



Tennyson Dunes Group
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Friday 5th of June 2020

Linear Park – Grange to Semaphore Park – Stage 1

Dear Minister Stephan Knoll MP,

Please consider our submission regarding the proposed extension of the Linear Park from Grange to Semaphore Park – Stage 1. We are extremely concerned about this area being built with a straight 3-metre wide cement path and urge you to consider an eco-friendly option for this section of the path.

The dunes extending north and south of the Wara Wayingga Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve are critical ecologic zones acting as a bio-corridor to the Reserve. Their preservation is essential to maintaining the biodiversity within the Reserve. The impact of rising sea levels also needs to be considered as the dunes are a critical buffer zone from the sea.

The Discovery Trail built in the Reserve provides a good example of a sustainable access path and we would like to see it extended for the North section, currently under consultation, and later in the South section. The Discovery Trail is now recognised by users, residents and environmental groups as a great success. The environmental impact on flora and fauna has been limited by the building construction techniques and the knowledge and care taken by the contractors during construction. The material used for the construction of the path (crushed stone) and the wood fencing allowed for excellent integration with the natural space. It also ensured good management of water drainage from the path.

The use of natural materials for the construction of the path is an important legacy. As volunteers working for years in the dunes, we can testify first-hand, about the negative impact of other building materials. We still regularly remove pieces of plastic, a legacy of

the plastic fencing poles used in the previous path, and broken cement blocks from older sections of the cement path scattered in the Reserve.

It is also important to note that one of the key considerations for this Discovery Trail was to create a meandering low speed path to manage cohabitation of walkers and cyclists on a reduced 2 to 2.5m width path. Straight, wide paths with a smooth and solid surface encourage higher speeds which ultimately lead to pedestrian and cyclist confrontation and increase the risk of collision. Meandering, narrower paths on the other hand, are designed to encourage slower speeds where users can enjoy their surroundings and connect with nature.

We note that the path is currently 'located within the cleared area adjacent to the dunes' however we would strongly oppose any proposal that would move the path inside the dunes itself. We believe the specificity of each zone should be considered, instead of 'one solution for all' along the entire coast, to prevent ecological damage to the dunes.

For example, a large portion of the north stretch has a community green lawn that is already well used by the public. Keeping this green area for walkers and runners would allow the design of a narrower path, safer for the users and providing additional environmental benefits

An important element for the future health of the dunes is to limit the propagation of weeds and encourage the native flora to prosper. A key element is to reduce the edge effect. Based on our experience volunteering in the dunes, the closer to the path and the higher the traffic, the more weeds will prosper, as seeds are unknowingly transported by the visitors. Keeping walkers and runners further away from the edge of the dunes, on the grass for example, will reduce weed propagation, rubbish and noise pollution. This type of construction, in addition to reducing the construction impact, will have great ecological benefit for the long-term health of the dune ecosystem.

The Tennyson Dunes Group Inc. has been working for more than 25 years to preserve and protect the Wara Wayingga Tennyson Dunes. We were a key contributor to the declaration of the Wara Wayingga Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve in recognition of its importance in protecting South Australia's coastal biodiversity.

We consider the North and South corridors a natural extension of the Reserve that need the same care and attention as the Reserve to prevent ecological damage to the Dunes.

We request the opportunity to meet with you regarding this project and look forward to working with your team to create a truly memorable experience for trail users that will work with nature and satisfy the needs of all stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Crouch and Val Wales
on behalf of the Tennyson Dunes Group Inc.

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