



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minningup Pool project update

A state-government funded long-term project to develop plans for upgraded day-use areas and low-impact accommodation on the Minningup Pool Reserve has sought to achieve a balance of maintaining and enhancing the cultural and community significance of Minningup, while preventing further environmental degradation and enabling sustainable community use.

The Minningup Pool Planning Project began in 2018 and was made possible through funding from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development an election commitment from the former local member, the Hon. Mick Murray. The project has been progressed in partnership with the South West Development Commission with the reports overseen by a project group that included representation from South West Development Commission (as Chair), Member for Collie Preston, Shire of Collie, Tourism WA, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Local Government Sport and Culture and a Noongar Elder.

Plans for the day-use area are broken into three precincts, including Sandy Beach, Minningup Pool and the Rowing Club precincts. There has never been any suggestion of restricting or charging for access to the day-use areas.

A pre-feasibility study identified the need to protect the site from ongoing degradation through inappropriate use, including damage to vegetation, erosion, illegal camping, littering, contamination from human waste, and antisocial behaviour. It also identified a lack of understanding of the cultural significance of the site to Aboriginal people.

Extensive community and stakeholder engagement has been conducted as part of the project including workshops with traditional owners, several community meetings, an online survey, numerous articles in local media, numerous posts on social media platforms, and printed materials available through the Collie Public Library.

The Collie River foreshore is a registered Aboriginal site, and any works will require application and approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Consultation with local Noongars for the use and development of the foreshore and the overall reserve has been ongoing since late 2018 and includes a visioning and heritage report.

A wide range of opinions, ideas and concerns have been expressed and considered throughout the consultation period. Feedback, such as increased disabled access, flushing toilets and a swimming pontoon, has been incorporated into the final plans.

While the master plans for the foreshore day-use areas at Minningup Pool have been endorsed by Council, the estimated \$6m project remains unfunded. No on-ground works can be committed until funding is secured.

The broader Minningup Pool reserve is a 151 hectare site, nestled between the Collie River, Mungalup Road, including the Collie Golf Course.

Two sites within the reserve, but separate from the day-use areas, have been identified as potential opportunities to fill the gap in Collie's accommodation provision of high-quality, low-impact short-term accommodation to service the growing local nature and adventure tourism industry.

Separately, work is also underway to prepare designs for a future accommodation area, situated away from the riverfront on the area known as the Old Hockey Grounds. WB Management was recently awarded funding by the State Government to develop a concept plan for the potential area. Further community and traditional owner engagement will be undertaken as part of this work.

Management plans for the reserve, day-use precincts and any commercial leases are yet to be determined.

Further information on the Minningup Pool Project and associated plans and documentation can be viewed on the Shire's website. Printed copies can be obtained from the Collie Public Library.

For more information, contact Matthew Young on 9734 9000.

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Media contacts:

Shire President Sarah Stanley
0408 344 833
sarah.stanley@collie.wa.gov.au

Chief Executive Officer Stuart Devenish
(08) 9734 9000
stuart.devenish@collie.wa.gov.au