

Supplementary Information

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025

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Prior to the Agenda Briefing Forum held on 11 November 2025, a request was received for additional background information relating to the proposed transfer of the management order for the eastern portion of Baigup Wetlands. The following provides a chronological summary of key events and actions undertaken over the past decade leading up to the preparation of the current report.

BACKGROUND

Baigup Wetlands is a 16-hectare riverine reserve located between Garratt Road Bridge and Maylands Peninsula. It comprises both a western portion, (approximately 5 hectares) vested with the City of Bayswater, and an adjoining 11-hectare parcel owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and managed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). The site forms part of Bush Forever Site No. 313 and contains significant estuarine saltmarsh vegetation, identified as a Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Bush Forever status means the site is expected to be maintained for conservation regardless of manager.

1998: Maylands boundary transfer to City of Bayswater

On 20 January 1998, the State Government announced that the suburb of Maylands and part of Mt Lawley would be transferred from the City of Stirling to the City of Bayswater, effective 1 July 1998. The change was intended to consolidate management of the Swan River foreshore and improve local governance, community connection, and service delivery. Following this boundary adjustment, the western portion of Baigup Wetlands, previously within the City of Stirling, was vested with the City of Bayswater, while the eastern portion remained under the ownership of the WAPC and management of the DPLH. This arrangement has remained in place since that time.

2013 – 2016: Formation of BWIG and restoration of the western portion

The Baigup Wetland Interest Group (BWIG) was established in 2013 as a community-based volunteer organisation focused on protecting and restoring Baigup Wetlands. During this period, the WAPC-managed eastern portion of the site was in poor condition, with widespread weed infestation. The City collaborated with BWIG on grant-funded weed control and revegetation works within the City-managed western portion, achieving visible ecological improvements. In 2016, following questions raised in State Parliament by local member Lisa Baker MLA, DPLH re-assumed active management of the eastern portion after a period of limited oversight. DPLH initiated emergency access works, boundary fencing, and ongoing weed control programs with the vision of transferring the management order following site works.

2017 – 2019: Continued site improvement

Between 2017 and 2019, DPLH and BWIG implemented additional revegetation and weed control works, improving the ecological function of the eastern portion. The City continued to maintain the western portion of Baigup Wetlands, ensuring consistent management across both sections of the reserve.

2020 – 2021: Petition and initiation of negotiations

In 2021, BWIG formally petitioned the City to seek unified management of Baigup Wetlands under City control. The petition was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 August 2021.

2022: Council resolution to negotiate

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 January 2022, Council resolved to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to commence negotiations with WAPC regarding the potential transfer of the management order for the eastern portion and to present outcomes back to Council. Following this resolution, City officers met with DPLH representatives, who advised that a detailed management plan would be required to support any formal transfer proposal.

2023 – 2024: Preparation of management plan and indicative funding discussions

The City prepared an Environmental Restoration Plan for the eastern portion. The plan identified key management actions including weed control, revegetation and erosion management. This plan provided the City the basis to determine the restoration costs of the eastern portion (not ongoing operational costs). Ongoing annual operational/maintenance costs were determined by City environmental officers. The plan was not formally presented to DPLH; however, discussions with DPLH have indicated that there may be financial assistance through the Area Assistance Grant program. Estimated implementation costs totalled approximately \$895,000 (excluding GST) over five years, including \$350,000 for boardwalk replacement. No formal funding commitment was received.

Recommendation Implications

In light of the above, the Officer's Recommendation remains unchanged.