

Public Question Time

Question from Isaac Hermann

Mr Herman referenced the CEO report and noted the Elwood Esplanade Oval Upgrade in Albert Park at \$315,000, and asked are there any water sensitive urban design or integrated water management features incorporated in this design? Parts of Elwood Esplanade are prone to flooding but they wouldn't have to be if Council lowered the surface of those ovals. Has the plan complied with the stated policy of embedding water sensitive urban design into all asset upgrades?

Response

Officers did investigate and consider the suitability of integrating flood mitigation and water sensitive urban design principles during the design phase of the project. It was determined that the potential benefit of creating a flood retarding basin/stormwater detention linked to the Elwood Canal was considered negligible. When in flood, the Elster Creek discharges at a rate over 10 cubic metres per second, whilst a lowered or sunken oval would fill in seconds and be destroyed in the process. Also, the tidal effect at this location would render the oval subject to the effects of high tide. There are also potential challenges and costs associated with accessing lowered ovals, such as access and egress for emergency and maintenance vehicles.

The works that we are doing to reconstruct Esplanade Oval will improve drainage of the oval compared to existing conditions, plus more rainwater will penetrate the surface and act to mitigate flooding. The warm season grass being used will achieve irrigation savings compared to traditional cool-season grasses. The site will also have improved lighting which will help users spread out over the entire field, reducing the concentrated wear on the grass.

Construction on this exciting project will commence in early 2020, and there will be regular updates about the project on Council's website. However, if you have any further questions please contact David Nankervis on 9209 6806 or email david.nankervis@portphillip.vic.gov.au