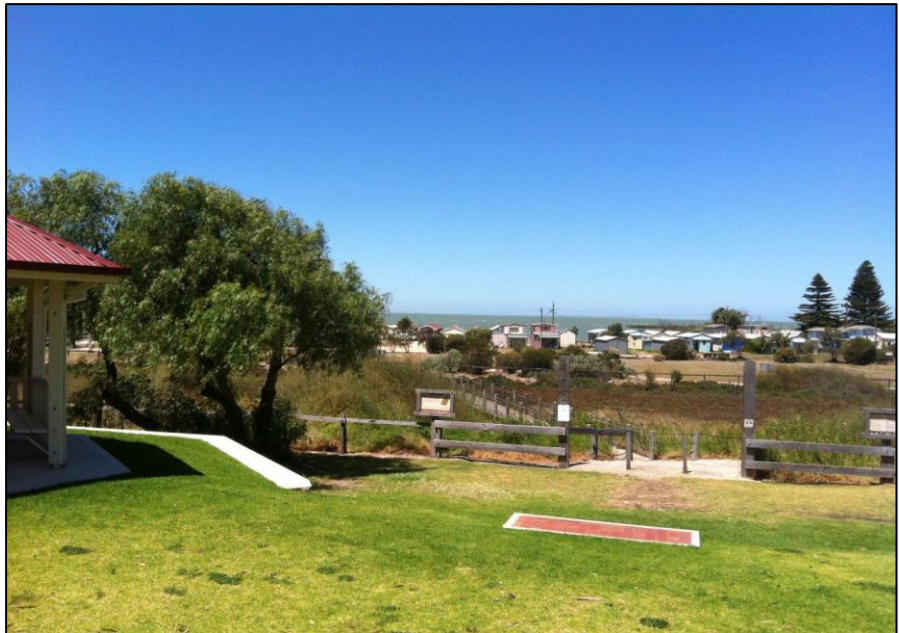


MILANG FORESHORE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



26 October 2016

CONSULTATION REPORT

Community consultation was undertaken between September 21st and October 21st 2016 to gain feedback from the community on a draft Concept Plan for the Milang Foreshore Habitat Restoration Project.

Prepared by:

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With the assistance of

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Australian Government



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



Government
of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

INTRODUCTION

The Milang Foreshore Habitat Restoration Project focuses on infrastructure and ecological works in and around the Snipe Sanctuary to promote awareness of the environmental significance of this Ramsar wetland and its relationship to social and cultural values of the area. The project is expected to be complete by mid-2017.

The project is being carried out as a partnership between the Australian Government, the State Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Alexandrina Council, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), Milang and District Community Association Inc. (MADCA) and Goolwa-Wellington Local Action Planning Assoc. Inc (GWLAP).

A draft Concept Plan was commissioned by Alexandrina Council and prepared by consultants Oxigen. The plan was released on 21 September 2016 for public consultation.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The community was advised of the consultation through direct mail, social media, website and community information sessions (see Attachment 1).

Feedback on the draft plan was received verbally at information sessions, and through a feedback form (online and hard copy) and written responses (see Attachment 2).

A website (www.madca.org.au/habitat) was developed to give online access to the consultation documents. It provided online access to the draft Concept Plan, the Restoration Site Action Plan, and the feedback survey. The website was also linked to a facebook page - Milang Habitat Restoration Project. This facebook page was shared through associated Milang Facebook pages, including Lakes Hub and Milang Old School House Community Centre both of which have over 500 subscribers. The facebook post regarding the consultation was 'boosted' and reached 1,400 people in the target region of Milang, Clayton Bay, Langhorne Creek, Finniss, and Wellington. The result was 35 submissions, plus 13 reactions, comments and shares.

Four hundred flyers (Attachment 1) were produced and distributed through direct mail via the Milang Post Office. Additionally, 20 posters were distributed and displayed in business windows throughout the township, including at the Milang Caravan Park. The Milang Caravan Park also had 100 flyers and feedback surveys that were provided to holiday makers as they arrived at the Park for the October long weekend.

All of the consultation-related documents were also on public display and available at Alexandrina Council offices in Goolwa and Strathalbyn, and the consultation was further publicised via Alexandrina Council's website.

Key community stakeholder groups were identified as:

- Milang Shackowner's Association;
- Milang Regatta Club;
- Milang Environment Centre;
- Milang Historic Railway Inc;
- Milang Campus Eastern Fleurieu School, and the
- Milang and District Community Association.

Representatives from each of the key stakeholder groups received hard copies of the Concept Plan, Restoration Site Action Plan and survey response forms either at the community drop-in sessions or through hand delivery. All representatives undertook to share these with members of their organisations, either through email or face-to-face circulation.

Additionally, an offer was made to each of the organisations for representatives of the consultation team (DEWNR, Alexandrina Council, MADCA) to come and speak to the members of the stakeholder organisations; however, all indicated that they were satisfied with the information provided and did not feel the need for further discussion.

The initial community drop-in sessions were scheduled to coincide with a long weekend, and thus maximized exposure to visitors and shack owners, and provided the opportunity to view the plans and the discuss them with Alexandrina Council and MADCA representatives. Fifteen people attended the initial sessions, including key people in local organisations i.e. Milang Shackowner's Association and Milang Regatta Club.

A display of the draft Concept Plan and feedback forms remained at key community hubs, the Milang Old School House Community Centre (MOSHCC) and the Lakes Hub, for the duration of the of consultation period. The MOSHCC has an average of 200 people accessing the Centre each week, and coincidentally the MOSHCC's 13th birthday celebrations held during the consultation period exposed the Concept Plan to the 120 people in attendance. All of whom were invited to participate in the consultation process.

A community BBQ and feedback session at the end of the consultation on Friday 21 October was attended by ten community members and provided further feedback on the Concept Plan (Attachment 6).

At the completion of the 30 day consultation period, 39 feedback forms had been received plus one additional written response. Other verbal feedback was received at the two community information sessions held on Friday 31 Sept and Sunday 1 October, and also at the final community feedback session on Friday 21 October.

Members of key community stakeholder groups (Milang Shackowner's Association; Eastern Fleurieu School - Milang Campus; Milang Historic Railway Station; Milang Environmental Centre Inc; Milang and District Community Association; and, the Milang Regatta Club) provided survey responses.

WHAT WE HEARD

Through the consultation process we wanted to understand how the community felt about the site, the environment and the ideas proposed in the Concept Plan.

To gain insight into this, community members were asked to respond to a series of questions via a written survey, and given the option to provide additional information on any matter they thought important. The survey was divided into three sections, and this summary report follows this format:

1. General respondent information
2. Current and future use and values of the area around the snipe sanctuary
3. Concept plan discussion

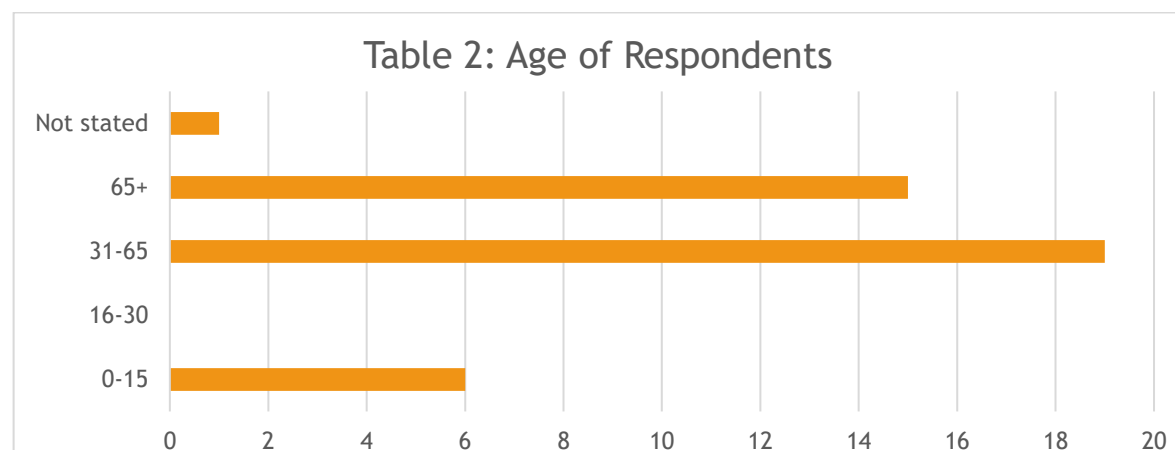
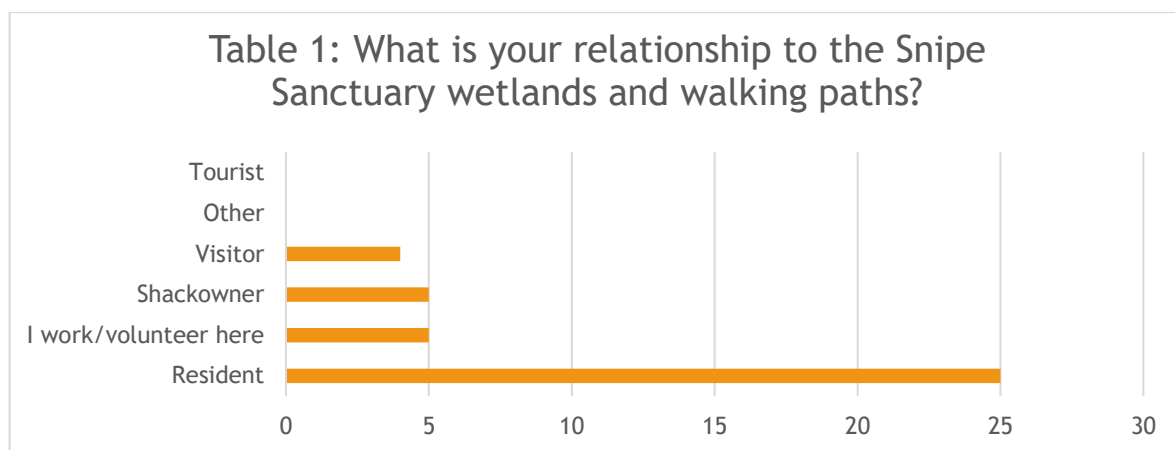
1. General respondent information

Respondents were asked general demographic questions:

- What is your relationship to the Snipe Sanctuary wetlands and walking paths?
- What is your age?
- What is your gender?

By asking respondents about their relationship with the snipe sanctuary and wetlands we have received contributions from various stakeholder groups with the majority coming from local residents (see Table 1).

Of the 41 respondents 25 (60%) were female, 15 (37%) were male and 1 person (3%) gender was not stated. A cross section of age groups also responded (see Table 2) with a gap in responses in the 16-30 year old age group.

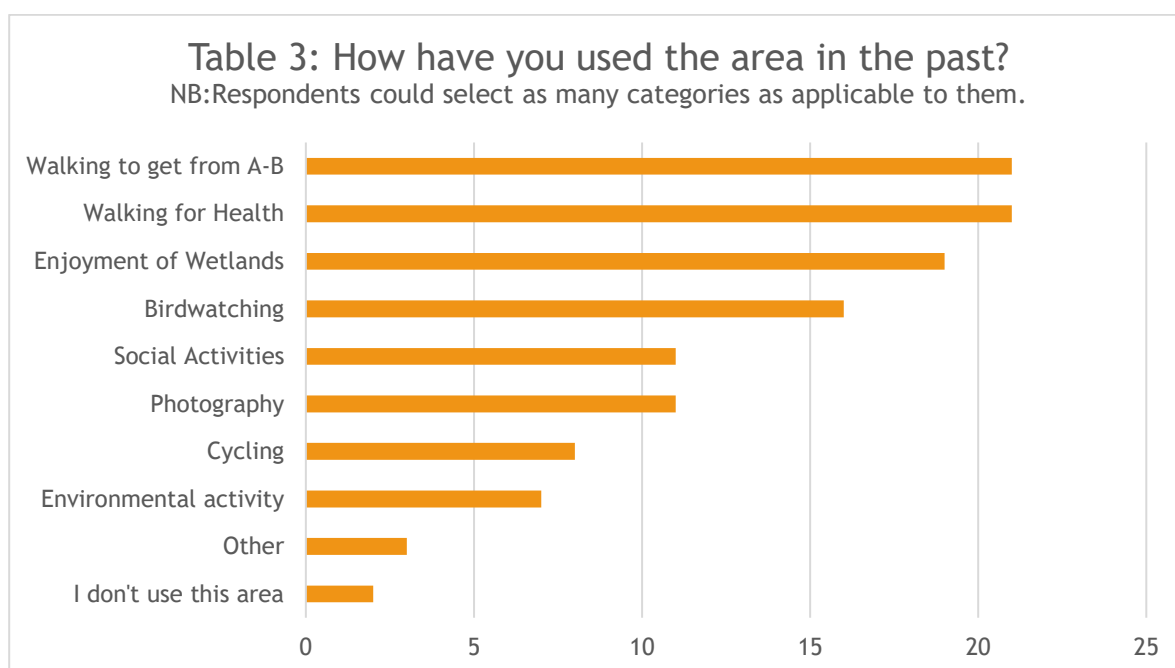


2. Current and future use, and values of the area around the snipe sanctuary

Respondents were asked to provide insight into the values of the site, and the current and future uses via four questions:

- How have you used this area in the past?
- How might you use the area after this project is completed?
- What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths?
- How do you think the existing Snipe Sanctuary area could be improved?

What we discovered is that the area is most utilized by the respondents for walking for health (21 people) and to get from place to place ie shacks to shops (21 people) but other areas of high response were enjoyment of wetlands (19 people) and birdwatching (16 people). Photography, social activities, cycling and environmental activity such as frog watch and bird monitoring were also noted as activities undertaken in the area. There were only 2 respondents who did not use the area (see Table 3).



There was a diverse range of responses to the question of “What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths?” and answers have been categorized to broadly reflect the areas identified as important. (see Figure 1 and Attachment 3 for full responses)

Protection of habitat for snipe, good access and being able to enjoy a natural area especially one in close proximity to an urban area were seen as very important. Only 1 respondent believed that the area should be left alone.

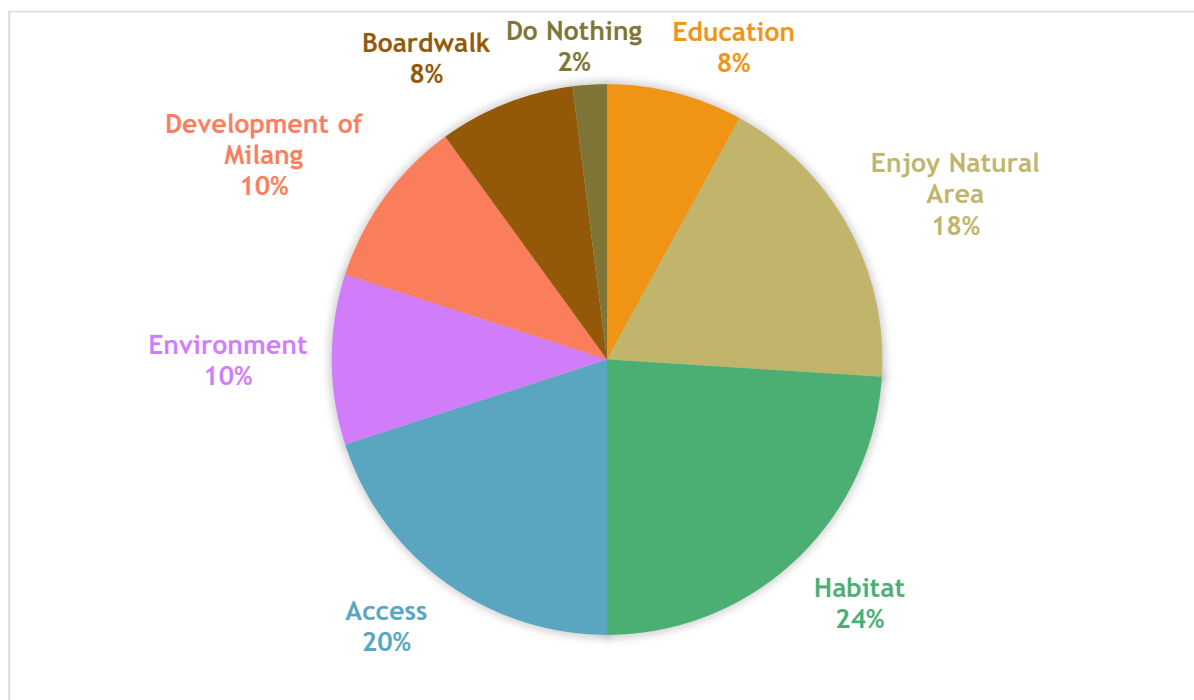


Figure 1: Responses to the survey question "What is important to you about the snipe sanctuary area and walking paths?"

There were a number of suggestions for improvement to the area which included:

- Increased and improved accessibility through ungraded and better maintained paths and walking trails (9 responses)
- Improved signage and interpretation of the wetland (8 responses)
- Removal of weeds and increased maintenance and weed control (7responses)
- Enhancement of snipe habitat through planting of native vegetation and minimal impact (5 responses)
- More seating, shade and fencing

3. Concept plan discussion

The draft concept plan was available in hard copy and online. Respondents were asked to provide feedback about the concept design via five questions:

- a) What do you like about the concept designs?
- b) Any suggestions for enhancing the design?
- c) Interpretive signage is an important component of the project. What stories should we be telling?
- d) Is there anything else important for us to know in developing the final plans?
- e) How important is it to you that the Snipe Sanctuary and walking trails be accessible to all e.g. families with babies, bike riders, people using wheel chairs & gophers?

In general most respondents were happy with the concept plan and various aspects of it although the removal of the boardwalk/bridge was an area of concern. Full details of responses to this section are provided in Attachment 4. In summary:

What people liked:

- The design as per the concept plan (13 responses)
- The observation areas (7 responses)
- The improved access (6 responses)
- The connection and linkages
- Some respondents could see the potential for building the local economy through tourism and increased visitor numbers.

Consultation feedback...

“Clean and modern design makes the area more appealing. Having seating etc. available marks the area as an important place in Milang and indicates that it is a place intended for people to be there. Rather than feeling like it is just something to get past to get elsewhere”.

One respondent did not like much about the plan.

The feedback form asked people to provide any suggestions they might have for enhancement of the design and the following comments were received:

- Leave it all alone. There is nothing wrong with the area as it is. Use the money for a more worthwhile purpose.
- Keep the current Boardwalk, place the Viewing Area to one side of the boardwalk
More Seating - every 100/200metres
Shared Paths (distance marked on path every 100m - Whyalla Wetland)
Simple Shelters/Shade
Have a boardwalk into the wetland - the wetland levy (Port Wakefield Wetland)
- I think it would be a great shame to remove the boardwalk that goes across the wetlands. This boardwalk gives a great view of the wetlands much better in my opinion than the proposed viewing platform. Please do not remove the existing boardwalk
- 1) environmental look and feel / materials
2) low impact
3) will the design enhance or degrade sanctuary for the snipe? / long term view
4) international best practice ideas?
- Maybe run the pathway further along the foreshore instead of cutting through Pobbybonk - people can just turn around the re-trace their steps, nothing wrong in doing that
- Not really
- Keep the existing boardwalk and have an extra boardwalk at water height into the wetland e.g. at the levee bank (join the path to the Shacks).
- Keep the bridge across the Snipe Sanctuary. To us this is a viewing platform when looking for Snipe and other birds; it is the closest point.
- Leaving the bridge/board walk
- The bridge near the Regatta Club has to be left.
- Keep the bridge across the Snipe Sanctuary. To us this is a viewing platform when looking for Snipe and other birds; it is the closest point.
- Leaving the bridge/board walk

- There is an opportunity for the design to be a lot more colourful and interactive eg viewing platform could be painted by local indigenous artists to tell their story, tiles of local wildlife could be embedded in the paths (include a hopscotch-style set of tiles, solar powered LED's to have it lit up at night).
- Shade at viewing platforms (and shelter from rain) , No bicycles.
- Keeping weed control on going, especially Pobbybonk
- Shelter for some platforms
- Call the rotunda the snipe lookout and put the viewing platform at the bird hide site. We could put one of those coin operated telescopes at the lookout and some interactive way of recording what people see. Keep the boardwalk and refurbish it to include a look out at the centre. Don't have a viewing platform at the caravan park end just enhance the paving and interpretation there. Make sure that there is creativity in the design of signage utilising local artistic talent. Have some sculptural elements along the paths.
- The current boardwalk is an important piece of the current design, and updating the boardwalk would continue to encourage people to use the boardwalk rather than make their own paths through the wetland area.
- Ensure wheel chair access from main parking areas. Note: viewing platform A feature 5.
- Will the wood get worn out?
- Keep the bridge - with a new fence and floor boards, keep the bird house (hide)
- Keep the bridge
- Covered sail areas above seating. Bird hide.
- four people had no further suggestions
- I noted that you appear to have Sheoaks as singular specimen trees in the plan. To ensure that they will survive over their lifetime it is better to plant a coppice which is both aesthetically pleasing and structurally stronger in that situation. *Allocasuarina verticillata* is a beautiful tree but normally grows in a group, coastally where freshwater is flowing underground and coastwise.

It is noted again in the responses to this question that respondents feel that it is important to retain the boardwalk for access, community heritage and because people enjoy using it.

One further question asked how important was it that the Snipe Sanctuary and walking trails be accessible to all. 75% of respondents considered access to be very important, 6 % considered it not important at all (Figure 2).

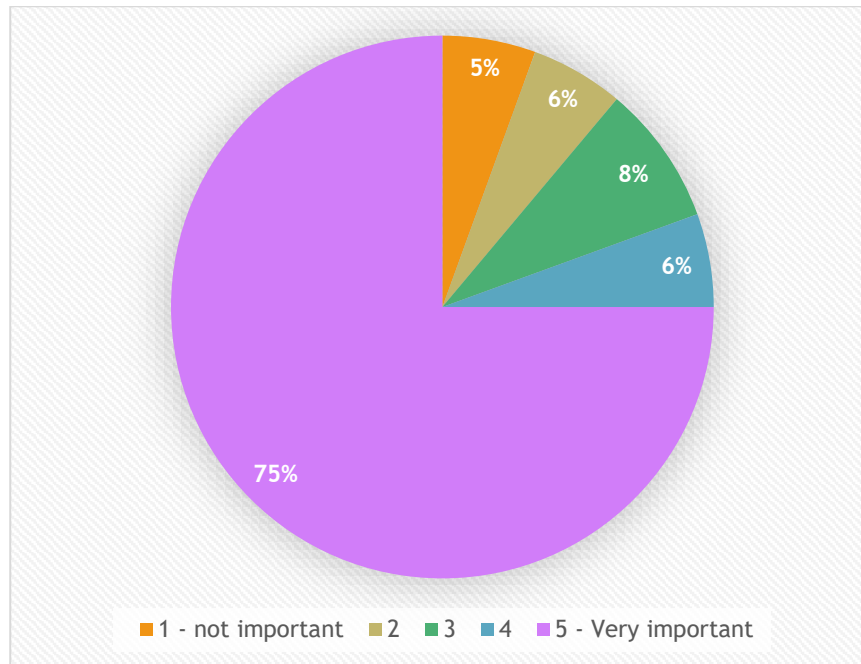


Figure 2: Responses to the survey question “How important is it to you that the Snipe Sanctuary and walking trails be accessible to all?”

CONCLUSION

This community consultation has proven to be very successful in both the number of responses received and the positive nature of the feedback. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of respondents are supportive of the proposed project and that there are clear indications that an environmental outcome is important to the community, as is accessibility to the site. The suggestions that have been put forward from the community have been well thought out and will inform the development of the final Concept Plan.

It is important that community values and ideas are incorporated into the design, where appropriate. The following synthesis of community feedback highlights matters recommended for consideration in finalising the Concept Plan, and subsequent Detailed Design:

- Retain the existing boardwalk across the wetland if it is financially viable to upgrade it to meet current Building Code of Australia standards. Install interpretive signs on it and it would continue to be a viewing platform, one that allows a closer experience of the wetlands, compared to viewing platforms on the edge of the wetlands.
- Construct a new viewing platform at the current bird hide site at the rear of the shacks area and include in the design of the platform a series of bird screens, which will function as both a viewing platform and a bird hide.
- Consider upgrading the rotunda and immediate surrounds area so that this becomes a viewing site. Have interpretation and information signs here. This will be the site many first time visitors will go to first as it is close to and visible from Daranda Tce.

- Install a concrete path running from Daranda Tce (parking area) to below the rotunda and then right around the wetland to the bird screen viewing platform at the rear of the shacks area.
- Consider installing artwork and interpretation designs into the concrete paths.
- Upgrade the rubble path between the existing boardwalk and Pobbybonk point so that it remains dry all year round
- Where ever possible, all tracks to be 3m wide and multi-use including for bicycles (both concrete and gravel tracks) to promote access for a wide variety of users.
- Retain the old Dunny at the foreshore end and the link track back to the main wetland track and boardwalk.
- Install the two proposed viewing nodes along the track to Pobbybonk Point as shown on the draft concept plan, and install seating at these sites.
- Do not put a viewing platform as proposed opposite the caravan park, but possibly widen the concrete path here and make it another viewing node, with seating.
- Add mesh to the wetland fencing along the rear of the shack area and install signs requesting people do not enter into the wetland area (the mesh will reduce the opportunity for dogs to enter the wetland from the shacks area).
- Upgrade (neaten up) the existing fencing around the whole wetland area.
- Reuse as much of the existing materials, especially the large hardwood planks (used as fenceposts and walls of old bird hides) as this material came from the old Milang jetty.
- Install the pump pad and pipework to allow environmental watering of the wetlands as per the concept plan. Lower the Daranda Tce end of the levee so it's the same height as the outlet drain - to ensure adequate outflow from the northern section of the Snipe Sanctuary to reduce the risk of flooding in the shack area.
- Consider installing additional rubbish bins where appropriate.
- Consider providing more shade at one or more of the viewing nodes.
- The following interpretation topics were suggested by the community (for signage, paths etc):
 - Ngarrindjeri use of the site historically and currently
 - Site history
 - Lathams Snipe (id, migration info, status)
 - Other water birds and raptors
 - Other animals such as frogs, turtles and fish
 - Ramsar values

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1 - Consultation mail out



MILANG HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

NEWS FLASH!

Three years ago the Milang community developed a funding proposal for the restoration of the Snipe Sanctuary and adjacent walking trails. Thanks to the Australian Government we now have the funds to undertake the project which includes viewing platforms, weed removal, revegetation work, fencing, walking trail improvements and interpretive signage.

SO MILANG WE NEED YOUR HELP. We have some draft concept plans but are seeking your input to make sure this project meets community and environmental needs.

YOU ARE INVITED to FLY IN AND HAVE YOUR SAY....

Where: MILANG OLD SCHOOL HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE 24-25 Daranda Tce

When: COMMUNITY DROP IN SESSION Friday 30th Sept 2-6pm and
Saturday 1 October 12-4 pm

"WHAT WE HEARD" Community BBQ Friday 21st October 6.30-8.30 pm

If you can't be there in person, have your say by:

- ♦ Completing an [online response form](http://www.madca.org.au/habitat) here or at www.madca.org.au/habitat
- ♦ Emailing your comments to habitat@madca.org.au
- ♦ Posting your comments to Milang Habitat Restoration Project, c/- MADCA 24-25 Daranda Tce Milang SA 5256

Concept drawings & response forms are available at Lakes Hub, Alexandrina Council, Milang Old School House Community Centre and online. Consultation closes 5pm Fri 21st Oct. 2016.



MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin

ATTACHMENT 2 - Response form

Page | 1

Milang Habitat Restoration Project Response

We are seeking your input to help develop a plan for the restoration of the Snipe Sanctuary and adjacent walking trails that lead to the foreshore, shack area, Pobbybonk Point and town centre.

Specifically, the Habitat Restoration Project aims to deliver on key environmental outcomes, including supporting the continued recovery of native habitat and feeding grounds for threatened migratory bird species at the Milang site, and limiting invasive species encroachment in the area through pest control, fencing, native plantings and environmental watering trials. It is also proposed to build an interpretive trail and provide viewing platforms overlooking the Snipe Sanctuary to promote environmental interest and stewardship.

The consultation period closes 5pm Friday 21st October 2016, and we welcome all feedback.

What is your relationship to the Snipe Sanctuary wetlands and walking paths?

Please tick your response.

Resident of Milang	
Shackowner	
Visitor	
Tourist	
I work here	
Other:	



How have you used this area in the past? Please tick your responses.

Walking for health	
Walking to get from A - B eg. shacks to shops	
Enjoyment of wetlands	
Birdwatching	
Environmental activity eg. frog watch, bird monitoring	
Cycling	
Photography	
Social activities	
I don't use this area	
Other:	

How might you use the area after this project is completed?

Your answer

***Please continue to page 2**

What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths?

Your answer

How do you think the existing Snipe Sanctuary area could be improved?

Your answer

Draft Concept Plans

Alexandrina Council and consultants Oxigen have created some concept designs as a starting place for discussion. These plans can be viewed at www.madca.org.au/habitat. We would really love to know what you think. Feedback received during this consultation phase will inform the development of the final project plans.

What do you like about the concept designs?

Your answer

Any suggestions for enhancing the design?

Your answer

Interpretive signage is an important component of the project. What stories should we be telling?

Your answer

Is there anything else important for us to know in developing the final plans?

Your answer

How important is it to you that the Snipe Sanctuary and walking trails be accessible to all eg. families with babies, bike riders, people using wheel chairs & gophers?

Please circle

Not Important				Very Important
1	2	3	4	5

What is your age? Please tick.

0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
16-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
31-65	<input type="checkbox"/>
65+	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is your gender?

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is the postcode of your residence? _____

Keep up to date

If you would like to be kept up to date on the progress of this project, please leave your contact details below.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Confidentiality Statement: You may be assured of complete confidentiality. Your personal details will be stored only to provide you with information for this project. The data will be reported only in the aggregate and no individual will be identified.

We thank you for your input. Your response will be recorded. We invite you to attend a free community BBQ on Friday 21st October 6.30 - 8.30 pm at Milang Old School House Community Centre 24 - 25 Daranda Tce Milang to hear about some of the feedback received, and next steps for the project.

Forms can be returned by email to habitat@madca.org.au or by post to Milang Habitat Restoration Project, C/ MADCA 24 - 25 Daranda Tce, Milang SA 5256



MILANG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.



ATTACHMENT 3 - What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths?

What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths? (verbatim)	Education	Enjoy Natural Area	Habitat	Access	Environment	Development of Milang	Boardwalk	Do Nothing
Teaching my children about the importance of native plants and animals. Enjoying the beauty of the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
as a wildlife welfare rescuer all these habitats are valuable. Too many of our wildlife have lost their habitat			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Nothing other than it should be left alone								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A natural area close to Milang that is accessible				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
It's part of nature part of the lake system			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
1) good for the snipe overall - low impact 2) compliments environment / looks feels natural 3) useful access paths			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
That they become a feature for Milang for residents and visitors alike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
It will help open Milang up to the visiting public						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
To view the birdlife and the Snipes. A place to enjoy nature. A place to relax		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
The paths need to be kept free of weeds which are a potential tripping hazard				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Making sure it works in harmony with the Shack area.						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
could bring in tourists						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
clear walking trail, seating for rest and enjoyment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Snipes, native vegetation, board walk		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It has ecological and environmental importance that needs to be protected		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
boardwalk and adjacent sculptures							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A connection with and protection of snipe and the wetlands		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Paths to be cleared of all weeds				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
International importance as migratory habitat			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
respect for the environment, boardwalk connection.					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ease access, walking			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
respect for the environment, boardwalk connection.					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ease access, walking				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
easy access				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

MILANG FORESHORE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT- CONSULTATION REPORT

What is important to you about the Snipe Sanctuary area and walking paths? (verbatim)	Education	Enjoy Natural Area	Habitat	Access	Environment	Development of Milang	Boardwalk	Do Nothing
Clear and suitable paths for pram, enough space to be aware of snakes, ie not too narrow.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Protection of Latham's Snipe, Community enjoyment. Will generate interest/tourism into Milang		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
view		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
animals that live there, its always been there so its heritage, remove weeds			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Habitat for breeding etc, enjoyment of natural environment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Good to have natural habitat so close to township, great buffer from shacks to shops, encourages tourism, jobs, growth of town.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Showing the kids wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Even surface, accessible to everyone				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Educating the public about the environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
TOTAL	4	9	12	10	5	5	4	1

ATTACHMENT 4 - How do you think the existing Snipe Sanctuary area could be improved?

How do you think the existing Snipe Sanctuary area could be improved? (verbatim)	Maintenance of weeds	Observation areas	Signage	Access Paths	Enhance snipe habitat	Seating, Shade, fencing	Boardwalk	Do Nothing	Unsure	As per concept plan
Restoring the Sanctuary with native plants and excluding invasive weeds, safer walking trails and observation areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
not sure									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Leave it alone								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Boardwalks over the wetland such as at Laratinga Trail at Mt Barker Signage to describe the bird and plants with photos to describe where the birds travel, such as signs at the Avoca Wetland Trail Murray Bridge. Weed Control as an ongoing program with community Involvement. Could have a buffer zone, such as gravel beds/swales as at the Whyalla Wetlands.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
The path gets wet in winter so path that can cope with water would be good. Use of geo Tec materials would achieve this. Worked on trail in Brownhill Creek recreation park. Geo tec materials did wonders in wet trails				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
unsure specifically but upgrading may attract more to view the area - suggest increasing natural elements - review in terms of what the snipe needs to thrive - query human adjacent location / impact and effect on snipe population? are there other local areas where the snipe is located? how critical is this location? what impact will the upgrade have on the snipe? long term projection					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
I don't have knowledge of what the actual Snipe is requiring - they probably need privacy? They migrate here to breed so I think pathways should be minimal impact on the sanctuary					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Maybe a little back fill and plant some more appropriate plants for cover for the bird life					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
More seating with shade structures . Signs to describe the travels of the Snipe from Alaska. Also signs to show vegetation and uses of plants. Weeds to be controlled. Also more board walks into the wetland.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
We are happy as it is, but paths need to be kept free of weeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
Possible planting of snipe feeding vegetation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
bigger area, needs protection from dogs, cats & other predators					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
interpretive signs would be good - not only for identification of what you might be looking at, but also about the history of the sites			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
General upgrade,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									

MILANG FORESHORE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT- CONSULTATION REPORT

How do you think the existing Snipe Sanctuary area could be improved? (verbatim)	Maintenance of weeds	Observation areas	Signage	Access Paths	Enhance snipe habitat	Seating, Shade, fencing	Boardwalk	Do Nothing	Unsure	As per concept plan
maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
As per the proposal, with a few extra ideas considered										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
better surfaces on paths				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
paths upgrade, improved bird hide		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Less weeds, more walking tracks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Improvement and accessibility of walking trails. Better viewing points for birdwatching.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
interpretation, improved surfacing on paths, weed control, improved accessibility to walking trails, cultural stories, seating areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Updated signage with more info, Ngarrindjeri names / history and Milang town history			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Existing paths resurfaced (pot holes and puddles)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
new fence on bridge							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
new fences, viewing area on shack side, new signs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Seating areas, better signage so visitors can appreciate what is already there.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
better paths around and some shade				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Information board - birds, animals, Indigenous information of the area.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
TOTAL	7	4	8	9	5	5	2	1	1	1

ATTACHMENT 5 - What do you like about the concept designs?

What do you like about the concept designs? (verbatim)	Observation areas	Linkages	Access	Enhance Milang	Seating, Shade, fencing	Do Nothing	As per concept	Except boardwalk removal
Viewing platforms which are less intrusive on the wetland to allow birds to utilise the entire Sanctuary area with out human disturbance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Not much						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
shared paths, seating, improved bird hides	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
1) formalises and refreshes the sanctuary 2) professional design 3) integrates with an overall regional plan for walk around, environment and attracting interest to Milang							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I like the circular path, however have grave concerns about disturbing the wilderness on the Pobbybonk point			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
They all look good							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Improved viewing platform next to the Rotunda and extra seating. Although, would like more seating.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
W have no problems with the plans except the removal of the bridge across the Snipe Sanctuary							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The use of timber								
fine							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
the upgrade looks good!								
Disabled access			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
With the exception of #11 (remove existing boardwalk) I like the proposal								
better surfaces on paths								
the viewing platform is fine but leave the boardwalk or incorporate in the platform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The platforms look amazing, maybe add a little shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
I am in favour of concept plan and look forward to future development of area in front of shacks. Been waiting for 20+ years							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I like the better linkages to other areas of Milang, the opportunity for further interpretation of the site environmental, cultural. Improved access.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
everything							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Welcome the proposed restoration							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The viewing areas look nice.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							

MILANG FORESHORE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT- CONSULTATION REPORT

What do you like about the concept designs? (verbatim)	Observation areas	Linkages	Access	Enhance Milang	Seating, Shade, fencing	Do Nothing	As per concept	Except boardwalk removal
Clean and modern design make the area more appealing. Having seating etc. available marks the area as an important place in Milang and indicates that it is a place intended for people to be there. Rather than feeling like it is just something to get past to get elsewhere.							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
They're inviting to the Public, open and modern. They highlight the sanctuary rather than hide it.							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
not blocking paths			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
whole design looks good, good solid path, like observation area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I see the concept as good but think it would be better to leave the bridge for better access							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Simple but effective, shared space, links to rotunda and railway to create tourist hub - not disjointed.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
It would encourage more use by locals and tourists				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
The plans look great. Enhances Milang - bring in tourists/Stop/Look/Use local shops				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Overall not bad. I would like the walkway over wetland to stay if possible							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL	7	2	6	2	1	1	13	5

ATTACHMENT 6 - Community Consultation Presentation

Milang Foreshore Habitat Project

Community Consultation Presentation - Project Concept Plan

Milang Community Centre, 21 October 2016

Attending:

community members

Karyn Bradford Milang and District Community Association Inc

Kathy Hayter - Alexandrina Council

Mark Phillips - Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (note taker)

The following comments and issues were raised by community members during discussions of the draft Milang Foreshore Habitat Project Concept Plan:

(note that these comments will be considered along with the written feedback received)

- One attendee asked if the mosquito problem in Milang was caused by/worsened by the adjacent wetlands.
- Kikuyu infestations adjacent the storm water outlets are contributing to filtering the stormwater before it enters the wetland. Replacement plantings should aim to do the same.
- Do we know how Ngarrindjeri people used to use the site?
- The draft concept plan has the two lookouts too close together.
- Attendees queried if new infrastructure at new sites may impact on the snipe - ie additional disturbance.
- Attendees reported they have not seen a snipe at the site for two years. They also reported that the samphire in the wetlands was healthier and thicker than previously known and this may be restricting where the snipe can feed and move. Other attendees suggested there had been quite a few good seasons lately and perhaps the snipe were using other sites as well as the Milang site - so they are more widely distributed and so they are seen less.
- The bottom existing bird hide (south of the shacks) used to be a good one to see many birds (other than snipe) but reeds are too tall and it is now not so good. A raised bird hide at this site would work really well.
- Keep the 'old dunny' - probably in its current position.
- One attendee queried if more rubbish bins would be installed - more visitors = more rubbish.
- One attendee thought that if there was not going to be a viewing platform below the rotunda it would be easier to match the levels with the existing boardwalk.
- Some attendees thought that wheelchair access from one end of the existing boardwalk (the boat ramp end) was sufficient and it would not be required at the main street end.
- The existing boardwalk allows people be 'in' the wetland, and get a closer experience as opposed to just viewing platforms around the edges.

- Attendees asked what follow up consultation would occur about the decision to upgrade or remove the boardwalk.
- One attendee was concerned that the proposal to pump water into the wetlands to promote the snipe could result in flooding of the shacks as water can fill the wetland very quickly.
- Some attendees thought the rustic materials currently in use at the site were more appropriate than the 'new' looking materials shown in the draft concept plan.
- One attendee asked if the whole area where wheelchairs are encouraged to go would need to be fenced more securely to prevent wheelchairs accidentally falling off the raised tracks.
- The proposed viewing platform opposite the caravan park should stay, and the upgraded boardwalk would be the second viewing platform.
- The current ephemeral artwork in the wetland adjacent the boardwalk was originally supposed to be in place for 12 months but the community decided to leave it in place and let it disintegrate over time. There could be an opportunity to have an annual ephemeral arts festival at Milang.
- Ponder the sculpture - is there a place for it as part of this project - really a separate issue for Council to consider.

ATTACHMENT 7 - Written submission from two Milang residents

CLLMM MILANG HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Some Reflections from / Name obscured for confidentiality of respondents

SNIFE SANCTUARY PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN



Although we are comparative new-comers to Milang, having come to reside here in 2001, we have had quite an extensive involvement with the area involved in that time: walking past the area several times every week, for some years being engaged in regular water quality monitoring, vegetation surveys, frog monitoring, monthly bird counts and regular photo points. We were also members of Milang 2005 and its successor the Milang Environmental Centre at the time of the construction of the walking paths, board walks and bird hides.

On the whole we welcome the proposed restoration but are concerned that there is no mention of any consultation with the organisations which continue to monitor the area such as the NRM, Adelaide University or the LAP. Nor is there mention of any consultation with the Port Milang Historic Railway Society whose leasehold will be affected by some of the proposed works.

Comments:

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The reference to the difficulty in detecting Latham's Snipe is true and experience has shown that they are often detected when someone approaches the area of the bird hide marked "3" on the map above or walks along the path below the railway station as they break cover with a characteristic note of alarm and zig-zag flight. In the past it has also been possible to see them when looking across from the western corner of the area of the shacks marked with "8".

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As is mentioned it is important to not only provide environmental benefits but also to enhance "visitor connection" and this has been a unique feature of Milang's Snipe Sanctuary—that it has been possible to see these shy birds without having to travel to some remote location.

It was part of the original concept when laying out the walking trails that they would be part of a circuit around the town linking a number of environmental sites: Nurragi Trail, Milang Common, existing native plantation...

1. The proposed two viewing platforms at the eastern end of the area will be fine if one wants to have a general view of the wetlands from much the same point of view but they are not likely to provide many opportunities for viewing the snipe which tend to be seen more often on the western side of the boardwalk.
 2. The viewing nodes below the station and close to the Stirling Street drainage outlet would seem to be well placed and will be a welcome addition.
 3. This bird-hide is well placed for viewing the snipe and other birds and would benefit from some reconstruction and renewal.
 4. The path would be a good asset as it will help to separate pedestrians and vehicles but see note 11.
 5. What is the purpose of this fencing? Is it really needed?
 6. This is an urgent priority and the path gradient needs modification where it crosses the drain near the railway station. Will retaining a rubble path be satisfactory for those using gophers or wheelchairs?
 7. There needs to be some thought given to what is required in the way of re-vegetation. At present the area of kikuyu grass is encroaching on the samphire which is a problem but it also provides a biological filter for the storm-water which also is the cause of the problem. So how do you remove the problem but also replace the filter?
- The designation of "Watering Trial Levee" is misleading as its associated ditch is an important part of a system which seeks to provide a mechanism for controlling rising water levels, which can threaten the amenity of the shacks, by pumping water **out** rather than **in**.
8. This bird-hide is in a sad condition and no longer provides a view over the Lake due to the growth of the reeds in the vicinity. However if it were replaced by a higher structure it would provide a good view of a part of the Lake which often features an interesting variety of birds, probably influenced by the lack of human access to the area.
 9. The integration with the railway precinct is important for visitors and the development of tourist activities.
 10. The way in which this connection is made along the foreshore will be important as we need to preserve those features which already attract visitors to Milang.
 11. If it is desired to enhance "visitor connection" with the wetlands it seems very foolish to demolish a facility which provides a close up view of the samphire wetlands rather than looking from some distant viewing platform. The boardwalk has also provided a well-used path to the shops from the shacks and foreshore since it was opened in 2003 by Governor Marjorie Jackson Nelson and was a significant project undertaking by "Milang 2005" and its volunteer members.