station in operation, waste may be illegally dumped within the community	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate (5 - 11)	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
FINANCIAL IMPACT	If the current Waste Transfer Station lease is not renewed, the financial impact to build another is high.	Major (4)	Possible (3)	High (12 - 19)	Manage risk by entering into a new lease agreement.	Major (4)	Rare (1)	Low (1 - 4)
SERVICE INTERRUPTION	Without a Waste Transfer Station, the local community would have to rely on the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council's Stanley Road Facility	Minor (2)	Almost Certain (5)	Moderate (5 - 11)	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE	No risk event identified for this category.	Not Required - No Risk Identified	N/A	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
REPUTATIONAL	If the current Transfer Station is closed down, then the community will be very disapproving	Moderate (3)	Almost Certain (5)	High (12 - 19)	Manage risk by entering into a new lease agreement.	Moderate (3)	Rare (1)	Low (1 - 4)
ENVIRONMENT	Without a Waste Transfer Station in operation, waste may be illegally dumped within the environment	Moderate (3)	Possible (3)	Moderate (5 - 11)	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.
PROPERTY	Property assets (sheds etc) within the current Waste Transfer Station will need to be removed off the private property and stored, if facility closed	Minor (2)	Almost Certain (5)	N/A	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.	Not required.