

**LEGEND**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
|  | PROPOSED GAZETTED AREA BOUNDARY  |
|  | FUTURE BIRD HIDE AND ACCESS PATH |
|  | BIRD SANCTUARY                   |
|  | ON LEASH DOG ACCESS              |
|  | FUTURE DOG ACCESS                |



Shire of Denmark

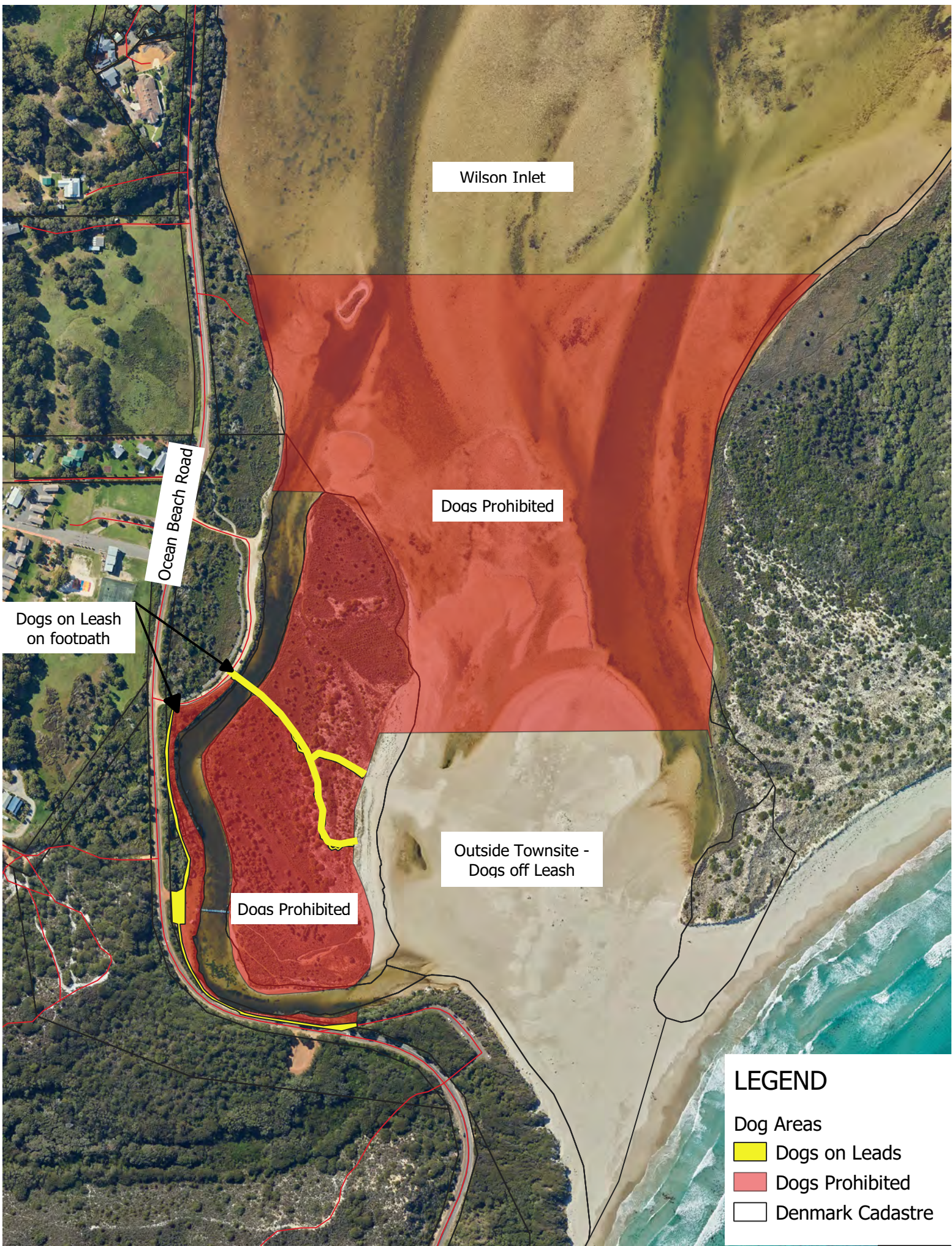
PRAWN ROCK CHANNEL ACCESS AREAS  
PLAN - BIRD SANCTUARY AREA

21 June 2022 - Attachment 9.1.1a

SCALE 1 @ 3000

DRAWN L.T.





**LEGEND**

Dog Areas

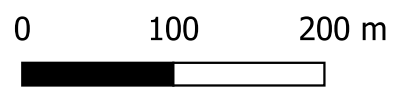
- Dogs on Leads
- Dogs Prohibited
- Denmark Cadastre

**PRAWN ROCK CHANNEL DOG EXERCISE AREA**



Produced by Shire of Denmark 09/06/2022.  
 Whilst all care has been taken, no responsibility shall be taken for any omissions or errors in this documentation.

1:5,000





**SCHEDULE OF SUBMISSIONS: PROPOSED BIRD SANCTUARY  
Reserve 20578 Prawn Rock/Ocean Beach, Denmark (PROJ.ENG.54.20/21)**

*Note – all personal details have been REDACTED from this list of submissions*

| Submission Number | Verbatim Submission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Sustainable Projects Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S1                | <p>Dear Shire of Denmark representatives and council members, I AM AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL AS A HOME OWNER, RATE PAYER, BUSINESS OWNER AND ANIMAL LOVER (of all kinds) You will, no doubt, receive a lot of generalised negativity about this proposal. And I'm sure that you mostly have thick skins and can handle the backlash. I would firstly like to say this is in no way directed at any one person. This is directed at you all, as a group of REPRESENTATIVES of the people of Denmark.</p> <p>Have you wondered why there is such a massive backlash to this? To the previous changes to Prawn Rock Channel and pet owners? Have you considered that the people who have been so passionately voicing their opinions might actually have a point?</p> <p>Let's look at the numbers, first of those who signed the petition to have you re-address changes to the dog beach area of Prawn Rock Channel back in late 2021. As a percentage of the Denmark population, this was quite a large number of people AGAINST the changes. However, you opted to ignore the people of this town. Now let's look at this proposal. A proposal to benefit a tiny minority of people, at the disadvantage of a huge number of locals and tourists. Are you sure you're still REPRESENTING the people of Denmark? Let's look at the details of this proposal, a sanctuary for a bird that sometimes nests there, in a manmade area (an area which, as a side note, used to hold cad races).</p> <p>Not a native bird to Denmark nor WA! In the same breath, you are approving the constant destruction of habitat for our own black cockatoos so developers can sell off blocks of land. Oh and open mines. Let's not forget that little doozy!</p> <p>At this point I am sick and tired of these fights. Why should everything with this shire and council be a fight? Why are you making it so difficult to live in this area? People moved to this area to be at one with each other and nature, but yet you continue to destroy this.</p> <p>Have a good, proper, honest think about this proposal. How many people in Denmark does this truly represent? Are you even doing your duty to represent the people who, in the case of the councillors, put you there?</p> <p>I put to you that you are getting caught up in flourey speeches of little to no merit, instead of looking at the things that will ENHANCE living and visiting Denmark. I believe that if you looked at what Denmark actually needed, you would look at this proposal and shake your head in disbelief, just as I have.</p> <p>Sadly, this I am sure will fall on deaf ears. If it is read at all. We fight these fights, get rejected every single time, and Denmark becomes more and more unfriendly and less pet friendly. Actually, why don't we just stop messing about the edges and do what the minority want. Let's make Denmark an entirely pet free town. That way people with an emotional need and physical need can find comfort that a sometimes bird might visit this year.</p> <p>Honestly, Denmark shire and councillors, you should be ashamed at what you are turning this town into.</p> <p>And, if you do approve this (and let's face it, this public comment time is a mere box ticking exercise as you've already made the decision), what a precedent you set! How amazing that I could now apply to make the whole of Strickland street a dog sanctuary, only people with dogs can enter. Because dogs visit the area sometimes. How great that all of great southern hwy could be made a horse only area. Oh the possibilities!</p> <p>Yes, my sarcasm is high in this comment area, but you have to think about the future, the precedent you set here.</p> | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance. The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officer recognises there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S2                | <p>I object to the creation of the bird sanctuary. I don't believe it is in the best interest of the community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Officers recognise this a compromised proposal to allow all users to still access the much-loved community asset.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S3                | <p>I am Not in support of a proposed bird sanctuary in the prawn rock channel area. There are already too many restrictions in place for access. Please leave as is or remove current restrictions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S4                | <p>A bird sanctuary in such a high use AND manmade area, is a ridiculous idea. While protecting the bird population is important, a less culturally and socially important site for the people of Denmark and visitors should be used such as Morley Beach should be perused as a bird sanctuary. The biggest threat currently to the bird population is the tidal and swell movements at the inlet, which with climate change are likely to be worse. There have been very few birds nesting at the inlet for the past two summers so they must be nesting elsewhere along the south coast</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>A compromised proposal to allow all users to still access the much-loved community asset. Refer to Bird Group for comment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S5                | <p>The bird sanctuary proposal has already limited dog owners, the elderly, tourists and anyone going down to the manmade island being able to enjoy this creation. The</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>A compromised proposal to allow all users to still access</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|    | <p>current dog prohibited area was not prohibited prior to the bird sanctuary proposal. I have email confirmation of this from the shire!</p> <p>This is not a native area for these birds to nest, the past two years have seen negligible nesting due to high tides washing the area away! This council needs to sit up and take notice of what the majority of stakeholders want to see for this popular tourist and local recreation area.</p> <p>I am not in agreement with the bird sanctuary!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>the much-loved community asset.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S6 | <p>I am one of many dog owners in the Shire of Denmark. Also, a bird lover. I have been taking my dogs to the prawn rock precinct since we retired here in 2013. I was born here in Denmark in 1953 and can remember clearly seeing vehicles parked on the sand flats which make up a part of this area. Access was gained directly off Ocean Beach road and this was obviously before the manmade channel was formed around the western edge of the sand flats. There certainly wasn't any indication of nesting birds in the proposed exclusion zone in those times as vehicles regularly drove across that area from ocean Beach road.</p> <p>So, the emotive argument that birds have been nesting and breeding in this particular area for ever is onerous at best, and quite misleading. I have never witnessed any dog with a bird in its mouth in this area. I'm not saying it hasn't happened but I have never witnessed it. I am also quite astounded by the claims that this is a major breeding area. If anyone bothered to inspect the general locality, they would immediately see that the eastern side of the inlet on the Nullaki water edge is the major breeding area at all times. This is the section where the Bibbilum track meanders around the edge of the inlet.</p> <p>My main objection to the sectioning of this public area centres on the basis of general public access to all areas of the inlet. To allow a small minority group to selfishly request a large section of the inlet area for themselves and use Council edicts to ban the public is not a fair and equitable solution to a non-issue.</p> <p>The bird lobby are a minority group seeking to sequest an area purely for themselves. The notion that bird populations will be wiped out is subjective at best and in my opinion pure poppycock. The result of this proposal being promoted and passed by Council will very likely drive a wedge between the general public majority and the bird lobby group.</p> <p>And unfortunately, it will be the Rangers employed by the Shire (read ratepayers) that will have the onerous task of policing it. I urge the Council and assorted Councillors to dismiss this motion and revert the area back to its original purpose. That is, a public open space where all ratepayers and visitors alike can enjoy this wonderful and peaceful precinct. Bird lovers can still access this area without the absolutely ridiculous fences, signs and barricades. This alone has degraded the ambience of this area. It is a beautiful part of the world attractive to visitors and locals alike and to see a fence stuck in the sand flats serving absolutely zero purpose other than to give the proponents a sense of satisfaction is beyond my and most people's comprehension.</p> <p>The proposed fence across the inlet as shown on the pre emotive proposal is almost "Yes Minister" material. I mean, who dreams up these absurdities. Bring back a level of common sense and represent the majority, not some well organised and vocal minority.</p> <p>I believe this issue if promoted as per the proposal will result in a massive backlash and indeed a vote of no confidence in the Councillors and Shire generally, which will be a shame.</p> <p>Please represent the majority of users in this area, take down the fence and signs and revert the area back to what it was 5 years ago before this nonsense was allowed to grow.</p> | <p>The Officer proposal is in agreement with your comments of attempting to provide access for all users in some capacity.</p> <p>There will be no fence across the inlet where water is present, the temporary fence will be in place across the flats dependant on water levels.</p>                                                                                                 |
| S7 | <p>The Prawn Rock Ocean to Channel Recreation should remain a recreation precinct for the greater community and tax payers of Denmark as opposed to closing it off to appease a small group of people lobbying for the area to become a bird sanctuary.</p> <p>I believe the sanctuary does not have significant tourism benefits for the area, as cited by the group. Many travellers come to Denmark for recreational purposes and not bird watching activities. Migratory birds like the red-necked stint, also travel to many areas across the South West region and are not solely dependent on the Prawn Rock Channel. Please keep the channel completely accessible to the greater community of Denmark and travellers to the region.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S8 | <p>The area is not a significant site for bird conservation, there are more significant areas in the eastern part of the inlet that are already protected due to their location. Putting a bird sanctuary in one of the few accessible areas of the inlet isn't good planning. The island and channel were formed by a community group. Others can come up with funding and create a separate island if so desire but why remove areas that were established and paid for by a community organisation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Studies of the birdlife in the Wilson Inlet have revealed that the Prawn Rock Channel area and Morley Beach are important sites for shorebirds. These areas are important because they have the food supplies and variety needed for the survival of these species.</p>                                                                                                             |
| S9 | <p>I am opposed to the proposed Bird Sanctuary restrictions in that the current controls are sufficient in allowing ALL residents to enjoy the area's natural beauty. The last thing Denmark needs is fencing running through the natural landscape, especially in such a highly visible location, visited by locals and tourists alike. I doubt that the birds will appreciate the disturbance to the natural habitat and the fence will no doubt require constant maintenance, which the shire seems to struggle with as evident throughout town.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>The only permanent fencing is proposed to be across the northern part of the island and if it is to go ahead will be designed to lessen the visual impact. If installed, the fence would become a Shire Asset and require</p>                                                                                                                                                       |

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| S10 | <p>I am opposed to the current suggestion of a bird sanctuary at the prawn rock channel area. I feel that putting an ugly fence across the natural beauty of the inlet is a hideous idea. I cannot understand why we would do such a thing and stop people enjoying our beautiful surroundings.</p> <p>I really don't see how this is going to make any difference as the birds will come and go whenever they wish as they always have regardless of whether there is a fence or not.</p> <p>Why suddenly is this required? The birds still come back each year like all the other birds do. I don't see us putting up a fence for the swans or stopping people enjoying our beautiful river or tracks because of the pelicans, blue wrens etc.</p> <p>Surly the upkeep to an unnecessary fence will require maintenance due to debris collecting in the fence. How can this eyesore even be seriously considered is beyond me. Do you really think the birds are going to nest on their side of the fence? Really the only thing this is going to do is create even more division and segregation within the town and stop local residents and visitors the ability to enjoy such a unique and special location.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | In an ideal world it would be great not to install a fence across the northern part of the island. But, by providing this infrastructure it will mitigate against human and animal disturbance which are a known factor in affecting bird populations.                                                                                                                                 |
| S11 | <p>Denying people access to this area all year long is ludicrous. The erection of a permanent fence will be unsightly in what is regarded as a real draw card for visitors and locals alike.</p> <p>I do not agree with the exclusion zone.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S12 | I don't support it thinking it unnecessary and a waste of ratepayers funds.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | There will be minimal expenditure of rate payer funds. The Officers aim will be to utilise external funding opportunities to fund most of the infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| S13 | Do not go ahead with this plan. I am opposed to it and will be voting against you if you carry on with it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| S14 | I would like to strongly oppose the bird sanctuary. I don't believe it is necessary with ugly unkept fences and blocking off public space that is amazing for the whole family. A beach that is close to town and no stairs (easy access for elderly). We go there multiple times a week and appreciate everything it has to offer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| S15 | <p>Having been born in Denmark and living here my whole life, I have been witness to the slow demise of the local attractions around Denmark. Once where we used to be able to drive our cars across Ocean Beach to fish has now been banned, once where we used to freely roam the island that is Prawn Rock has recently also been banned. I grew up across the road or within the Ocean beach area, even having my great Grandmother run an animal sanctuary opposite the Beach a long time ago so I am not against providing shelter for those animals at risk. What I am against is once again putting up another ugly wall on our beautiful beach that segregates one lot of people from another.</p> <p>A lot of our freedoms have been removed already in Denmark with nothing being created to step into what has been lost I feel as a dog owner, a home owner and with two beautiful girls growing up in this town. They will never get the same experiences as I did growing up in Denmark. Why should be once again limit that and hope it helps to bring a few extra birds in that will migrate further north if not here?</p> <p>I also happen to work in hospitality in town and have done so for around 16 years now and have seen a very steady incline in holiday makers bringing their dogs on holiday with them. What do you think happens if we don't supply places for them to take their fur babies like the beach? They simply realise we are not a dog friendly town and will not visit! We rely on those tourists for our towns survival so why muck around with that? This idea to chop up our beautiful beach is insane to me and speaks volumes of where this town is going.</p> <p>Why not speak to those people who work in an industry that will truly be affected by this? People in hospitality, people in the accommodation industry. They are the ones who will be able to tell you that this idea is insane and will start a change that cannot be taken back once done.</p> | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S16 | I am against the bird sanctuary. It will take more areas away from the people. There has been no discussion to what happens when hightide hits the island when the estuary is open or when the inlet is closed and the inlet recedes. No to fencing off our public areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | As is the case currently, when there is a high-water level there is limited space for access on the island's eastern side and limited space for migratory birds to nest. The bird sanctuary is limited to the northern section of the island only.                                                                                                                                     |

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| <p>S17</p> | <p>As a ratepayer I am concerned about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the costs - establishment and maintenance of infrastructure</li> <li>• the costs - policing compliance</li> <li>• non-compliance fees/fines</li> <li>• Economic impact on: businesses, tourism, tourism operators</li> <li>• The lack of publicly available data of current users of proposed area (including the waterways)</li> <li>• The lack publicly available data of current activities pursued within the proposed area (waterways and land)</li> <li>• restrictions and how they will potentially impact physical health</li> <li>• The lack of publicly available data on how restrictions will affect accessibility, inclusivity, for the elderly, mobility impaired and disabled, specifically to the sand delta if there is no water to traverse</li> <li>• The impact of visual pollution specifically additional signage, permanent and temporary fencing which will degrade the tourism aesthetic of Prawn Rock Channel.</li> <li>• How influences of climate phenomena such as Climate Change, rain patterns, wind etc will affect/impact the sandflats and there-by access to the inlet water.</li> <li>• the punitive and excessive messaging on signage affecting locals and tourists negatively.</li> <li>• size/scale of the area is not in the interests of the majority of the wider community although it affects a large portion of them it predominately reflects the interests of a sub group</li> <li>• concerned about the shrinking of public access to what is essentially public land which should be made accessible to all.</li> <li>• I am concerned that in the future the sanctuary will be expanded into more public recreational land thus limiting even more access.</li> <li>• more public parking will have adjacent to the sanctuary, the detrimental effect and unnecessary erosion of this on the aesthetics of the area.</li> <li>• the sanctuary will create the need for infrastructure within the sanctuary and the adjacent parking area which will be detrimental to the aesthetics of the area and not enhance Denmark as an eco-tourism destination.</li> <li>• I am very concerned about the volume of angst and divisiveness this proposal has caused the wider community.</li> </ul> <p>I do not support this proposal as it is presented because I do not have enough information. As a rate payer and resident of the community I cannot make a justified and informed decision on this matter at this time.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>There will be minimal expenditure of rate payers' funds. The Officers aim will be to utilise external funding opportunities to fund most of the infrastructure. The Rangers will be tasked with compliance. There are no plans to extend the Bird Sanctuary area proposed.</p> |
| <p>S18</p> | <p>WE live in this seaside town. OUR closest beach is Ocean Beach. We cannot access the main beach near the surf club as it is NO DOG zone all year round. This is a shame as there is good swimming there. We cannot scale down the lookout as many do due to the steep decline, which can be dangerous for an older dog or human with mobility issues. We enter the beach from the car park at the first bridge coming from town, and enjoy a leisurely stroll to the water mouth for a refreshing swim. Unfortunately, this space is becoming more and more restricted due to the expansion of the bird sanctuary.</p> <p>It is almost suffocating now.</p> <p>During the peak season it is taken over with children, fisherman and boats whizzing by. Yet dogs are to blame for any demise on the bird population. The dogs are too busy wanting to play with each other, dip their legs into the sea and have some fun, without destroying birds or nature! Our next closest beach is Lights Beach, which unfortunately has steep access with the stairs and then rocks to get the the beach, and the swimming there can be dangerous.</p> <p>Since the changes to the car park and the new rules around where dogs are allowed, we can no longer access the beach from the southern part of the car park where there was a gentle slope leading to the beach; great for dogs and people who struggle with the stairs. The next closest beach is Greens Pool; great and generally safe swimming here but of course this is a National Park and strictly NO DOGS. So I think you can see my dilemma.</p> <p>WE live in a beach side town but are severely restricted by what beaches we can enjoy due to dog prohibited areas being established. Most dogs I know do not chase birds and kill native wildlife as many people think; such dogs should be restricted and on lead so that the many other dogs can enjoy our wild spaces, as it used to be.</p> <p>Over the past 20 years I have watched this town become more and more hostile towards dogs. I love birds and I am an avid nature lover myself; I enjoy spending tranquil time in our wild places, including the coast, with my best friend, companion and protector ... my dog. I feel safe with my dog by my side in the wild out of the way places where we can be part of the Great Spirit and all the wonderful creatures abound. It doesn't have to be us or them. We can live and enjoy our natural places together. To ban much of the access to the Prawn Rock channel all year around is extreme when the birds only nest during a certain part of the year. Dogs are part of this natural landscape as much as the humans, the birds, the trees and the sea. They have their place here too. The wild dog, the wolf, the dingo, they have survived the human push to have them all poisoned and culled due to their supposed threat to development and agriculture.</p> <p>Many studies done in Yellowstone National Park and other places demonstrate that the removal of the wolves in fact led to the severe demise of the environment. This was because nature became unbalanced and the large herbivores devoured the land of food and eventually starved. Wolves only hunt the old, sick or injured and they never waste their hunt unless they are feeling threatened by human threat and need to move on to save themselves. In this way they keep the food chain in balance and nature thrives. I am not saying that our local dogs are to be given free roam on the bird sanctuary and decimate the nests to keep balance, I am simply demonstrating that all animals can live in harmony with each other. This is as Nature intended.</p> <p>Banning this area to dog people has already caused much upset and anger in our community. It will also mean that a lot of people would have to travel to Parry's beach, Cosy Corner, Mutton Bird etc to enjoy the seaside and let their dogs have a good stretch and play. This would be a far greater impact on the environment with the travel</p> | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p>                                                                                                           |

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|     | <p>to and fro.</p> <p>Even Albany has a much dog friendly community when it comes to beach access. Many of the pristine beaches out Frenchman's Bay Road are dog friendly and simply gorgeous. Dogs are welcomed and there seems to be no worries that the dogs are destroying the environment and birds like there is here in Denmark. I cannot fathom what this town would be like if dogs are banned from the local beaches. It would certainly feel like a very sterile place to live!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S19 | <p>I do not support this bird sanctuary proposal. This peninsula is at grave risk of being tampered with beyond recognition.</p> <p>you blindly continue to mine the lime pit without considering an alternative source, while proposing a ring road and blocking public access. Then you restrict dog off-lease access which has been in place forever in favour of seasonally migratory birds. Now, presumably under pressure from the same evangelism, you want to restrict further and put up an ugly fence just to re-enforce your hypocrisy. Does fencing nature make sense to you??</p> <p>This shire seems to have its priorities very skewed when it comes to listening to its employers, the rate payers of the shire. Until this changes its a No from me.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S20 | <p>I have read the documents and studied the three diagrams/ maps of the proposed bird sanctuary.</p> <p>My personal view is that Prawn Rock Channel Island should be returned to how it was before the current fenced area/ bird area. I used to love walking around the top of the Island and then through the middle. It is so beautiful. Taking the three dogs I have owned the over the years, to PRC have been some of the happiest times for me. I feel irritated about the changes. I feel resentful. Please do not make further changes. Wilson Inlet is a large space, migratory birds have their choice to go across the water to the other side and nest there.</p> <p>Please listen to peoples distress at losing access to our beloved Prawn Rock Channel. If you must develop a bird sanctuary, why not put a bird observation hut at Crusoe Beach? As is stated in the document, Prawn Rock Channel is a popular place for locals and tourists. It would be unwise to change it.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>In an ideal world it would be great not to install a fence across the northern part of the island. But, by providing this infrastructure it will mitigate against human and animal disturbance which are a known factor in affecting bird populations.</p>                                                                                                                          |
| S21 | <p>Very disappointed with the council for voting for only birds. The way dog areas used to be was working well, and quite happy if the dogs were not allowed into the fenced off area, in fact, we hardly ever saw a dog in that area.</p> <p>People with disabilities are the ones who need a dog to assist them with mental health and steps are no good, so putting steps at the lookout will be of no use. Likewise, too many steps at Lights Beach so cannot walk the dog there. Choice has been completely cut off in these circumstances.</p> <p>Dogs also age and cannot manage to walk up and down steps.</p> <p>The Ocean Beach Caravan Park now takes dogs so where are all the visitors going to take them now? Most of the year the beach is completely inaccessible because of the water channel and trying to get across it is extremely dangerous. Shame on you Denmark Council for making this decision. There are many kilometres of coastline around this area for the birds and they have many more predators other than dogs. Survival of the fittest is nature's way and you are spoiling the whole choice of Denmarkians with dogs and we are the losers by far.</p> <p>If you honestly think that you are giving all of us ratepayers a fair go with this decision then you are so out of touch with your community and I am absolutely gutted by your response. I realise that you will probably not even bother to consider any of these comments but I needed to let you know that you have spoilt the last years of my dog's life as he is too arthritic to walk anything other then pathways and swimming was the best thing he could do. Live with that thought as there are many others in the same position.</p> | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| S22 | <p>Considering that in an area that boasts a bird population of over 200 species currently cohabiting with humans and have been successfully migrating and breeding in the Denmark area since well before 1895, when the township was established, and also considering that there is plethora of unofficial bird sanctuaries, as in bush land that is inaccessible to humans in the Denmark region that give birds an abundance of natural breeding locations.<sup>{T T T}</sup><sub>{SEP SEP}</sub></p> <p>It seems me that there is little need to place a bird sanctuary in that location, I would suggest that if a small group of people would like to establish a sanctuary that is specific to their particular interests that it be done in a location that has not been traditionally accessible by the general public.</p> <p>I note that there are similar landscapes in the area that could be used as a sanctuary that would not have a negative impact on general public access and have the same desired result. That land may take a little bit longer to get to, however the sanctuary is for birds not the convenience of humans.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Studies of the birdlife in the Wilson Inlet have revealed that the Prawn Rock Channel area and Morley Beach are important sites for shorebirds. These areas are important because they have the food supplies and variety needed for the survival of these species.</p>                                                                                                             |
| S23 | <p>The council has failed to acknowledge the "majority users" in this zone, the proposed sanctuary essentially cuts off the opening of the channel - an area widely used for many types of recreations. The sandflats within the zone (north of the proposed fence line), has been for generations a convenient / easy access / safe and user friendly area for a multitude of activities i.e. fishing/prawning/crabbing etc.</p> <p>For generations- locals, families and tourists alike enjoy the natural environment and do so with total respect to the area. You have allowed a small minority group to</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>The proposal does not aim to "cut off" access to the opening of the channel.</p> <p>Access to the activities mentioned will still be allowed with some minor restrictions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|     | dictate the terms of "our community area" - filling it with signage, fences and more fences!! Causing a divide in the community! Luckily the birds have other options, unfortunately we don't!!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S24 | I do not support the banning of dogs, swimmers, kayakers and walkers in the proposed bird sanctuary. I strongly believe the area should remain as it is and be a communal recreation area for the entire community including dogs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters. This results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sandbanks.                                                                                                                                                    |
| S25 | As a regular visitor to Denmark, (several times a year, family members owns property there) I already find that there are very limited places within the town you can exercise a dog off leash. I have a Collie who needs vigorous daily exercise. I achieve this by throwing balls for him. The locations available to do this need to be increased, not decreased!<br><br>In addition, there are many large national park areas along the coast which would be perfect for bird sanctuaries - why choose a popular, close to town site, which is utilised by many community groups? It doesn't make sense.<br><br>This smacks of a small group of people getting unwarranted favours from Council.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| S26 | I am in opposition to the proposed bird sanctuary.<br><br>Why has it been placed at the most used area on the inlet. I agree dogs should be banned from the area but that's it. Why ban walkers, fishers, prawning and crabbing. As a commercial tourism operator that uses this area in my tours I regularly see visitors and locals land based fishing into the channels in the area. Some years you can see close to 50 people at a time using this area fishing for snapper and whiting. It is safe and perfect for family fishing. We have seen another safe fishing spot in Greens pool already closed to fishing.<br><br>I am a supporter of sanctuary zones, in the ocean or on land but i think they need to be backed by science and not just proposed by a local user group. (Greens pool a classic example). Would Morley beach not be a better option? what about the cats and foxes? .<br><br>For a shire who seems to have an aversion to a few signs around the place, I find it incredible that you would allow a fence to be erected in this area.<br><br>It seems to me that this is a classic case of the squeaky wheel getting the oil. | Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters. This results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sandbanks.                                                                                                                                                    |
| S27 | I'm strongly opposed to the current proposal in regard to the bird sanctuary. We frequent this area on a regular daily basis and enjoy the beautiful tranquillity that Denmark offers.<br><br>Valuable family gatherings and fun times in the areas we have always accessed, we'll be cut off. This includes exercising our beloved pooches (also family members) will be limited excessively.<br><br>Ocean beach area is limited and likely to be less area available due to changing weather patterns. And it is important to note that the area in discussion is not a natural habitat. It is Man Made! Furthermore, the proposed restrictions impact significantly on all Denmarkians, many of whom do not feel their voices will make any difference! Let alone the effect on tourism.<br><br>PLEASE LEAVE IT ALONE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.<br>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.<br>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.<br>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity. |
| S28 | Dog exercise area was originally used as a recreational area for the Denmark community. This area was used for the annual ocean beach speed way, horse polo events, and many other community events in the early 50's till 1992.<br><br>In 1988 the inlet flooded covering the island completely, in 1990 the shire attempted to link prawn rock channel with east opening. In 1992 Wilson inlet restoration group fundraised \$20,000 to estivate prawn rock channel. This cause of events is what helped form the island at prawn rock channel. during the flooding and the constant change of this environment the birds fine other areas on the Wilson Inlet to nest.<br><br>Why do they have to take this specific area of the Wilson inlet. why doesn't the bird group put their money into another area of the inlet. so, the whole community can be happy. they can just put the boxes around the birds that do end up nesting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | There will be minimal expenditure of rate payer funds.<br>The Officers aim will be to utilise external funding opportunities to fund most of the infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| S29 | I am disappointed in the new proposal the original setup of a temporary fence during migration period and open to all users outside of the migration area period. Was well and truly sufficient and fair for all users including the birds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Seasonal access to the northern sand flats has been considered by Officers but is not recommended. Officers consider the seasonal option would become a management issue. Users would be in a habitual usage pattern that could become hard to break, confusing                                                                                                     |



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| S30 | Please leave the area as is so that families and dog owners alike have access to this recreational area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Compromise for all users of the area. All users still able to access the precinct in some capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| S31 | <p>As a ratepayer and resident, I do not support this proposal as it is presented. Main concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The level of urbanization associated with proposed fencing, signage, information center, bird hides and other structures will negatively affect the amenity of this pristine and natural wilderness environment. This directly conflicts with the previous community consultation surveys for which the outcome was to retain that area in its natural state.<br/>As a ratepayer I strongly object to any development, structures and fencing for the above reasons.</li> <li>Regarding the current diversion track across the width of the island to the inlet water as opposed to the historical more direct and commonly used track to access this same area.<br/>The current track, makes it so much more difficult for people with limited mobility, particularly wheelchair bound, young families and those that have all of their recreational paraphernalia such as; kayaks, canoes, prams, fishing trolley. The historical track not only is more direct and exits onto a flat beach rather than the current path that exits onto a sand cliff.</li> <li>I am concerned about restriction of “authorized persons only” being allowed to access the sanctuary since this is a recreational reserve for ALL the community, no single person should be excluded from the area.</li> <li>Given that this area is a recreational reserve for ALL the communities use, the proposed sanctuary is vesting a significant proportion of the only useable space (beaches, safe swimming, shallow waters) to one specific group who has determined the parameters of its size and use.</li> <li>I am concerned about the lack of recreational beach space, safe swimming and access to the sandflat on the east side of the island and safe access to the Nullaki and the safe swimming areas on the east banks of the inlet (Nullaki side).</li> <li>According to Denmark Bird Groups Proposal, any activity human, animal or vehicular within 100 meters of nesting birds is detrimental. How will this impact recreational users in the event of birds nesting on the boundaries of the sanctuary.</li> <li>Who will administer, police and maintain the area and what will the cost be to the ratepayers?</li> <li>What are the penalties will be imposed for individuals (not dog owners) who do not comply?</li> <li>The impact and associated cost on both physical and mental health to the community by restricting access to this recreational reserve.</li> <li>What guarantee that the Denmark Bird Group and associated groups will not in the future expand the sanctuary area, further reducing community access to this recreational reserve and the surrounding area.</li> </ul> | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.<br/>There will be no restrictions on swimming.<br/>The Rangers will be tasked with compliance.<br/>There are no plans to increase the proposed bird sanctuary area.</p>                                   |
| S32 | Birds do not pay rates. Denmark property owners do. The birds have numerous other sites to breed and nest. Dog owners and rate payers come first - not birds.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.<br/>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.<br/>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.<br/>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S33 | <p>I don't think that we need to provide further restrictions for access to our lovely coastline. The birds will seek alternative places to nest if required. Another barrier ie fence is just a waste of our money which could be better spent fixing up the bike and walking paths in our town which have been sorely neglected at the expense of projects such as these which meet a minority need.</p> <p>We need to keep prawn rock channel open for all people to use as it has been for the past 42 years I have lived here. Stop putting up barriers and wasting our rates on this minority issue.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.<br/>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.<br/>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.<br/>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S34 | You are restricting one of the most accessed areas in Denmark for locals and tourists that was made when the Channel was dredged out to regain prawn rock channel that                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The proposal looks to improve current access and provide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|     | <p>sand drifted in to fill form extended eastern openings of the inlet. If this was removed as was it was supposed to be by the shire this island would not have vegetation on it, now it is one of the safest swimming areas and recreation areas in Denmark.</p> <p>This is the easiest access for some one that is elderly or has a disability to take their dogs to, the area you have given is very restrictive this year particularly and if sea levels rise as predicted there will be even less. As it is an off lead exercise area the chance is high for dogs not intentionally entering into a conflict area as seen so many times now. Who is going to police this area as rangers can't do half of the policing now that they are supposed to do with workloads.</p> <p>The bird sanctuary people need to venture further afield and have a good look about as there are many other places where small hooded plover nest that they could place their attention.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. parry's inlet mouth</li> <li>2. peaceful bay mouth</li> </ol> <p>By placing restrictions on theses areas would not affect the broader community to the extent of this proposal and would give you a far greater area where these birds are and already trying to nest at present with motor bikes, vehicles doing donuts etc cutting up in areas they are trying to nest in .</p> <p>Please do not just listen to a small group of people that have a loud persistent scream and listen to the broader community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p>                                                                                                                                |
| S35 | <p>I don't think anything needs to be changed from how it is now. The dogs have space and the birds are protected. People should always have access to the inlet for fishing etc and not be fenced off from it.</p> <p>Also, I like the whole area the way it is, we don't need anything done to it and please, no concrete!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Activites such as fishing will still be permitted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S36 | <p>I encountered some problems trying to submit my comments regarding the bird sanctuary proposal on the My Denmark website, and am therefore also sending it here in email format in case it has not uploaded. (Incoming submission ISUB2242131 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment) APPENDIX 1</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Officers will consider your proposals in their recommendation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| S37 | <p>In response to the establishment of a permanent bird sanctuary to the exclusion of dogs we feel that a number of points need to be considered.</p> <p>Firstly dogs have owners who have families who are an integral part of the Denmark community. It is not just about dogs but the physical and mental well-being of all those families. There is an enormous amount of evidence supporting the value of dogs as a means of initiating social interaction and companionship. Much of this interaction occurs in the casual setting of a walk at the Prawn Rock Channel Precinct. We know from our personal experience many friendships and connections have been made in this setting.</p> <p>This is a readily accessible area to a wide range ages, fitness and mobility levels within our community unlike Lights Beach. In our own experience we have had interactions with older owners who would be isolated in their homes. These activities contribute to our daily health and mental wellbeing. By removing this accessible area that is suitable to dogs of all sizes a significant part of the rate paying community will be disadvantaged.</p> <p>Denmark prides itself on being a special destination for many tourists. It is a fact these days that many more tourists are traveling with their dogs. In conversation with those valued visitors, it is evident that Denmark already has a reputation that it is not friendly to dog owners.</p> <p>Given that bird nesting is a seasonal occurrence the Shire could investigate practise in other states where both dogs and birds are catered for in a satisfactory arrangement for both. Having just returned from areas along The Great Ocean Road we have seen that bird nesting and dog access areas can coexist.</p> <p>The issues of this area are compounded by the lack of suitable access to the ocean at Ocean Beach and also the Eastern beach at Lights Beach. Some consideration could be given to improving access to these alternative exercise areas for both safe walking and swimming.</p> <p>Unfortunately dog owners are not organized or incorporated but still represent a significant number of residents and ratepayers of Denmark. The wellbeing of these owners and their dogs is being disregarded.</p> | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas.</p> <p>The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p>                                                                |
| S38 | <p>The proposed bird sanctuary reduces area for walking dogs, particularly in winter. My suggestion is the path around the south part of the island becomes allowed for dogs, as it currently isn't.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Noted</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S39 | <p>I don't agree with the bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock. This area should be left for all the public to use, if people do the wrong thing in regards to nesting birds then this should be looked at don't penalise the whole community by restricting access.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Noted</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S40 | <p>It is with deep disappointment I write this. I feel our council has duded us, with its lack of fairness and transparency</p> <p>When friend and I sought information many months ago about the whole plan for the Prawn Channel, Bird Sanctuary, Dog exercise area, Ocean beach precinct area (I forget the name it was given). We were told we were unable to see the whole area as it was being planned in sections. The dog area was being done at that time. We could answer your questionnaire at that time but had no opportunity to ask questions or get clarifications on how this may impact the whole area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Officers are available to meet to discuss the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas.</p> <p>The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p> |



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|     | <p>It now has proved what an underhand method this has been of designating what has been a much-loved community shared space. Where the young and the aged and everyone in between could have easy access to part of a sand flat, bird watch, ocean beach to swim, fish and walk, to play ball games, exercise, access the channel, and maybe take their dog too.</p> <p>It is all very well ignoring the many beach users who accessed the beach by crossing the shallows, some of whom put a petition to you, and then endeavour to appease them with a bi-annual review, when if this now Enlarged Bird Sanctuary goes ahead there will be no chance of any of us being able to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits that this area offered.</p> <p>Please. please let us all share the space with respect given to us the people, and our feathered friends and get some harmony back into our town.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| S41 | <p>I acknowledge the need for a bird sanctuary on the northern shore of the island east of Prawn Rock Channel, however do not support the further extension of the area to the east over to the Nullaki as it will create a situation of conflict for all stakeholders and users. My concern is the Bird Group could use this Sanctuary if approved to further lobby for lower and more frequent openings of the Inlet bar.</p> <p>I feel a better area exists to the north of the Island and into Poddysht Bay including the existing small refuge Island, perhaps more of these Islands could be created off the western shoreline of Poddysht Bay to attract the birds offering them an alternative habitat.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | There are no plans to increase the proposed bird sanctuary area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S42 | <p>I am against a bird sanctuary being created in this area, this is the main summer recreational area for the Denmark Shire, it is the only safe swimming area which is also a dog beach. The area is used for fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming, walking. In the school holidays it is a wonderful area for families to enjoy outdoor activities.</p> <p>The bird group themselves say they need at least 100 metres for activity to be away from the birds, so why try and make a bird sanctuary in an area that people heavily use. It is also apparent when the area is underwater that the birds go elsewhere. It feels that this has got to this stage with little public consultation and that is already a done deal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The activities mentioned will still be allowed with some minor restrictions.</p> <p>There has been extensive public consultation over the past 2 years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| S43 | <p>I do not support a bird sanctuary. Once declared a sanctuary it will not be reversible. I would like to see the current system with recreational users and protecting the birds work in together.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| S44 | <p>Why has the access for dogs been moved further south? With this present proposal you have removed considerable amount of flat area for dogs and people. This area is both safe for the elderly and young and their dogs. Light's is definitely not suitable due to access and beach swimming conditions. Closure of waterways is not viable for people like myself who paddle my dog regularly across inlet to beach. We support a bird sanctuary, as do most dog owners.</p> <p>But do not accept any changes to access, fence line or beach areas.....NO!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>The waterways will not be closed.</p> <p>Department of Transport (DoT) who are the controlling body for waterways, cannot restrict access to the water area unless the safety of people is compromised. This is not the case for the bird sanctuary proposal.</p> <p>The Shire has no authority to restrict access to craft on a water body.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S45 | <p>Firstly, the channel as of this morning has not closed and looks like it will not this year. Now that is a first since I have lived in Denmark (2007). This year due to the water levels there have not been many migratory shore birds at the channel, as there really has been no sand flats due to the amount of water. This has also affected the area that is currently designated as the "dog friendly zone", which is drastically reduced.</p> <p>The proposed bird sanctuary and the proposed fencing, does not appear to have taken what has been happening at the channel this year and the impact of the amount of water. So given the amount of water and that fact that the fence has been brought down once by the water, does not justify spending money and funding on providing temporary fences across the inlet. Given the amount of water this year I'm not sure how one would create the fence.</p> <p>The building of fences creates an exclusive area and by definition excludes those who are not permitted within the area. I would also like to point out that the Bird sanctuary proposal (2020) only included bird counts up to 2017. So, the data could be deemed as "out of date" as we are now in 2022.</p> <p>Most of the migratory shorebird field trips are to Morley Beach and not prawn rock channel. This does seem to suggest that the shore bird are nesting at Morley Beach. The area is greater than prawn rock channel and would have far less impact on the other users of the channel dog, horse owners and water sports and fisher persons. As this appears to be the case, I'm at a loss why the Denmark Bird group has not approached the City of Albany. Not all members of the Denmark Bird group live in the Shire of Denmark.</p> <p>In 2014, I was asked (Green Skills) to draw up plans and elevations for a bird hide at Morley Beach which would provide disable access to the hide. It is a shame that it did not progress (to my knowledge). So, eight years ago Morley Beach was the spot and not the prawn rock channel.</p> <p>As a dog owner, I love birds, but I think there is a better and larger area for the bird sanctuary, where the birds can nest in peace.</p> <p>Finally, we as humans have no say where the birds decide to nest, the birds themselves make that decision based on the the conditions, surroundings etc. Maybe Morley beach is preferred by the birds as there are not that many humans around to disturb them. (Prawn rock channel during this past summer season was packed with both</p> | <p>One of the key legislative considerations is that the Shire cannot make determinations on land under the control of management of another entity. In this case, where the inlet is inundated to any depth, the Department of Transport assume control and management of activity.</p> <p>Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters, this results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sand banks.</p> <p>The Prawn Rock Channel area is a feeding and roosting ground for the migratory shore birds.</p> |

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|     | residents and visitors)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| S46 | <p>We have been walking on the bar for 30 years. We have seen very type of change that Mother Nature can throw up so making human decisions needs very careful thought.</p> <p>We are in agreement with having a bird sanctuary if planned properly and allowing all users access to the bar and beach.</p> <p>I back Plan -High Water Line. These birds are shore feeding animals not deep water birds. There is no need to protect the inlet water course. That must be left to all manner of water usage eg boats etc. If the birds are to be fully protected, I suggest you remove the first bridge thus preventing any human movement near the sanctuary. Put a proper fence across the tide line to prevent humans walking around the sanctuary. Every year people walk around the shore line and disturb the feeding habits of the birds. Allow all humans and dogs to access the second bridge throughout the year thus keeping everyone away from the red zone.</p> <p>At the same time built a walkway from the lookout so all users can access the beach. After the Surf Club have finished their season allow all users including dogs to walk along the beach in winter. All the above ideas will take the pressure off the sanctuary.</p> <p>Allowing people to walk their dogs to the bar and beach is essential for the elderly and infirmed. They need the flatness of this area. Lights Beach is <u>Not</u> Suitable.</p> <p>In conclusion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with the locals who use this area all the time-year after year, day after day.</li> <li>2. Do not fill the place with signage. It is a wild place—- LEAVE IT ALONE.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Noted</p> <p>The proposal mentions a walkway from the lookout with stair access to the beach.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S47 | <p>As a resident and a rate payer I do not support the Bird Sanctuary proposal. My reasons are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prawn Rock Channel is Denmark's prime recreational area and to lock out most of the community for the benefit of one small group is blatantly unfair. Although the island is manmade and no older than 30 years it is still pristine in its natural environment. This will be adversely affected with the unsightly construction of fences, walkways, bird hides and signage.</li> <li>• The area to be set aside as bird sanctuary is not practical and will have dubious benefits as a sanctuary as quoted by the bird group, "Bird habitat is adversely affected by any disturbance within 100 m ". Hence the undisturbed area lies approximately 100m in from the western and southern boundaries. This means only half the proposed bird sanctuary area is of any real benefit to the birds.</li> <li>• Morley Beach bird sanctuary is a far more suitable location for development. By natural selection birds have chosen this area as the predominant bird area on the Wilson Inlet.</li> <li>• Changing the path across the island makes it more difficult for all users to navigate the steep drop off from path to beach. Remembering this beach access is the only easy access for more elderly beach users in the Denmark area.</li> <li>• What guarantees are there that there will be no further demands for increasing the sanctuary area.</li> <li>• Residents and tourists like the area in its natural state, that's the attraction to Denmark and this area.</li> </ul> <p>This change to Prawn Rock Channel area should not go ahead until a more thorough examination of options for improved outcomes for all stakeholders. The shire not only has to do the right thing but has to be seen to be doing the right thing.</p> | <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas.</p> <p>The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| S48 | I entirely support the proposed Bird Sanctuary, which I think achieves a good balance between the needs of these amazing yet beleaguered migratory birds, and local people.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S49 | <p>I would like to voice my concern as a rate payer with any permanent reduction to the Prawn Rock recreational area.</p> <p>I have walked daily on these flats for the last 25 years and have seen how loved this area is to so many of our community, old, young, tourists, dog lovers, bird lovers, fishermen, surfers, kayakers, swimmers the list goes on for who uses this area. For so long this area was respectfully shared by all. Why is one group being allowed to dictate to a whole community on such a well-loved and used recreational space owned by all Denmarkians. Please do not allow this to happen and remove one of the most treasured places in Denmark for so many of our community for the benefit of only one group that has overridden the majority.</p> <p>For decades everyone has used this space and generationally it is loved by locals and tourists. It now becoming a visually polluted, segregated area which makes so many people sad about what the shire has done to this beautiful place and only to be allowed to be accessed by bird watchers?</p> <p>Why was not Morley beach considered as a sanctuary? It does not have the historic recreational ties to so many of our community is a much quieter area in all respects and definitely gets the same species of birds. It is stated that there was in depth consultation but before the dog area was reduced there was no community consultation on this change to zoning? How does our shire keep changing our recreational areas to suit only a small section of our society.</p> <p>Please keep this area for all to use and keep the bird reserve as a seasonal area when required and let the rest of the community enjoy this space the rest of the year.</p>                                                                                                                             | <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S50 | Presenting x 2 attachments as D.O.O.D. inc response to Bird Sanctuary Development (Incoming submission ISUB2232116 – included under separate cover as pdf                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Officers will consider the southern boundary location and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



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|     | attachment) APPENDIX 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | access track for the Sanctuary in their recommendation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S51 | I would like you all to read the attached letter and really think about what decisions you will be making on this special piece of paradise that we love and enjoy. (Incoming submission ISUB2232120 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment) APPENDIX 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.<br>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.<br>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.<br>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S52 | What a shame that the minority of people feel the need to excise this area from the majority of people who use & respect this area & have done for many many years. Especially after fencing off this area, this year, there are no birds nesting there, yet there are thirty seven pairs nesting on nearby islands! The birds have many options & this proves they will nest where they want, whether it is fenced off or not.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.<br>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.<br>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.<br>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S53 | Incoming submission by hand ISUB2242138 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment APPENDIX 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Fishing access will be allowed.<br><br>The waterways will not be closed.<br><br>Department of Transport (DoT) who are the controlling body for waterways, cannot restrict access to the water area unless the safety of people is compromised. This is not the case for the bird sanctuary proposal.<br><br>The Shire has no authority to restrict access to craft on a water body.<br><br>You are correct, the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters. This results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sandbanks |
| S54 | Incoming submission by hand ISUB2242137 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment APPENDIX 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| S55 | Regarding the proposed bird sanctuary, I have no issue with its location but I question the need to build new bird hides. My reasoning is that there are several existing hides along the Springdale beach track into town that are in disrepair. I'm curious why more hides would be considered when these ones appear unused and uncared for. Who is responsible for their upkeep? Is it the council or the bird group? Will the new hides be similarly abandoned in future? I feel like it is a waste of resources to build more hides in a different area. The fence makes sense to protect nesting birds from dogs but the hides are for human use and unnecessary in my opinion. | Your comments on the bird hides are noted. At this stage they are in concept only.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S56 | Difficult to support as a dog owner as the area now accessible is small due to recent protections and conditions of entry. Will dogs no longer be allowed off their leads on the beach due to likelihood that at times they may run or wander into the sanctuary for example?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Dog Access off lead will still be allowed to the south side of the proposed sanctuary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S57 | It seems to be a great way to disturb the use of an area used by so many beach goers to have this area a bird sanctuary. Why not have the sanctuary on the other side of the river and less likely to be disturbed by people/feral cats and dogs/. This would be such an easy way to stop controversies. Obviously, historically it wasn't always a birds safe place.<br><br>Thanks for your time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The other side of the river (inlet) is City of Albany land. The Shire of Denmark can only make a determination based on their own land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| S58 | A 2m buffer from the waters edge should be implemented on the north western edge of Prawn Rock Channel Island to allow for other water based activities e.g. fishing, prawning, swimming etc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The activity of fishing, prawning & swimming will still be permitted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <p>S59</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given that the Great Southern is already well served with National Parks, numerous pristine beaches and untouched inlets. Why is it necessary to create a bird sanctuary in an amenity area already extensively utilised by the community and tourists?</li> <li>2. The interior of the island is overgrown and offers little incentive for anyone to leave the existing pathways. As people utilise the paths simply to transit the island to gain access to the foreshore. Why is it necessary to construct a fence and would signs suffice?</li> <li>3. If the council elects to instal a fence. Who will pay for its construction and ongoing maintenance?</li> <li>4. Similarly, if the council installed a fence. Who will assume liability for any accidents or incidents associated with the structure, however unlikely?</li> <li>5. The existing fenced beach area has remained undisturbed throughout the recent period, indicating that people are observing the request to keep clear of the area. On this basis, why is it necessary to construct a fence over the beach?</li> <li>6. Does the council have the authority to construct a fence across the inlet to the opposite shore?</li> <li>7. If so, who and how will make the decision to install and remove it in response to fluctuating water levels?</li> <li>8. Who is going to pay for the annual installation and removal of the fence?</li> <li>9. Will the fence have to have lights installed as a potential hazard to navigation?</li> <li>10. The designated dog exercise areas indicated on the shires three plans are inaccurate as they indicate exercise areas that are inaccessible during periods when the bar is open</li> <li>11. The three diagrams also fail to indicate the “on leash” walking paths that are currently part of the council dog exercise plan Does the council plan to revoke use of the existing on leash walking paths?</li> <li>12. While it may seem advantageous to advertise the existence of a bird sanctuary in the area. Given the abundance of natural habitats in the region. What material benefits does the council assume will flow from the concept, what annual operational cost assumptions for its maintenance has the council assumed and what is the estimated impact for rate payers?</li> </ol> <p>Given the number of dog owners within the community and the strong response to the recent petition. Why does the council consider it necessary to override the concerns of this group in favour of the interests of a small focus group?</p> | <p>Studies of the birdlife in the Wilson Inlet have revealed that the Prawn Rock Channel area and Morley Beach are important sites for shorebirds. These areas are important because they have the food supplies and variety needed for the survival of these species.</p> <p>Signage - this idea has merit and will be considered.</p> <p>The construction will be predominately from grants and the ongoing maintenance will be the Shire of Denmark’s responsibility.</p> <p>The fence on the sand flats will not be a permanent structure, it will be in operation as is currently. It will not reach the opposite shore.</p> <p>The Shire of Denmark will make those determinations.</p> <p>The Shire of Denmark will incur those costs.</p> <p>There will be no need to install lights as it will not be in the water.</p> <p>There is no plan to revoke existing on leash walking paths.</p>                                                      |
| <p>S60</p> | <p>I think having a bird sanctuary sounds great with only minimal human access for people to still appreciate the birds.</p> <p>We also love the dog beach there though the current fence is not adequate to stops dogs especially with strong prey drive. Something like chicken wire right across might be better. A simple spring gate on the bridge would be great as we lost our pooch who crossed over on his own and couldn't get back to us.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The fence construction will take these comments into consideration.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>S61</p> | <p>The proposed bird sanctuary at the Prawn rock channel is unfortunately not able to provide a “safe place for birds” as your heading suggest! The reasons for this I will detail below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Due to the seasonal tides and different bar opening times this doesn’t allow for a continuous area that the birds would be able to nest in. This year is a perfect example as there are simply no birds in this area. The 48 page document is full of clever marketing, pretty pictures and emotional arguments but very little fact.</li> <li>2. The area (PRC) has a very high traffic of people, animals, families and small craft. I don’t feel this is the correct or safe place to have a bird sanctuary. The public are already outraged and the division in the community is at a very unsafe level. There are many other places suitable for this kind of sanctuary such as Morley Beach. Which has one of the highest numbers of bird life in the Great southern and could be used as a showcase area. The bird group have indicated that Morley Beach is a very high diversity area and houses a much more diverse list of species. given the low amount of traffic it make a perfect area to show off and protect endangered species.</li> <li>3. A ring lock fence and metal structures on a pristine area is environmental pollution and the leaching into the inlet is yet to be investigated.</li> <li>4. DBCA run a very strong program for maintaining bird populations and safe breeding areas. Maybe this group should be asked to run or be consulted on similar programs in Denmark. They also understand that people, tourists and animals can all work together and not be segregated by ugly fences or a 12 month blanket ban.</li> <li>5. Finally the exclusion of disabled and elderly persons from being able to access one of the only beaches in our town is a very sad state of affairs and ultimately should be a very good reason for council to rethink the bird proposal</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters. This results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sandbanks.</p> <p>The Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027 identifies the value of the natural environment as of high importance.</p> <p>The proposal attempts to support the Communities values.</p> <p>The Officers recognise there is a compromise for all users of the area.</p> <p>The aim has been to provide all users with the ability to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> <p>The only permanent fencing is proposed to be across the northern part of the island and if it is to go ahead will be designed to lessen the visual impact.</p> <p>The proposal looks to improve current access and provide additional access areas. The current access across the island to the eastern side will remain in place.</p> |
| <p>S62</p> | <p>I feel like fences will be an eye sore and will just get washed away each winter wasting Shire money, what is set up at the moment is perfect</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The only permanent fencing is proposed to be across the northern part of the island and if it is to go ahead will be designed to lessen the visual impact.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



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| S63 | <p>Reading the Bird Sanctuary report I see from the maps that there is no addressing of the already sanctioned bird reserve, further up Ocean Beach Road as they have cut the map off, this would make the whole of Ocean Beach/Prawn Rock area up to the life-saving club and then just after to be all Bird Sanctuary with no further allowance for tourism and potential expansion as the area they are suggesting to leave open for 'dog walking' or other use would not be useable when the inlet is closed and flooded; Additionally, the figures on reports are from 2009-2017 and therefore now out of date.</p> <p>Statements of there being 'on-lead' access across the bird sanctuary would be conditional upon acceptance from the Bird Sanctuary agreeance through council approval allowing the only significant area of access as sand flats west of the open channel directly beneath the Ocean Beach lookout; this area is permissible but inaccessible for dogs, elderly and disabled population; note that there is no other access as dogs are prohibited from the surf life-saving area. *I note that infrastructure design to improve access is underway, and a budget proposal will be forthcoming for the 2022/23 financial year, however until this access is created this will significantly disadvantage many of the community who require access.</p> <p>On a personal note, the Prawn Rock island is a man-made island and was not designed specifically as a bird sanctuary, failure to recognise this would be amiss and misleading. This area has been used by all local and tourist visitors without damage to the environment and is a major draw to the Ocean Beach area which increases business viability through its access to a natural environment.</p> <p>There has been a serious reduction in areas to walk dogs of late with new developments taking place, and it is proven that this activity is good for general and mental health alike. This is not about getting in a car to drive to a further area as this would then have further environmental implications.</p> <p>A major number of residents within Denmark are dog owners the approval of this extended area would alienate this larger populous...the needs of the many outway the needs/wants of the few.</p> | <p>Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters, this results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sand banks.</p> <p>Access across the channel by improved pathways for on lead dog access will still exist.</p> <p>Compromise for all users of the area. All users still able to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S64 | <p>I congratulate the Council for considering a sanctuary for breeding birds in the Prawn Rock Channel area - protection for them is long overdue.</p> <p>I see no real reason for conflict with other responsible and considerate users of the area - there is plenty of space for walkers, swimmers, fishers, kayakers etc. to enjoy around the channel. And I believe a well-designed sanctuary with interesting information displays and a walking track will increase the attraction of the area for locals and visitors and encourage them to value the special environment we have in Denmark.</p> <p><i>Additionally received:</i><br/>I responded to the online Project Page a few days ago, but have since realised that the plan indicates that a footpath will be placed around the perimeter – surely this is not a good idea? The perimeter - the interface between water and island – is the most important habitat for feeding and nesting shorebirds and wetland birds. Also, it will exacerbate erosion and damage to the vegetation – there are steeper banks on the channel side and walking on top of them destabilises them; also, the area around the edge of the channel gets very wet in winter and people make tracks over wide areas to try to avoid getting wet – this compresses the soil and encourages weeds to take over.</p> <p>So, although I am strongly in favour of a sanctuary, a well-designed central path would cause much less damage and destruction.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Noted</p> <p>Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| S65 | <p>I like sanctuary zones for the birds that travel the migratory distance to nest in this area. I would like to, however, express my concerns that this designated area will affect many user groups.</p> <p>I believe that the zone should be backed by science and not necessarily the opinions of one group.</p> <p>I believe that dogs should be kept out of this area. People should be able to control their dogs when walking them past this area to get to the designated dog area. The birds should be assured safety from this user group.</p> <p>I think that holiday makers in the form of fishermen, swimmers, crabbers, kayakers etc, should be able to access the waterfront on the proposed area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>All points you have raised are attempted to be addressed in the proposal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S66 | <p>I'm happy for the bird sanctuary to be created and clearly designated. My only concern is the small area included on the southern edge - the piece of land between the original track and the new dog track. I am a regular dog walker and swimmer and lack of clear direction means that people continue to use the original track to access the beach.</p> <p>Can a straight line be drawn from north of the bridge to the beach fence, rather than including the little thumbs down section shown n the map? What purpose does it serve? Would it be simpler to designate north of the line as bird sanctuary and south of the line as accessible for dog walkers?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S67 | <p>As a relatively new member of the Denmark community, I have become aware of the divisive issue of the permanent gazettement of a bird sanctuary at the Prawn Rock Channel recreation area. This is an area of this beautiful town that we were so impressed with on our first visits before purchasing a home here, and since moving we have frequently.</p> <p>I have been observing and considering the establishment of the fenced-off bird sanctuary proposal for several months and wish to make the following comments:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Incorrect, the intention is not to erect a permanent fence in place of the temporary fencing. The only permanent fencing will be across the island to demarcate the sanctuary.</p> <p>Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide</p>                                                                                                                                                                                  |


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|     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I agree in principle with protecting the nesting habitat of the migratory birds however, I do not believe this requires the exclusion of humans and dogs in the area to the extent, and the seeming permanency, of suggested measures to do so. Particularly as it would appear the birds established this area as a preferred nesting area whilst it was in full use for recreational pursuits by both people and dogs.</li> <li>2. Our family often come to visit us in beautiful Denmark and we all enjoy the use of the Prawn Rock dog exercise area beach as we have dogs with us as well as older people, and infants, soon to be toddlers. Prawn Rock is the only beach area that is accessible to all and within easy driving distance which means we can grab a break in the weather and head off to the beach. The other options, such as Lights Beach are not viable for those who cannot manage the steps and the rocks at the bottom to get onto the beach. Parking can also be an issue on busy days making access even more difficult.</li> <li>3. Natural erosion means the shoreline is everchanging. I understand that it is the intention to erect a permanent fence in place of the temporary measure that is currently erected. I don't believe a permanent fence is appropriate - apart from being an absolute eyesore in the beautiful environment of Prawn Rock, it is likely that it would not be long before it suffered the same fate as the signage to the south of the island, which on my last visit, approximately a week ago, was laying on the ocean bed with its concrete base having lost its footing due to erosion.</li> <li>4. With the current erosion levels, the beach actually available to exercise dogs and for people to sit and swim is drastically reduced and it can become crowded. Restricting access to the further shoreline to the north of the island permanently will exacerbate this situation.</li> <li>5. I note the comments in the press release that the shire "believes the creation of a bird sanctuary in the area meets community expectations to prioritise the health and prosperity of Denmark's natural environment as laid out in the Strategic Community Plan Denmark 2027 and the Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy." I would suggest it does meet some people's expectations without adequately considering the following stated objectives in the Denmark Shire Response to public input:<br/><br/> E1.2 To be a vibrant and unique tourist destination, that celebrates our natural and historical assets - Many tourists visit Prawn Rock Channel and the area could be better managed to educate and engage tourists and locals alike to want to learn more and protect the habitat of the birds in the area without being so restrictive. The current signage is misleading about dog access and the fencing is hardly representing a vibrant and inviting tourist destination for those who wish to enjoy the area with dogs and/or people with limited mobility.<br/><br/> N2.3 To reduce human impact on natural resources, reduce waste and utilise renewable energy - The erection of a permanent fence will not only negatively impact the aesthetics of the area due to human intervention, but in my humble opinion has a reasonable chance of ending up polluting the area with weather conditions washing it away.<br/><br/> B3.1 To have public spaces and infrastructure that are accessible and appropriate for our community - This beach area is the only one we consider to be within reasonable travelling distance that is accessible and a safe, protected area for the very small children and elderly members of our family. I have also spoken with people who care for disabled and mentally ill people who say that limiting their access to this beach area would be extremely detrimental to health and well-being. I make this point understanding that it is not the intention to fully limit access to people (including those with dogs) but say the area that currently remains of the accessible beach is not appropriate for the number of people wishing to use it.<br/><br/> B3.2 To have community assets that are flexible, adaptable and of high quality to meet the purpose and needs of multiple users - the erection of permanent fencing is not at all flexible, and the exclusion of some community members and tourists does not satisfy this objective.<br/><br/> C4.1 To have services that foster a happy, healthy, vibrant and safe community - Whilst not a service, the bird sanctuary is potentially a Shire approved initiative that will negatively impact the mental and physical health of many members of the community.</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Over summer during the time the temporary fence has been erected, I have noticed that people using the beach, and especially people who attend with their dogs have been very respectful and in almost all instances kept themselves and their canine friends out of the designated area, and as such, I do not believe there is any necessity to further limit access to the area. I would like to think we could reach a compromise that will allow access to more of the waterline, and access across the channel when it's closed, that does not involve a permanent fence of any kind and meets the needs of all stakeholders.</li> <li>7. I have seen it reported that the existing island area was "enhanced" (if not "manmade") some years ago to develop an area specifically designed for more recreational enjoyment. This has been very successful, with the added benefit of attracting birdlife. Is there any scope to do the same with the smaller island slightly further to the north which could be excluded from public use to offer the birds even more secluded nesting options, without the need for fencing?</li> </ol> <p>As a side note, I am at a loss as to how the shire did not object to the application for exploration permits, potentially leading to mining permits, in the area if conservation of our pristine environment is a stated priority.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.</p> | <p>area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters, this results in a fluctuating protection area subject to the water level and sand banks.</p> <p>Compromise for all users of the area. All users still able to access the precinct in some capacity.</p> |
| S68 | I am ambivalent about the establishment of a permanent bird sanctuary at Prawn Island as I am in favour of protecting wildlife but I also support the provision of an easy to access dog beach close to Denmark town.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Seasonal access to the northern sand flats has been                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



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|     | <p>Running a protective fence around the bird nesting sites when birds are laying and hatching is a plan that has logic. Allowing dogs to run along the whole perimeter of this side of the island when birds have left the site would be a sensible compromise.</p> <p>Issues have been exacerbated this year as access to the ocean beach has been difficult as a result of the inlet remaining open. As an alternative it is difficult for many people to visit Lights Beach with dogs due to steep stairs. As result I believe that it is necessary to provide a decent beach side space for owners and dogs at the inlet.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>considered by Officers but is not recommended. Officers consider the seasonal option would become a management issue. Users would be in a habitual usage pattern that could become hard to break, confusing when access is allowed and not. The arrival of the migratory birds is not on a set date; it usually occurs between September &amp; October, and the peak breeding time is commonly between September to April. To change dates to coincide with varying usage patterns of the migratory birds would further lead to confusion.</p> |
| S69 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bird Sanctuary (Sanctuary) plan needs a clear and precise strategies of how Shire will protect the Sanctuary 24/7 and all year round. Given that currently the Shire have little capacity to ensure the safety of birds, migratory or otherwise, a rodents, feral cats and dogs safe fencing is a necessary and essential line of protection. Other measures as suggested below may assist with protection issues.</li> <li>2. The Shire is requested to consider increasing the penalties for irresponsible dog and cat owners related offences in relation to the Sanctuary.</li> <li>3. The Shire to consider developing, promoting and supporting an inclusive, broad based and transparently selected community based volunteers to participate in protecting the Sanctuary.</li> <li>4. The Shire Rangers' high visible patrolling presence and responding relatively in timely manner, recognising the many competing demands, to report/s of breaches to the Sanctuary's protection for birds.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| S70 | <p>Though pleased that the Shire is considering the Bird Sanctuary at Prawn Rock Channel, I am afraid that the inclusion of a footpath around the edge of Prawn Road Island will defeat the purpose of the whole thing.</p> <p>The birds that need protecting nest on the beach and feed close to the shoreline; a footpath around the island would disrupt their feeding pattern and lead to the death of any chicks. The sensible place for a path would be from the access track along the ridge in the middle of the island, leading to a bird hide at the highest point. This would provide no interference with shorebird nesting and feeding. The return walk would use the same path. Extensive documentation has been provided to the Shire by the Denmark Bird Group.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S71 | <p>I would like to congratulate the shire on its decision to create a bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock channel. Instead of a designated pathway around the island I would like to suggest a more central high ground pathway leading from the southern boundary to a bird hide and a community education centre.</p> <p>I fear that a pathway around the perimeter would disturb the bird feeding and nesting habitat. There will be opposition from dog owners but the responsibility to our international obligations to protect shorebirds is of paramount importance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S72 | <p>Thanks for giving us the opportunity to respond to this proposal. Most of the people I know who are dog owners have decided not to present a submission about the Bird Sanctuary because they feel that the decision has already been made in favour of the Sanctuary and against the wider community use of the area. All of the approximately 420 people who signed the petition calling for the restoration of the dog exercise area were effectively making submissions to the Bird Sanctuary public consultation.</p> <p>The widespread feeling is that the decision to hold a biannual review on dog use of the area is designed to give the appearance of responding to the petition, without actually responding to the concerns raised in the petition. Or perhaps more accurately there is an assumption by the proponents that this proposal is fair and community members will come to realize that after a couple of years.</p> <p>It's a shame because I think there is a way forward which would satisfy all user groups of the sand flats area, and meet everyone's needs, instead of satisfying one small group's demands over the wishes of the wider community (not just dog owners).</p> <p>This submission presents three key elements of an outcome that would constitute a result that I believe would please, and be acceptable, to everyone. Of course, with these kind of conflicts between different interest groups, the aim has to be to look for the middle ground. So, here is the common ground which I think everyone would be happy with.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Almost all users of the area have no objection to a bird sanctuary and I don't believe the hide, and permanent fence of a small area, which is probably the main goal of the Bird Group, is objected to by people concerned about the closure of the sand spit area. The key surely is to make the permanent fence a low one (it doesn't need to be high to keep the dogs out) and it doesn't need to be high in a way that visually destroys an unspoilt, pristine environment. One of the perpetual failings of the old bird sanctuary fence was that it was totally inadequate for stopping (out of control) dogs (with irresponsible owners) from running underneath. This in itself would be a big "win" for the Bird Sanctuary proponents and not a "loss" to those opposed to losing access to the open space on the sand flats.</li> <li>2. Any steps down from the lookout, I think, would be an eyesore, hugely expensive (so almost certainly wouldn't happen), possibly dangerous, and impossible for older people to climb up. There is a very easy alternative. On an earlier proposal from the Bird Group I saw the way over the second bridge by the car park marked as open for dogs and dog owners (it's always been closed for dogs), and the very short, easy walk (which starts from the bridge) alongside the channel to the main</li> </ol> | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|     | <p>beach. I was told by one proponent of the bird sanctuary that they have no interest in that trail and don't see why it isn't opened for dogs already. Dogs would need to be on-lead, of course, and there are actually several trails, some a little back from the channel, so one of those could be opened up and clearly defined for dogs to keep them away from people swimming in and sitting by the channel. Opening this route would be considered a "win" for dog owners, and not a loss for the Bird Sanctuary proponents.</p> <p>3. Finally, and most importantly, the increased area (that was increased last year for the birds) be roughly split in half, with one half given back to the community and the other half added to the area the birds have historically been allocated. Importantly, the area for the community would need to have access to the Inlet for kayakers, fishermen and crabbers (a whole constituency of people that haven't yet realised what is proposed). Each group will have gained something, and each area will have use of the area for their interests/recreation/conservation goals.</p> <p>If these three things are carried out, each section of the community will have been listened to, and each will have had a "win".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Bird Sanctuary proponents will have gained a Bird Sanctuary, a permanent fence, a bigger sand flat area, and a better temporary fence</li> <li>2. The community will have gained a second access point to the beach over Prawn Rock Channel, a bigger area (than currently proposed) on the sand flats for dog owners, families and tourists, and access to the Inlet for Kayakers, crabbers and people who want to fish there.</li> </ol> <p>I'm not making this submission on behalf of any group, and of course there is no guarantee of exactly what the response to these changes would be, but I don't like seeing my community divided, especially where, I believe, there are viable compromises. I think if these ideas were adopted, it would demonstrate a genuine response to the whole community which would be acceptable to all sides. Thank you for considering it.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| S74 | Please find attached a letter re bird group proposal. Incoming submission ISUB2242132 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment APPENDIX 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | You are correct, the Rangers will be tasked with compliance. It is acknowledged that there is a compromise for all users of the area. All users still able to access the precinct in some capacity. |
| S75 | Re the proposed bird sanctuary, I think this a necessary and essential proposal. The migratory birds and their nesting habitats must be protected. I consider myself a dog and bird lover but I recognise the need to create boundaries for the protection of our wildlife.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S76 | The bird sanctuary is a great proposal and a must have to help protect these endangered migratory shore birds from dogs and to help them rest after taking on such huge flights all the way from China and Antarctica. These sand flat/estuary environments aren't actually all that common along the south coast so this sort of environment needs to be reserved for those that belong and own that environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S77 | I am neither a dog owner nor a member of the bird group but I am in full support of the establishment of the bird sanctuary. Coming to live in Denmark was an intentional decision based on the fact that this area still values and protects the natural environment. The area where the shore birds visit each year is a Ramsar wetland and that alone should be celebrated as something special. Evidence from wild areas of Europe, specifically Belgium, has identified the negative impact on the presence of pets in these areas. Dog urine and faeces overly enriches the soil and makes it uninhabitable for native fauna. The mere presence of dogs is unsettling and disruptive to the birds and possibly destructive.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S78 | I am in full support of the bird sanctuary. My main concern is how will keep the dogs be kept out of the bird sanctuary having the two areas so close to each other. Some dog owners do not control their dogs at all and it really only takes one dog to be out of control for the birds to be disturbed or damaged. Protecting the birds is absolutely the priority and the bird sanctuary is a good start.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S79 | fully support this proposal so long as walks and viewing is made available to the general public.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S80 | I fully support the establishment of this bird sanctuary. The Great Southern is a biodiversity hotspot and these sorts of initiatives attract nature loving tourists to our town.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S81 | This area is of international significance as a Bird nesting area. There are plenty of places that dogs can be exercised locally. I have been at the site several times and seen that the 'fence' has an impact but doesn't stop dogs from going into the nesting area and disturbing birds. Denmark is known for its beautiful natural environment and biodiversity. It is critical that we actually take steps to support and enhance this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S82 | As a person who regularly uses the channel to swim AND a nature lover, I am fully supportive of the proposed bird sanctuary area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| S83 | I am very pleased to see the shire proposing the bird sanctuary. I work in the environmental industry and I am a dog owner. I believe this is a responsible move by the shire when considering the long term future of species which are at risk of extinction that rely on very specific habitat areas such as the Wilson Inlet mouth. These bird species are facing global pressures and it is essential we provide habitat areas for their continued existence especially as we live in an area of the world where we have the ability to do so.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| S84 | <p>Thank you for showing leadership on this issue and protecting the unique biodiversity hotspot in which we live. While in a perfect world, I would make the bird sanctuary larger, I appreciate the Shire needs to accommodate diverse interests in the space. I would just ask the funding would be made available to uphold the sanctuary (Ranger time etc.) otherwise the changes may risk becoming meaningless.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Noted                                                         |
| S85 | <p>I feel the Denmark shire is acting in a responsible and ecologically friendly way by protecting natural habitat for local birdlife.<br/>As a wildlife rehabilitator, we see firsthand the devastation caused by domestic animals and the loss of habitat through the development.</p> <p>We need to preserve natural ecosystems for future generations. We as humans have already done enough irreversible damage.<br/>Thank you Denmark Shire, I am in full support of a bird sanctuary.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Noted                                                         |
| S86 | <p>I strongly support the proposed bird sanctuary. We need to do everything we can to prioritise the protection of bird nesting in Denmark to prevent habitat damage and secure wild places. We can't in all conscience contribute to further destruction by human development. We have plenty of places already for humans to recreate and walk dogs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Noted                                                         |
| S87 | <p>I'm a Denmark resident and dog owner and I SUPPORT the proposed Bird Sanctuary. It is very simple for me to keep my dog on lead while crossing Prawn Rock Channel (and safer to avoid any snakes). I understand that the Bird Sanctuary area is proposed for an area that is currently a no dog area - no access is being lost for my dog.</p> <p>I support the proposed additional access to the dog beach South of the current pontoon - can that work be scheduled please! The letter in the Bulletin suggests there will be a fence across the channel and access will be blocked for all users - that is NOT CORRECT, the area is defined on a map, not by a new fence.</p> <p>Objections may be based on the misinformation about blocking the channel - this makes Council's job harder in balancing real concerns alongside misinformed concerns.</p>                                              | Noted                                                         |
| S88 | <p>To create a bird sanctuary is a positive and important step and is consistent with the Shire of Denmark's priority to protect the health of its natural habitat.</p> <p>And we are in a privileged position to be able to help one of the most threatened group of birds worldwide by providing them with safe nesting sites.</p> <p>It is our responsibility to do so to protect bio diversity and the overall health of the planet Earth for generations to come.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Noted                                                         |
| S89 | <p>I support the proposed bird sanctuary and believe it will be a wonderful asset to the town of Denmark.</p> <p>I am a dog owner and have occasionally taken my dog to the area, easily avoiding the bird nesting area. The dog owner lobby have been fear mongering and spreading lies about the proposal on social media. One post claimed that a solid fence will be built all the way access the inlet to the Nullaki. It concerns me that the Shire appears to be making the decision based on public opinion instead of good planning.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | noted                                                         |
| S90 | <p>I support the proposed changes to the bird sanctuary. I think they are balanced and considerate to other beach users and are in keeping with the community's broader values of environmental stewardship.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Noted                                                         |
| S91 | <p>It is a wonderful project which will positively benefit future generations.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Noted                                                         |
| S92 | <p>I feel the provision of a bird sanctuary at the Wilson Inlet mouth is necessary, if it has been established that it will assist in the maintenance of the biodiversity of the inlet.</p> <p>I believe migratory birds should have areas set aside where human activities that could impact them are excluded.<br/>Additionally, I feel the proposed area gives due consideration to current and future human uses of the area and adjacent areas and is minimally impacting human uses.</p> <p>I am not in a position to comment on the effectiveness of the proposed area at supporting birdlife and would wish to see the proposal having considered this.</p> <p>I am not in a position to comment on the possible need to exclude other human uses of the bird sanctuary for it to be effective and would wish to see the proposal having considered this.</p> <p>I am supportive of the proposal.</p> | Noted                                                         |
| S93 | <p>I support the proposal to construct a bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock Channel.</p> <p>I also support the proposed central pathway which should encourage human activity away from the island perimeter and reduce disturbance to bird habitat, nesting and feeding areas and assist in the protection of vegetation both around and close to the shoreline.</p> <p>Tourism is an important part of Denmark's commerce and "eco-tourism" is predicted to become more popular.<br/>There are over a million members of the UK "Royal Society for the Protection of Birds" and more in the combined bird protection societies of the US and Canada.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |

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|      | What bird enthusiast in the northern hemisphere would not wish to escape their winter to spend time pursuing their pastime in pristine and uncrowded Denmark?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               |
| S94  | I support the creation of the bird sanctuary. To maximise its effectiveness, public access to the gazetted area needs to be minimised. Having 500 metres of walkway all around the sanctuary where the birds congregate is not the way to do it. A shorter inland path to a hide accompanied by educational signage would have much less impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S95  | I support the idea of a bird sanctuary however it is a recreational area as well. A 50-50 split as proposed has my approval.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Noted                                                         |
| S96  | I write in support of the proposed bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock channel.<br><br>I see that there is a proposed walk around the northern end of the island which would defeat the purpose of having a sanctuary there at all as this is the area that several of the local water bird nest. Also, any feeding birds in the shallow water would be disturbed and take flight and much of this pathway is submerged in some months. There needs to be a walk on higher ground through the center of the island that can have almost unseen access to a proposed bird hide so that the birds out on the shallow water and sand bars that develop through the year can be seen without disturbance.<br>This is the area where a lot of the migratory birds feed and rest after their journey from the Northern Hemisphere they do not breed here.<br><br>There are a lot of comments from people stating that the birds can go to other parts of Wilson Inlet to breed. Apart from the Morley beach end where nesting birds can see a predator like foxes and feral cats approaching, around the edges of the inlet this is not the case. Around the end of the Prawn rock island surveys done in past years have seen successful breeding of Red capped plovers and Pied Oyster catchers but there has been very little successful breeding in the last 2 years because of disturbance by people and dogs. | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S97  | I support the bird sanctuary development as proposed in the Council Meeting Agenda for 15 March 2022.<br><br>However, I do not consider that a perimeter pathway around the edges of the island and the sanctuary to be appropriate. Such a pathway would adversely affect the already fragile edges of the island and would be subject to flooding. As feeding, roosting and nesting birds utilise the island's foreshore and adjacent vegetated areas it would appropriate for Council to consider alternate access pathways within the sanctuary area thereby lessen disturbance to the birds and their habitats.<br><br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S98  | I am very happy to support the bird sanctuary development at Prawn Rock Island. The proposal put to the Council Meeting on 15 March 2022 is a suitable compromise for all users of the PRC area. I do have concerns about the plans for a future pathway around the edge of the island and the bird sanctuary. I consider that such a pathway would further damage the fragile foreshore of the island and adversely affect the birds utilising the foreshore areas for feeding and nesting.<br><br>Please research this aspect of the sanctuary development prior to deciding on the most appropriate pedestrian access way within the sanctuary area. The sanctuary development once completed will be a place that the Denmark Community can be proud of, show casing the way in which the Community can contribute towards the conservation of our natural environment and birdlife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S99  | Great idea to protect the birds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                         |
| S100 | Yes, I fully support the bird sanctuary. It should be bigger.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Noted                                                         |
| S101 | I support the Bird Sanctuary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |



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|      | <p>The Bird Sanctuary would be a significant achievement for the Shire of Denmark in protecting our environment. The island has considerable biodiversity importance including the nationally recognised Threatened Ecological Community – Coastal Saltmarsh, occurring close to the island shoreline.</p> <p>I have concerns about a designated pathway around the perimeter of the Bird Sanctuary area of the island. The pathway around the island perimeter would impact bird habitat, nesting and feeding areas and the vegetation both around and close to the shoreline would be reduced.</p> <p>An alternative to a perimeter pathway would be a central, high ground pathway leading from the southern boundary to a bird hide and community education centre.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               |
| S102 | I wholly support the new Bird Sanctuary at PRC and support the area being fenced in with permanent fence in northern part of PRC. As you stated it should be a dog free area with paths only used by walkers and bird watchers. There has been a huge amount of misinformation generated by dog owners, and as I talk to people it is supported by the majority of Denmarkians.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted                                                         |
| S103 | I fully support your proposed Bird Sanctuary proposal -- it is so important, so vital, thankyou                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Noted                                                         |
| S104 | I wholeheartedly support the proposed bid sanctuary proposal and urge the Shire to accept it in full. It is a wonderful and long overdue initiative.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Noted                                                         |
| S105 | I wholeheartedly support the DenmarkShire's bird sanctuary proposal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Noted                                                         |
| S106 | <p>I support the approval of the Bird Sanctuary by Council to protect the migratory and resident shorebirds and their habitat from recreational disturbance. It is fantastic for the Shire to offer a quiet and protected refuge, rest and home to local and transitory shorebirds.</p> <p>I support sustainable and sensitive infrastructure development of the Sanctuary on the island to minimize impacts to the fragile environment including limiting the access to a central pathway along high ground.</p> <p>Thank you</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Noted                                                         |
| S107 | <p>I am fully supportive of the proposed bird sanctuary and see no reason why dogs should be permitted within it, including on a boardwalk. These birds need their feeding grounds that they have been using for decades whereas humans and dogs have not. Numbers of dogs and humans in the Denmark area are increasing whereas birds are in decline overall.</p> <p>I own a dog and would be happy to have the area fenced off so that my dog cannot enter it. When the water level is low there is ample space, and when it is high dogs can be taken elsewhere if the space is not adequate.</p> <p>On that note, I think it would be useful to have another year-round dog off-leash area somewhere not too far from town. We regularly use Laing park and it's great to have a fully fenced area where dogs can socialise and play to their heart's content. It does get very wet and muddy in winter though, so somewhere that is a bit drier underfoot as an alternative would be good, perhaps on the other side of town? With increasing numbers of people and types of dogs it is helpful for people to have choices.</p> | Noted                                                         |
| S108 | My partner and I, fully support the implementation of a bird sanctuary as shown in the draft maps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Noted                                                         |
| S109 | <p>Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the sanctuary submission. I believe the true purpose of what is a sanctuary should be understood and core to the undertaking of this submission. I support fully the protection of the shore birds visiting Denmark and am excited at the opportunities this sanctuary will provide to the global community.</p> <p>I believe a sanctuary is recognised as being a quiet place where the welfare of birds should be the first consideration; that they be valued, undisturbed and appreciated. In addition, it should be a place where the priority is improving the future of the lives of birds through ecosystem protection and research.</p> <p>This is such a forward thinking initiative; I congratulate the Denmark Shire for it's commitment to the success of this submission.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Noted                                                         |
| S110 | <p>I support a better fence to separate the bird sanctuary (northern end of the island) from the dog area (southern end of island).</p> <p>I do not support the gazettement of the water ways - this would prevent me from kayaking and boating with my dog from where I stay.</p> <p>I do not support the moving of the gazetted area so far south on the eastern side of the island (i.e. comparing the provided maps with google maps, the main pathway across the northern bridge goes straight across the island - the blue line on the map shows it going more SE, thus shrinking the available area further.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S111 | <p>This bird sanctuary is a long overdue necessity for the migratory birds that visit us every year. We must provide safe habitats for these birds to raise their young and with all the threats along their migratory path, this is the least we can do!</p> <p>I'd recommend a more central, high ground pathway leading from the southern boundary to a bird hide and community education centre. By encouraging human activity away from the island perimeter disturbance to bird habitat, nesting and feeding areas and the vegetation both around and close to the shoreline would be minimalised</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Noted                                                         |

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|      | <p>I'm a dog owner and appreciate that some areas are not compatible with the local flora and fauna and this is a clear example of one of them. The island has considerable biodiversity importance including the nationally recognised Threatened Ecological Community – Coastal Saltmarsh, occurring close to the island shoreline. We must as a community work together to enhance our biodiversity to continue to enjoy what makes Denmark an enviable place to live.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                               |
| S112 | I support the creation of a dog free bird sanctuary in the Wilson Inlet, North of Prawn Rock Channel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Noted                                                         |
| S113 | I support the bird sanctuary initiative. The issue is simple. The dogs are an introduced species whereas the birds are native to the region and this is their natural habitat. There is a risk the birds will be lost for future generations if we don't support this nature based initiative. We need to ask ourselves what we would like to see at the mouth of the Inlet in 100 years' time?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Noted                                                         |
| S114 | <p>I wish to offer my support for any proposal to further protect the birds - however I would like to support the preferred proposal of the Denmark Bird Group, whatever that ends up being. I'm not a member, but I keenly support their efforts.</p> <p>Although I'm a devoted dog lover, and keen for people to be able to allow their dogs freedom at certain designated areas, I don't consider an area adjacent to a bird sanctuary a suitable place to exercise dogs. This current proposal is still a generous concession to dog owners and I'm dismayed and disappointed by the misinformation and hysterical opposition to these amendments.</p> <p>I do understand though that this Council proposal allows for a perimeter access track. Surely this will impinge on delicate nesting areas? I can't see the logic of it. If there is to be access, it should be a very small ingress through the centre of the island, and not around the perimeter. People can't be trusted to supervise their dogs. They don't, even now. Making an access path around the perimeter is inviting disaster.</p> <p>So in summary, I want to back any proposal/amendments that the Denmark Bird Group proposes.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts in protecting our vulnerable bird species and their environment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S115 | <p>Firstly, I think the overall concept for the Sanctuary, as illustrated in the Shire's public notice, is good. There is a sharing of Inlet mouth areas in a manner designed to fairly accommodate differing users and conflicting uses. It is in line with the Shire's aspiration to achieve the most sustainable development.</p> <p>Secondly, it is my view that the perimeter bird walk path would be disturbing to nesting birds. I have seen Red capped Plovers and Pied Oystercatchers nesting down there on the edge of the beach Some nest higher into the island. Thus it would be better just to have a single somewhat central path leading to a bird hide at a high point further in towards the mid northerly section of the island.</p> <p>Consideration of a bird hide needs to have regard to making it flood resistant (I have seen them on stilted supports in QLD).</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this matter.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S116 | please see attached our comments on prc bird sanctuary (Incoming submission ISUB2232121 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment) APPENDIX 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S117 | <p>I fully support Denmark Bird Group in both their concerns to the amendments which include a designated pathway around the perimeter of the Bird Sanctuary area of the island and I fully support Denmark Bird Group alternative to the perimeter pathway.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Bird Sanctuary, the island has considerable biodiversity importance including the nationally recognised Threatened Ecological Community – Coastal Saltmarsh, occurring close to the island shoreline.</p> <p>An alternative to a perimeter pathway would be a more central, high ground pathway leading from the southern boundary to a bird hide and community education centre. By encouraging human activity away from the island perimeter disturbance to bird habitat, nesting and feeding areas and the vegetation both around and close to the shoreline would be minimalised.</p> <p>At this time, an elevated central return pathway to a hide is the strongly preferred option of the Denmark Bird Group. One only has to consider the predicament of the plight of the Little Penguins on Penguin Island off Rockingham to understand that humans do not mix!! And dogs are definitely out of the question.</p> <p>Please, please, please follow the guidelines and recommendations made by the Denmark Bird Group. It is paramount and critical to follow these guidelines and recommendations. Do NOT have a perimeter pathway under any circumstances!!! Save the birds and build an elevated central return pathway to a hide. Please remember, once extinct that's it, they're gone forever!!! We have a moral obligation to do the right thing and look after these birds.</p> | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |
| S118 | Incoming submission by hand ISUB2232125 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment APPENDIX 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation. |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| S119 | <p>Incoming submission ISUB2232130 – included under separate cover as pdf attachment APPENDIX 9</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>There is no intention to fence off the “sheltered deep channel” mentioned.</p> <p>Whilst the determination proposed encompasses a wide area, it is only applicable to areas not inundated by inlet waters, this results in a fluctuating protection areas subject to the water level and sand banks.</p> <p>Department of Transport (DoT) who are the controlling body for waterways, cannot restrict access to the water area unless the safety of people is compromised. This is not the case for the bird sanctuary proposal.</p> <p>The Shire has no authority to restrict access to craft on a water body.</p> |
| S120 | <p>My view, as a long term resident of Denmark, is that this is an area which deserves maximum protection.</p> <p>As one crosses the first bridge the entire area to the left should be protected and should be a no go zone for people and dogs all year round. I have many times observed people with their dogs roaming the whole area despite temporary fences and requests to stay out.</p> <p>I support the idea of a specific track leading to the centre of the area where a hide would provide opportunities for observation and education.</p> <p>Our Plovers’ nests have frequently been damaged- and I have seen people deliberately encouraging their dogs to swim out and across through the bird feeding areas .</p> <p>It is totally unacceptable that this behaviour continues and I am asking for maximum protection be afforded this precious area.</p> <p>Plenty of scientific evidence supports the establishment of this Sanctuary - now it it up to the Shire to pledge its support for wildlife and the environment by ruling in favour of the Sanctuary.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S121 | <p>I would like to comment strongly in favour of the Bird Sanctuary and to disagree strongly with the wish to have a permanent path around the proposed bird sanctuary area. The reasons being:</p> <p>A bird Sanctuary is a place of passive recreation and is first a foremost a place where birds feel safe to nest breed and feed. Shorebirds live only between the water’s edge and the land. If this area is disturbed the birds feel threatened. The bird sanctuary is about protecting birds and their habitat and giving them a safe place.</p> <p>It makes no sense to provide a walkway where the birds such as hooded plovers, red capped plovers, pied oyster catchers will be nesting and breeding. This area should never have been under question as the emphasis with the Shire has always been first foremost the area to be set aside. NOT how it would operate. That is still to be decided when the area is fenced off.</p> <p>A Bird Sanctuary is a place to observe birds usually from a bird hide where the birds do not feel threatened. It is not a playground and should be respected. It’s all about the birds!!!!</p> <p>I am heartened and thank the Shire Officers and Councillors for supporting the birds and sharing this journey that has been so hard won but so important. I believe the phrase below reflects beautifully why this Bird Sanctuary is vitally important for the protection of birds at PRC</p> <p>WADING BIRDS HAPPY ONLY AT THE EDGES OF THE WORLD WHERE LAND AND WATER MEET<br/>WHERE THERE IS NO SHADE AND NOWHERE FOR FEAR TO HIDE</p> <p>The birds need our help do it for the love of birds</p> | <p>Officers will consider this proposal in their recommendation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| S122 | <p><b>I support the new bird sanctuary.</b></p> <p>People don't come to Denmark because of any particular attractions designed for dogs, People come to Denmark because they love nature and everything else that the place offers. They, like the locals, should respect and protect its natural beauty, flora and fauna.</p> <p>What could be more important than the migration of birds and their protection once they arrive here.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Noted</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |       |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|      | <p>If not here then where? If everyone everywhere were to disregard the needs of our endangered species, the species would quickly go extinct. If not us, then who?</p> <p>Dogs can walk anywhere and have plenty of places where they can run free without endangering migratory or local birdlife.</p> <p>These beautiful birds need our help, the birds are the endangered species, not dogs which are increasing in numbers all the time and are well protected.</p> <p><b>IF VISITORS DO NOT UNDERSTAND, REALISE OR RESPECT THESE PRINCIPALS WE MUST HELP THEM TO UNDERSTAND.<br/>WE MUST INFORM AND EDUCATE THEM BECAUSE, ONCE A SPECIES GOES EXTINCT IT IS GONE FOREVER !!!</b></p> |       |
| S123 | <p>I would like to fully support the new bird sanctuary. People don't come to Denmark to walk their dogs, they come here because they love nature. What could be more important than the migration of birds and their protection once they arrive here. Dogs can walk anywhere and have plenty of places where they can run free. These beautiful birds need our help, they are the endangered species, not dogs which are increasing in numbers all the time and are well protected.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Noted |



**Re: Proposal of the establishment of a bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock Channel – public comment**

I instantly fell in love with Prawn Rock Channel when we first moved to Ocean Beach twenty years ago. My family and I admired the vision of the people who created a recreation area that has brought pleasure to such a wide range of people in the community. Apart from the heated debate about the channel opening (west, east, or not at all), the area has always been shared amicably by everyone: dog walkers, swimmers, horse riders, paddle boarders, kayakers, fishermen, boaters, walkers and birdwatchers. This changed about 4-5 years ago when fences and signs started appearing on the sandflats, and a large portion of the dog exercise area disappeared almost overnight.

As a nature lover myself, I recognise the importance of conservation both of our wild landscape and its varied wildlife, and the fine balance of trying to meet those targets whilst still accommodating all of the area's stakeholders. However, I feel that the current situation and severity of the bird group's proposal is causing a great deal of division and anger in the community. This gives me reason to believe that a few of its elements need to be revised so the sanctuary proposal is owned by the whole community rather than being a bone of contention for many stakeholders.

After some communication with the Shire about my personal concerns about the proposal, I present the following as my submission of ideas for the future of Prawn Rock Channel and the development of a bird sanctuary:

- 1) Consider alternatives to a fence: I think that fences in wilderness areas are an old fashioned, outdated concept for multiple reasons:
  - a. Visual pollution: if we value our pristine natural environment, which is admired by everyone who visits and appreciated by locals, why mar it by an unsightly, cheap fence?
  - b. Fences divide the community: for a sanctuary to work, it needs to be owned by the whole community, who will take pride in what it is aiming to achieve and will ensure that it is looked after and its rules enforced. So, unless you have a "border protection force" that can patrol the fence and cause even more resentment and a them-and-us situation, the community need to be on board with the concept of the sanctuary.
  - c. With the northern end of the island being overgrown with grasses and low shrubs, most people stick to assigned pathways and don't let their dogs roam in the area anyway, which is rife with snakes, making a fence across this section pointless.
- 2) Ensure access to Ocean Beach for all stakeholders: under the current proposal, access to Ocean Beach from the inlet for water-based users relies on a water channel extending past the sanctuary boundary. In a very dry year, as we saw in 2018/19, the water may finish behind the boundary line, restricting access for horses, kayakers, paddle boarders, boaters and fishermen.
- 3) Keep the current access path to the east of the island: the sanctuary proposal includes re-routing the current access track from the "dog bridge" to the eastern sandflats around a

“buffer zone”. This would make access even more difficult for people with mobility issues or those with small children.

- 4) Ensure continued access to the area for the public: I am concerned about some “grey areas” in the bird group’s proposal suggesting that the northern part of the island will only be accessible to “authorised” people. Since the Prawn Rock Channel precinct was created as a designated recreation area for the whole community, the Shire needs to ensure that it remains community owned. Even as a sanctuary, walking paths should be able to be accessed by the public for bird watching, again ensuring community involvement in the project.

Ideas for alternatives:

- 1) Instead of a fence, the Shire could consider other, less visually polluting concepts to mark the sanctuary area, such as:
  - a. coloured bollards in the bushland on the north part of the island defining the sanctuary boundary. Information placards placed along the boundary bollards ensure that information about the birds breeding and nesting habits is respected by recreational users.
  - b. On the sandflats, bollards can be used on either side (on the island and on the tip of the Nullaki), as well as in the middle, creating an imaginary line that defines the sanctuary boundary. Consider alternatives to protecting individual nests, such as plywood covers, which also protect the birds from other predators and let the community know that there are indeed birds nesting there (again ensuring community ownership of the sanctuary). Information about the plywood covers can be found in studies published online.
  - c. If a temporary fence has to be used on the sandflats, it should be as unobtrusive as possible and be removed in a timely manner after the breeding season has finished. The “temporary” fence currently employed is still in situ past bird breeding season, despite being inundated by high tides.
  - d. Shade shelters could be erected at each bridge, giving a clear map of the sanctuary and some information on the birdlife we are aiming to protect. This information should clearly state all access routes for various stakeholders (such as horses, boats and kayaks). This has been implemented in multiple high environmental risk areas throughout Australia, while still allowing public access (such as turtle nesting areas in Exmouth plus surrounds).
  - e. A clearly defined walking track to the north part of the island should only need a bollard or simple gate to mark it as an entry to the sanctuary. This will invite people to be part of the sanctuary in a way that is not disruptive to the birds but is still inclusive to all, ensuring community ownership of the proposal.
- 2) Instead of the sanctuary extending all the way across to the Nullaki, an access corridor on the eastern side of the sandflats should be created to ensure year round access to Ocean Beach for all users.

- 3) If a “buffer” is needed, the sanctuary boundary could be moved slightly to the north, as in a map that was incorrectly posted on the Shire website at the last council meeting (as per attachment 9.1.2.a, 15 March 2022 Denmark Ordinary Council). This will still give plenty of room for a sanctuary while also allowing a strip of safe beach for small children and the disabled. This is especially relevant this year, seeing that the rest of the eastern side of the island has been washed away by swell and high tides, creating steep sand dunes to overcome to access the water (this is not an anomaly – when we first moved into town there was always a deep channel on the east side of the island).
  
- 4) Community engagement and consultation:
  - a. Presently, there seems to be a “them and us” situation between the bird group and other stakeholder groups. I feel that this is partially related to the way that the sanctuary proposal has been “sprung” on the community without adequate consultation of ordinary ratepayers and stakeholder groups. Until two weeks before the March council meeting, the proposal had not been made accessible to stakeholder groups or the general public. In a press release by the Shire, it was stated that “Council and Shire Officers believe the creation of a bird sanctuary in the area meets community expectations”. Yet the sanctuary was not explicitly mentioned in a public survey regarding the future of Prawn Rock Channel, and a majority of beach users were unaware of the restrictions that are about to be imposed on usage of the area. As a ratepayer and regular user of prawn rock channel for the last 20 years, I felt blindsided by the decision to turn a recreation area into a sanctuary without consulting other users of the area. I thought that the Shire should have at least made its intentions known by posting information signs at Prawn Rock Channel, inviting public comment when it first considered the proposal of a sanctuary.
  - b. For a sanctuary to work, the whole community needs to be on board and involved in the process. This may be achieved with more information session to the public and schools on the special shore birds nesting on the sandflats. Also, it would be useful to see data on nesting numbers to compare them before and after the sanctuary has been put into place, to show results and give the community a sense of pride and achievement for protecting its wildlife.

I am sincerely hoping for an outcome that unites the community after the Shire has taken into consideration all of the comments submitted, in a shared goal of protecting our unique natural environment whilst still being able to share and enjoy the beauty of Prawn Rock Channel.

**REDACTED**

Ocean Beach

Mob: **REDACTED**



**Proposed Denmark Bird Sanctuary,**

**Prawn Rock Island**

**& Adjoining Sand Flats**

**D.O.O.D.inc Proposal**

D. O. O.D. inc., a representative of the 1327 registered Dog owners of the Shire and an endorser of the Petition by Karen Winer with 412 signatures, proposes the following compromise:

To request the Denmark Shire, amend the Western and Southern boundaries of the Proposed Bird Sanctuary as per attachment 9.1.2.a, 15 March 2022 Denmark Ordinary Council.

D.O.O.D.inc requests that the Denmark Shire adjust the current Dog Off Leash Exercise Area boundaries to match this proposal.

As per attachment 1.

**Southern Boundary:**

**Attachment 1. Point A**

To move the southern boundary of the proposed sanctuary / dog exercise area across the inlet water slightly North.

- It would allow for a useable dog exercise/recreational area when conditions, such as have occurred this summer season arise. I.e. The area washed out by the open channel leaving virtually no dog beach.

**Attachment 1. Point B**

- To reinstate the original and commonly used short track across the island as the primary access. By moving of the Southern boundary slightly North as per attachment 1. This would still allow for the buffer zone that the Denmark Bird Group claims would be beneficial to the sanctuary.

**Western Boundary:**

**Attachment 1. Point C**

With respect to the western boundary, dog owners and the community have always recreated between the banks of the carpark and the islands western bank.

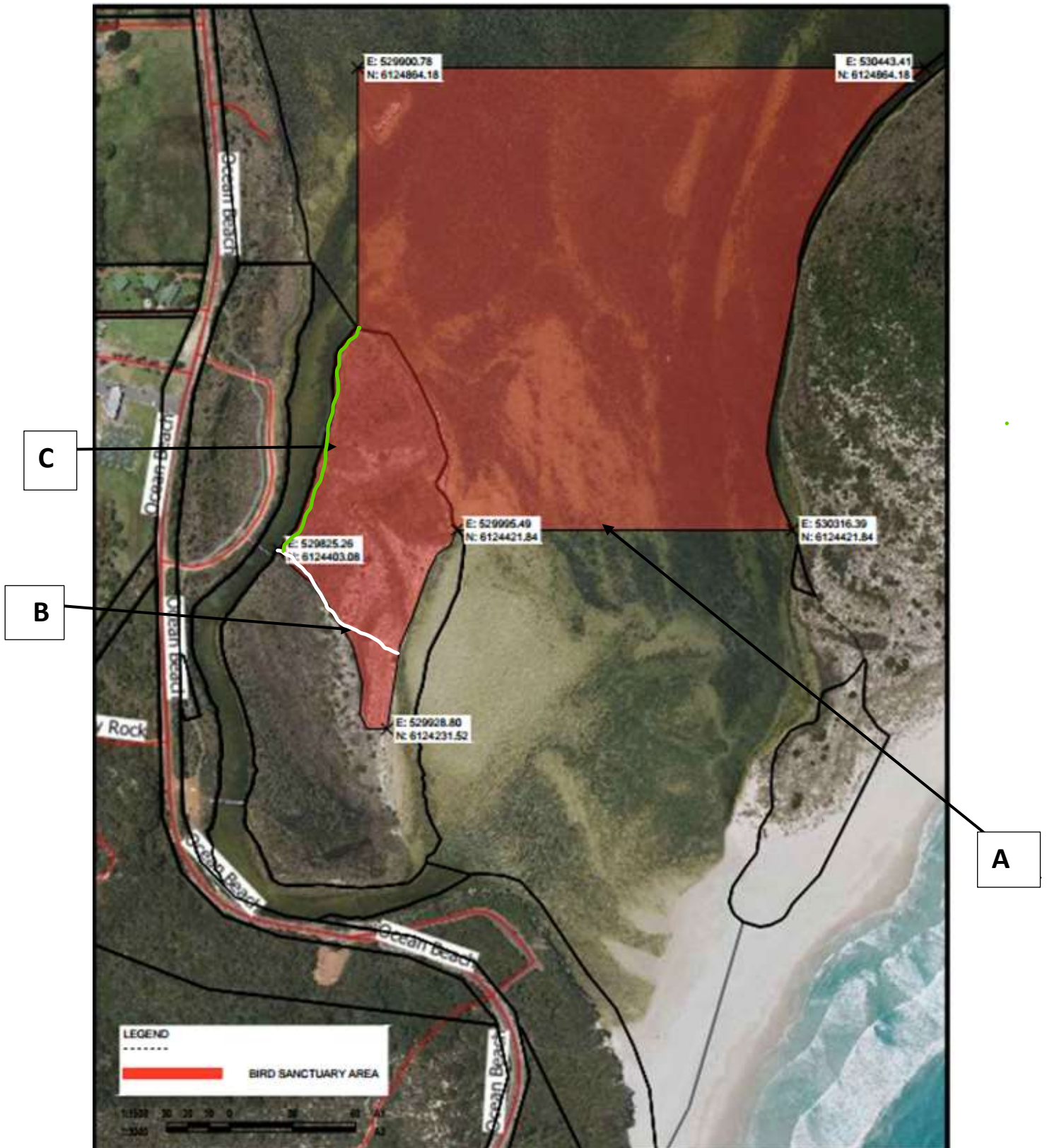
- By moving the boundary on the western bank of the island 5 metres East would allow the community to use this small strip for recreation purposes without fear of prosecution.

**In Conclusion**

D.O.O.D.inc believes that this is a fair and equitable compromise between the Dog community and the proposed bird sanctuary.

21/03/2022 D.O.O.D. in. [dogownersofdenmark@gmail.com](mailto:dogownersofdenmark@gmail.com)





**D.O.O.D.Inc Attachemnt 1**

A – Adjusted Southern Boundary

B – Commonly used short track

C – Western Bank

D.O.O.D.in. [dogownersofdenmark@gmail.com](mailto:dogownersofdenmark@gmail.com)

21/03/2022

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

ISUB2232120 - APPENDIX 3

**REDACTED**

**REDACTED** WA 6333

TO: Shire of Denmark Councillors

Re: Ocean Beach & Prawn Rock Channel area

I do not have all the fancy words or all the appropriate education with qualifications, but after living here in Denmark for 58 years, I know what I love about this place and where I enjoy being and is very therapeutic for me.

As a child our family would walk up to the third reef fishing, we would attend the car races on the flats and when the channel was opened we would jump off the cliff near the lookout, how lucky I was.

My husband and I with our 4 sons have spent so many years at Ocean Beach and Prawn Rock Channel, enjoying the tranquillity, swimming, surfing, walking our dog and watching all the tourists enjoying what we take for granted.

I have seen the changes, stopping driving up the beach, taking the dogs away from in front of the surf club, and also the section of prawn rock channel to the right of the bridge, which was fine as we still had the sand flats to access and walk up the beach.

But when I saw the fences a few years ago I thought this can't be approved by council surely they would not be so stupid, at that time I was caring for my parents and did not have the energy or time to protest it and now this next level of rules is absolutely ridiculous, again Denmark Council is listening to a minority group.

Even without walking my dog, fencing our beautiful beach where we walk, take my grandchildren, lay and read a book and Stand Up Paddle Board is disgraceful and in my eyes against all environmental issues and looks dam right ugly and dangerous.

I have travelled and stayed in so many country towns all over Australia and they have signs advising you of the birds nesting and your responsibilities with your dog, it is unobtrusive and respectful, I know there are some rogue people and you will never get rid of them, but in Denmark I have never seen a dog disturbing birds if they could even catch them.

I love birds and the blue wrens at the moment are so special to watch maybe more time should be spent controlling the domestic cats that are not contained in their properties and killing our beautiful birds.

All birds are intelligent and will nest in safe places, it doesn't matter what species or type, they will protect their eggs, but as we know the food chain can be cruel in the animal world and that is life, I have seen eagles fly down and do this and who knows at night what happens so don't blame the dogs or people.

I am so passionate about Denmark and particularly Ocean Beach and Prawn Rock Channel as my father fought so hard to beautify this place and building bridges so everyone could access, he always got so much enjoyment watching all the families playing, picnicking and swimming, I really thought Denmark was a tourist town and the local businesses do need these people to stay here so don't push them away to other country towns that don't have all these unreasonable rules.

I really hope common sense will prevail and Councillors will see that the birds will keep on nesting and enjoying this area as will all the dogs and their owners and all the tourists and Denmark can get through another controversial issue.

Kind Regards

**REDACTED**

Comment on the proposed bird sanctuary

15032242138

I object to the proposed south eastern and north eastern boundary as proposed by the shire to the Nullaki and support the eastern boundary as proposed by the Bird Group ie to the western side of Southern Channel

I object to the total restriction of access to the general public in the proposed sanctuary. I would support access to the southern channel to fishers (families especially) provided that they access the channel from the south-eastern limit of the bird sanctuary as proposed by the bird group. This would include, in the main, the tourists that would be accommodated in the nearby caravan park. Prohibitive restriction in access could harm future tourism. It is noted that access to any area in the inlet is allowed provided it is covered by water!

It has been noted that this year excessive swells has dumped significant amounts of sand into the Inlet Bar area causing a meandering channel to form on the western side of the Bar which has eroded a major part of the island and constant easterly winds over the last 3 months have dumped continual sand across the bird demarcated protected area such that the red capped plover has not been able to breed with success this season.

It is also noted that the delta is a dynamic system and channels/sedimentation varies yearly, furthermore variable climatic conditions that have prevailed over the last few decades has not necessarily been suitable for migratory birds that wish to feed in this sanctuary. These birds are opportunistic feeders and will only stop over if conditions are suitable, they do not die, they just go elsewhere. Furthermore birds that roost in or near the sanctuary only do so in suitable areas which is variable from year to year.

For your information I map the area behind the bar after it closes yearly since 2010, this information has been given to your department when applicable and should be perused by the "newish councilors and senior staff" to understand the variation in channel locations over the years, the only constant is Prawn Rock Channel and, in the main, the Southern Channel. There is a lot of history and research done in Wilson Inlet; those that will vote on this issue need to become familiar with that.

As the Bar has not closed so far this year, it will be mapped when it does so.

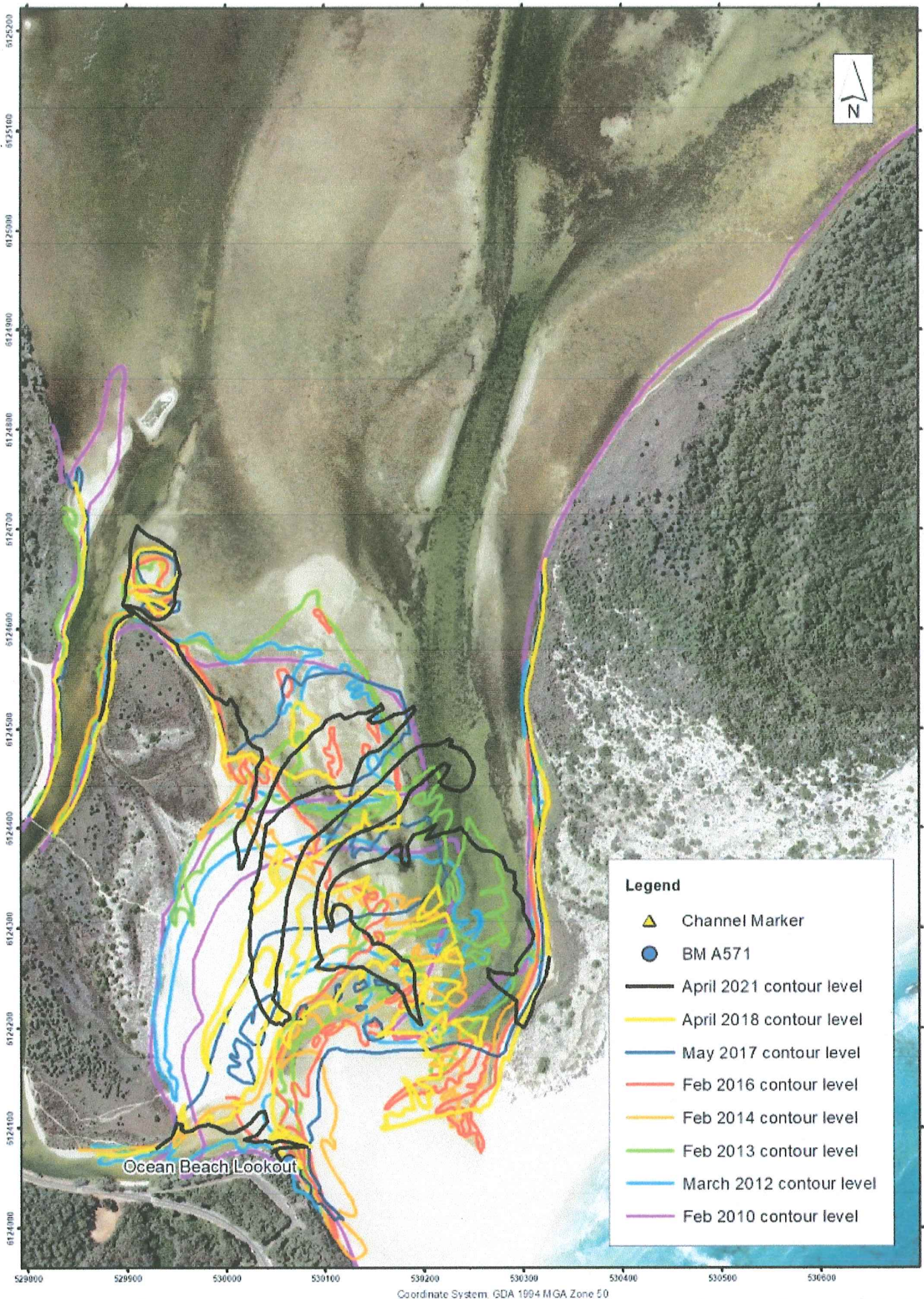
|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Shire of Denmark |   |
| 9.4 APR 2022     |   |
| MPTC             | ✓ |
| DAEA             | ✓ |
|                  |   |
|                  |   |
|                  |   |



My wife and I have lived in Denmark since 2000, and have walked our dogs mainly to Ocean Beach and Lights Beach and what we have noticed is the yearly variation of the beaches and the dynamics of the sea which is also observed in the bar area of Wilson Inlet. It should be remembered that nothing is static in this world.

**REDACTED**



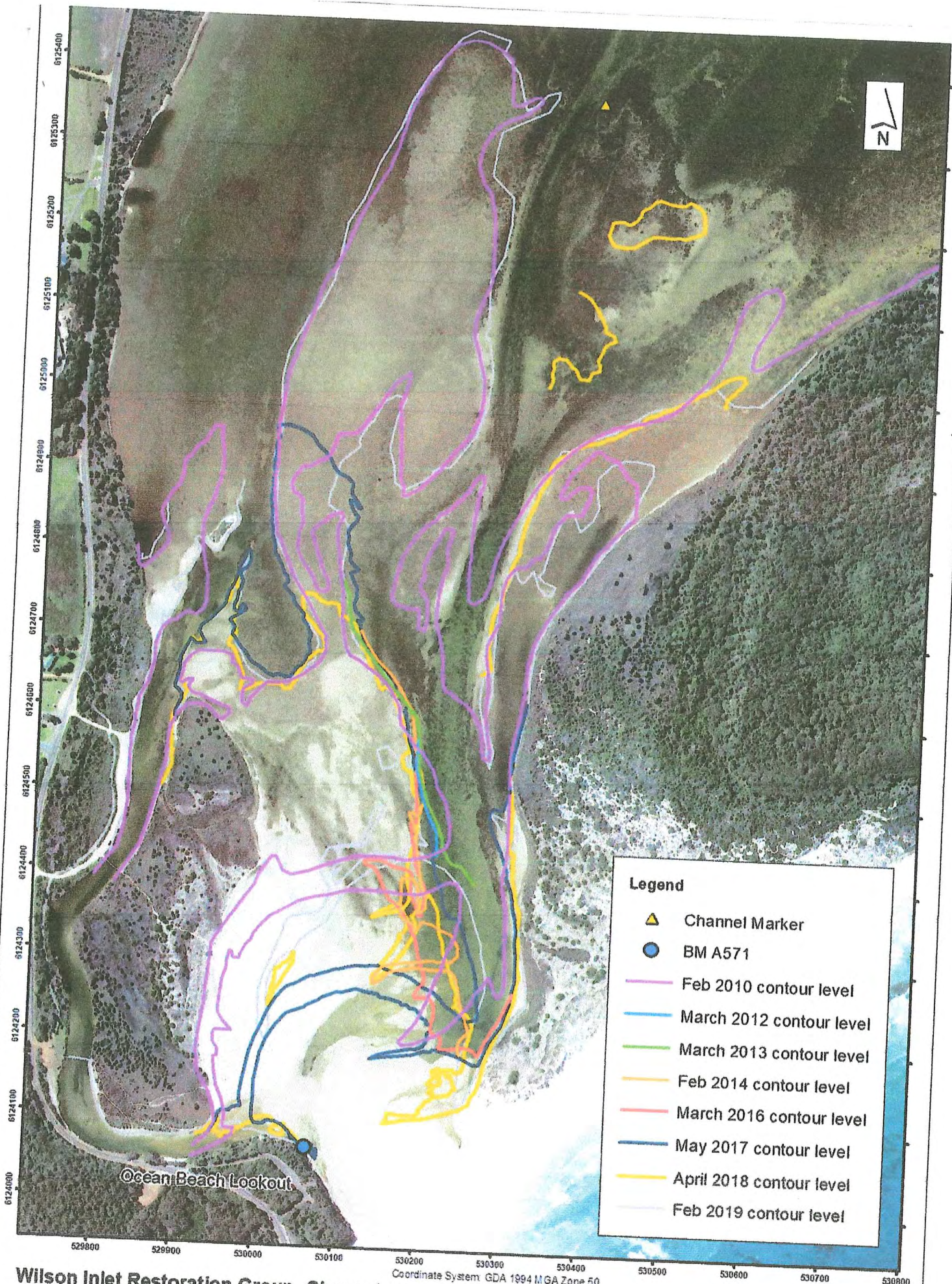


**Wilson Inlet Restoration Group - Channel mapping behind sandbar**  
**Figure 1. Contour levels measured at 0.000m AHD**

- Note:**
- Aerial photography from Landgate (Walpole - Bremer Bay Coastline, 12 May 2016)
  - Contours are as measured to mean sea level, Australian Height Datum (AHD 71)







**Wilson Inlet Restoration Group- Channel mapping behind sandbar**  
**Figure 2. Contour levels measured at - 0.300m below AHD**

Note:  
 • Aerial photoaravh from Landgate (Waloole - Bremer Bav Coastline. 12 mav



1 OF 1

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REM. 34  
13-4-22

[REDACTED]

PRO FISHERMAN

LIKE MY FATHER GRANDFATHER AND SO ON

MY FAMILY HAVE FARM WILSON INLET

EVER SINCE THE LATE 1897 AND WHERE

CARE TAKERS OF DENMARK UNTIL WE

ASK THE STATE GOVMENT TO BUY

DENMARK FROM [REDACTED] AND

THEN [REDACTED] WAS HEAD OF ROAD

BORED AND NOW IS THE DENMARK

SHIRE :

MATTER A RISING! ~~AND~~ I OBJECT

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Shire of Denmark |  |
| 14 APR 2022      |  |
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|                  |  |
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|                  |  |

1 OF 2

13-4-22

TO THE BIRD SANCTUARY AND ALL

WHAT THE DENMARK SHIRE DOING

AROUND THE PAWN ROCK CHANNEL

AND DELTA AREA AND MANDY BEACH

WHY U MIGHT ASK ITS MY LIFE

HOOD ITS MY HERITAGE AND WAY

OF LIFE IN WHICH. I LIVE FEEL

SMELL TAST SEE TOUCH EVERY DAY

I NO MORE ABOUT WILSON INLET

AND WILD LIFE AND FISH AND BIRDS

I SEE IT EVERY DAY IN ITS



1 OF 3

14-4-22

FINETS TO ITS WOST AND CURLETS

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WONT UNSTAND LIKE THESE SO CALLED

GREEN GROUPS BIRD GROUPS HOW HAVE

NOT LIVE IN DENMARK NO THEN FIVE  
MORE

~~MIN~~ MIN JUST LIKE U COUNCIL MEMBERS

HOW PLAY GOD WITH PEOPLE LIVES

AND LIFEY HOODS AND LIVING-OF FAT

OF COMMUNITY POCKET U SHOULD

BE A SHAME OF YOUR SELVES AS

COUCIPS !



*To C.E.O. and relevant Council Elect Members of the  
Denmark Shire Council*

**MERIT, CONFLICT, DIVISION, REALITY, COMPROMISE**

I am writing re the proposed bird sanctuary including the island at Prawn Rock Channel.

Having studied the proposal we can certainly see the merit in the desire to help any endangered species survive. I expect that this is more than likely a collaborative thought of most people around us. Many, however have more duality in the love of all species not just birds, including pets, recreation, flora and fauna, coastal and national forests.

Sadly the conflict brought about by a single group and other stakeholders has become the reality of this situation, that has had a detrimental affect on the community happiness at large.

The divisive harm caused over a small area among a massive area of inlet and coastline, some of which are already gazetted as save havens for endangered species is violating common sense.

The many unobserved factors not written in to the proposal is fundamental knowledge. The simple fact that the birds have in chosen to nest in the area with its current use. I agree that education to other users is warranted and I believe amongst all the argument there has been some education and awareness, which could have been handled in a much better way getting it across.

Despite our resident constituents who love and favour our beautiful areas of recreation and choose to invest in that, an intellectual body can assert an impression of correctness and persuading propositions, that can be full of false or only idealistic pursuits. This is quite the idealistic plan, but possibly impracticable to all in this particular area. Your residents do not have a world wide body to write proposals, they rely on you the council to work in their best interests.

As a Shire we must consider that to take away what has already been given by exclusion of *too* much, it becomes unwarranted arbitration, management, cost, time and dissertation.

The proposal does acknowledge other factors that influence bird populations however it is very played down (predators, climate and water levels have massive effect) and much louder about humans and dogs. They casually mention that most of the coastal areas are of breeding sites however these are not compared to just this one area. It very much leads you to thinking this is the only area of importance.

They cleverly suggest that this is a pristine, one of a kind place when it is very much reliant on our interventions, re openings and dredging. It should be remembered the island is man made. The space and quiet suggested is almost ridiculous due to its proximity of a large caravan park, industrial truck pass and local traffic. Interference of over one hundred years.

They cleverly push the eco tourism part, which yes is an increasing desire of many, however I doubt that anyone would feel eco in the area compared to somewhere quiet and of far more educational value like Morley Beach, which is already gazetted and should be used to its best. One would feel much more untouched isolation and pristine somewhere like that. I dont believe the eco tourism income of just this one site is enough to financially dismiss what is already generated.

Having read a number of sites of world body bird groups, it has amused me that some of the proposal has been copied and pasted from other national proposals, indicating this is almost a movement rather than an individual thought.

It also worried me that they have very softly threatened the shire. They suggest the shire is on board with the proposal, however quietly make threats that they must comply.

They make reference to the tourism increase over the last three years, as if it is an ongoing and known impact. We have been in a pandemic with closed borders. I think any statistics taken from a state of emergency pandemic should not be counted as reliable. In saying that I am sure many have found our beautiful place and will re visit. It does give us an insight to natural pressures we may face in years to come.

The proposal cleverly suggests that volunteers and donation will support the ideas, however reality is the policing will come down to the shire. Will it be you who take people to court for non compliance? Will it be your rangers that will have to enforce the restriction and fines? I think there is a lot more cost and reliance on the shire than estimated in the proposal.

I respect the environmental consciousness of the shire but also the duty to constituents and their well being, happiness and right to enjoyment in this small but convenient area, for so many reasons. It requires mediation to achieve co-existence without divisive favour. Compromise with respect, to dog owners, swimmers, walkers, fishermen, and general public can be achieved with better education, by simply asking for adherence to favour nesting times for these birds. This could be done in many ways – posters at the caravan park etc etc.

There are many suggestions out there that are of great intelligence, unfortunately not put down as a proposal. For instance moving the pontoon so it does not take dogs to the corner of the bird site. (Unless this becomes the only entrance for bird people). Asking people to stay on lead until the water line. I am pretty sure that 95% of dog owners would try and do the right thing. I doubt the bird walk and hide will have 100% people doing the right thing there either unless monitored 24/7 and policed. I am sure children of tourists will race through in their noisy happiness to run the walk.

It is possible that things can co-exist with a bit of discipline, mediation and understanding we can work together. I think that the area of prawn rock channel is a mecca of Denmark tourism and cannot be dismissed as unimportant to the future community and of more importance to some birds.

I could not tally up the migratory birds endangered to the island explicitly and it seemed a general need of these specifically fragile birds from all areas.

The most heartbreaking part of the poor migratory birds is they are heading home currently straight through a corridor of war and destruction if you look up their flight path.

In summary the Bird Groups have good and fair motive. This cannot be to the disregard of society and their own healthy desires. There is huge inaccessible coastal areas and reserves that these birds use, and some gazetted already, making the island a very very small patch in comparison. As observed there are some who nest on the island, however from graphs these are not the endangered species that seem to be used as the emotive need to permanently isolate the area. I really hope this can be resolved with a compromise, acknowledgement to all concerned having rights of enjoyment and preservation. It is a truly perfect place for children, elderly, dog lovers, and fisher people, the alternatives are not (ie Lights). I would ask that the Bird group gets comparable information from Anvils, Lowlands, Morley Beach, Hilliers (ie local areas) that make the island and all its location as a necessary and *only* choice for exclusion.

Regards, in good faith **REDACTED**.

24.3.22

### **Prawn Rock Channel Sanctuary Public Comment**

We would like to thank all Shire councilors and staff for their on-going support for the bird sanctuary at Prawn Rock Channel. We fully support this proposal and feel that it reflects the wishes of the community to preserve and protect the natural environment, as outlined in the Strategic Community Plan 2027. We believe that community consultation has been extensive and adequate.

Continuous monitoring by volunteers has given the community greater insight into the significance of Prawn Rock Channel and the Wilson Inlet generally, for both shore and waterbirds. We are privileged in Denmark to be visited by migratory shorebirds. With pressure mounting globally on these long-distance travellers, it is the right thing to do to allow them the opportunity to feed undisturbed. Their lives depend upon it. Our resident plovers, also under threat, will now be able to “nest in peace”. We are lucky to have community members that have the knowledge and experience to recognise the importance of this habitat for birdlife. Those who have put hours of work into advocating for its protection desire our whole-hearted appreciation.

The council can be confident that the proposal has been based on solid evidence and that this decision is in-line with international agreements signed by Australia to protect migratory shorebirds. Birdlife Australia has highlighted the need for increased protection of shorebirds foraging and nesting grounds around Australia and the sanctuary will enable this to happen.

We would like to question the inclusion of the walk trail within the sanctuary around the Northern portion of the island. At present there is no defined walk trail in this location. People in the past have forged tracks through the vegetation which runs alongside the channel, some of which have now receded in to the channel. These have been replaced by newer “tracks” resulting in the damage of more vegetation. The banks of the channel are subject to inundation and erosion and are not suitable for a designated walk trail. Maintenance of the riparian vegetation is essential for the health of the waterway and damage needs to be minimised. In addition, red-capped plovers are known to nest on the North-western banks of the channel / inlet where the proposed walk trail is indicated on the advertised map. Again, disturbance to nesting birds needs to be minimised. It is our understanding that in the revised version of the proposal this walking track has been omitted for these reasons.

In our opinion, having 3 different maps showing the boundaries of the sanctuary area at different water levels is confusing. It must be remembered that tidal flats and shallow water provide essential feeding grounds, whereas bare sand is required for nesting.

We feel that consultation with the Denmark Bird Group is essential before the location of any walk trails within the sanctuary and the boundaries are finally approved. As an organisation they understand the needs of the birds and how best to protect them and their habitat. As previously mentioned, their decisions are based on evidence and extensive knowledge.

It also needs to be noted that the boundaries of the sanctuary, as proposed by the Denmark Bird Group, were determined with the needs of the community in mind and were very much a compromise. Ideally, the whole of this area should be dog-free or at least on-leash.

We do have concerns about compliance. On several occasions we have seen people with dogs in what are now allocated as dog-free areas. The inclusion of a walk trail around the Northern portion of the island may encourage dog-owners to continue to do the “wrong thing” as we have observed to be the case over recent months. Within the proposed sanctuary, we have spoken with locals and visitors exercising their dogs who were unaware of the newly allocated dog-free areas and who were quite happy to relocate. Angela has also spoken with locals who knew about the new regulations but sadly did not care. Angela has also regularly seen dogs off-leash at the Southern end of the island which is allocated dog-free. We believe compliance issues need to be addressed before there is serious conflict between dogs and families using this area (which has the potential to result in injury). Since the changes to the regulations, we have never seen a ranger in this area.

We believe that signage could be improved. The sign at the northern bridge is too high to read and needs to be lowered (easily done) and probably located in a more obvious place. Angela had visited the channel and sand bar several times before she even saw it. People tend to park to the North of the bridge and the sign might be more visible if it was placed to the North (left) of the bridge entrance (so that people actually walk past it) or even on the island just after you have crossed the bridge.

The adoption of this proposal sends a positive message to the local community and other Councils that the Shire of Denmark does care about the natural environment and our local wildlife. It sets a precedence for other councils to follow. It is the right thing to do.

We understand that some community members have been strongly opposed to this proposal. We believe this opposition is driven by either lack of understanding of the significance of this area for the birdlife or by lack of respect for the natural world, which is not ok.

Some people may be confronted by change, but people will adapt and find new alternatives. There are so many great alternative options for dog owners in Denmark. It is our understanding that many dog owners are fully accepting of this proposal and are happy to change.

The formation of a sanctuary has been a vision we have supported over many years. It is amazing to finally see it come to fruition. We understand that final decisions need to be made regarding the detail but trust that with the support of the Denmark Bird Group the right choices for the birdlife will be made.

Well done!

**REDACTED**



APPENDIX 8



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5 April 2022

David Schober  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Denmark  
953 South Coast Highway  
Denmark WA 6333

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Dear David

**The Bird Sanctuary Development  
Submission by the Denmark Bird Group Inc.**

**Preamble**

**Shire of Denmark Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 March 2022**

Agenda Item 9.1.2. Bird Sanctuary - Officer Recommendation put to Council and a Motion was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation. An Amended Motion was then moved, seconded and carried as Council Resolution: 070322

**Shire of Denmark Public Notice dated 21 March 2022**

**Bird Sanctuary Development**

Shire welcomes submissions about the proposed determination and/or bird sanctuary

We refer to the above and in particular the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 March 2022, Agenda Item 9.1.2 and the Council Resolution: 070322 carried.

The Shire of Denmark has now advertised to the public its intention to make a determination under its Property Local Law to develop a bird sanctuary by prohibiting the traversing of land, for all unauthorised persons, except on paths provided for that purpose over the areas in maps 9.1.2a and 9.1.2b as referred to in Council Resolution: 070322

It is important to understand that the Officer Recommendation as outlined in Agenda Item 9.1.2, and which was subsequently moved and seconded did not include designated pathways.

The amendments to that motion included the following.

“with the following modification that the designated pathways are included in accordance with the bird walk outlined in Attachment 9.1.2b.”



The Denmark Bird Group's position and background regarding the amendment to the Council Motion and the passing of Council Resolution: 070322 is as follows.

## Introduction

At the start it is crucial to be clear about the function of a bird sanctuary:

It is a quiet place where the welfare of birds should be the first consideration; that they be valued, be undisturbed and be enjoyed.

It is a place where the priority is bird study and the protection and a place to appreciate the flora and fauna of the island and the estuarine environment.

The Shire of Denmark *Strategic Community Strategic Plan Denmark 2027* embraces strong community support to preserve and protect the natural environment. The Shire of Denmark *Coastal Reserves Management Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2020* recommends strategies to achieve environmental, protection and rehabilitation values prioritised by the community.

These principles have been embodied in the evolving outcomes of the Shire's and the Denmark Bird Group's deliberations for the establishment and development of the Bird Sanctuary.

## Background

The progression of planning for the sanctuary since its initial proposal in 2018 has seen its boundaries and general design evolve since then. Much of this has occurred in consultation with local and national experts, including Birdlife Australia and importantly, with advice from Shire Officers. In addition, there has been a deliberate focus on the external boundaries of the proposed sanctuary rather than on potential infrastructure that might be considered within those boundaries.

In this context, Denmark Bird Group's priority has been to establish the location for a permanent sanctuary fence across the island and the location for a seasonal temporary fence across the delta which would also serve to define the southern boundary of the sanctuary east of the island.

Proposed locations for future infrastructure such as a bird hide and pathways were included in the map (now identified as Attachment 9.1.2b to the Council Resolution: 070322 of 15 March). The pathways and bird hide were intended as no more than conceptual illustrations of possible features. Further investigation was always intended as indicated in Section 9 of the sanctuary proposal document, as quoted here:

***"Given the conceptual nature of this proposal, details of infrastructure requirements such as fencing, trail improvement, bird hide construction and signage have not yet been fully investigated. Should Shire approval be received, further discussions with the Shire will enable details of the infrastructure to be determined and hence estimates of costs."***

An important element of this is for the Shire to undertake a detailed topographical survey of the sanctuary area to assist to determine the most suitable location for a bird hide and access pathway within the Bird Sanctuary area. Our understanding is that such a survey would form part of a future survey of the entire Prawn Rock Channel to Ocean Precinct.



## Recent Progress

Planning has continued with ongoing productive meetings with Shire Officers to consider the location and design for a permanent fence. Tentative infrastructure ideas were also discussed and reviewed during the latter half of 2021.

## Sanctuary Access

In consultation with Shire Officers, large scale aerial maps have been used to identify, subject to a detailed topographical survey, a probable route for a central pathway and gate leading to a bird hide. Initial research indicates the high ground through the mid-north east area of the island would be appropriate for a single, return pathway and for a bird observation hide and community education centre (refer to map illustration enclosed). This suggested pathway would minimise ground disturbance and ensure protection of a nationally recognised Threatened Ecological Community – Coastal Saltmarsh (TEC), listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, which occurs closer to the shoreline. Damage to the increasingly fragile edges of the island would be lessened by utilising a more central, high ground pathway. During recent years and particularly during 2021, the island perimeter, together with the island's peripheral vegetation, has been adversely affected by high water levels and wave actions. Furthermore, by encouraging human activity away from the island perimeter disturbance to bird habitat, nesting and feeding areas both around and close to the shoreline would be minimised.

The proposed elevated site for a hide would also provide extensive views to the bar and out to the delta and around the bay to the north thereby enhancing observation opportunities from the hide. A proposed elevated pathway would also provide enhanced viewing of the surrounding areas, including the central vegetated areas of the island where opportunities would be available for the community and visitors to also observe other birdlife and endemic wildlife.

While these features were being reviewed, no changes have been made to the map (cited as Attachment 9.1.2b in the Council Resolution) as on going discussions with the Shire will be necessary.

It is important for the Denmark Community to be aware of the statement recently been posted on the Your Denmark web site in relation to the Bird Sanctuary development and which reads as follows.

“Community members may be aware of a Bird Sanctuary Proposal which was provided to Council by the Denmark Bird Group. That proposal is NOT what is under consideration - it was simply used to supply information to Council on why a bird sanctuary should be considered for the area.”

## Conclusion

In conjunction with the Bird Sanctuary, the island has considerable biodiversity importance including the TEC, which has yet to be fully explored and documented. Accordingly, infrastructure siting, development and access should be implemented with care and sensitivity towards all environmental values. This will be the aim for the Denmark Bird Group as the Bird Sanctuary development progresses.



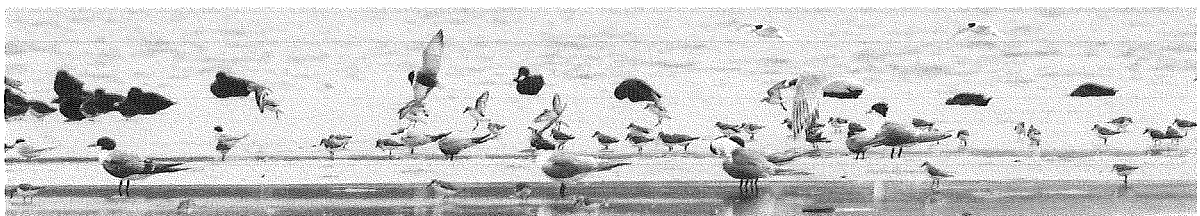
It is important to confirm, as has been outlined in this submission it was never the intention of the Denmark Bird Group and as we understand, neither was it the intention of Shire Officers to consider anything other than conceptual infrastructure ideas within the Bird Sanctuary development area until some later date when all options will be explored and fully considered.

At this time, an elevated, central return pathway from the southern boundary to a bird hide and community education centre is the strongly preferred option of the Denmark Bird Group.

The enclosed map provides a sketch illustration for a central pathway, marked in yellow and a hide, marked in green.

Yours sincerely

**REDACTED**  
**Denmark Bird Group Inc.**







Dear Denmark Shire

Bird Sanctuary Development Submission

Wilson Inlet Restoration Group (WIRG) recommend the attached proposal 9.1.2a Denmark Bird Group's 'Bird Sanctuary Proposal'. This includes half the northern portion of the vegetated Prawns Rock Channel Island and Fairy Tern Island and the designated black lined area of the delta flood plain as a bird sanctuary. Additionally, it would include a movable fence depending upon water levels. The main channel (Southern Gutter) and the south east foreshore to be left out of the Bird sanctuary. See similarities between revised WIRG map figure 7 (attachment no.17) and Denmark Bird Group's Sanctuary Proposal Map (attachment no.15).

The Shire's bird sanctuary map 9.1.2a (showing the delta and Main Channel – see attachment no.14) totally across the whole inlet mouth under a bird sanctuary listing was not presented to WIRG (a key stakeholder) at our face to face meeting. We therefore had no chance to comment to the Shire regarding the revised proposal. WIRG believes that the revised proposal will be highly problematic for the health and serviceability of Wilson Inlet. If the main channel is designated a full sanctuary zone it will:

- Severely limit access from the mouth to the rest of the inlet and confuse people as to how they can access a passive recreational passage without disturbing the sanctuary zone. It is not clear on the water level maps, if you can gain access from the Inlet to the ocean from behind the Nullaki or the Sand Bar to the Inlet to our main channel. Will a favorite sheltered deep channel be fenced off to the community.
- Reduce substantially the options available to the Water Corporation regarding digging back to our main channel for sand bar openings. This will put at risk the health of the inlet potentially reducing the ability of the opening to produce a satisfactory water exchange that is needed to facilitate whatever the new bar opening protocol presents
- The Bird Group did not put the Main Channel in their proposal, the wader birds need the shallow delta, conflict and confusion is not good for the wild life, if you can go around the sanctuary area this eliminates the confusion.
- Limit the accessibility and the water exchange serviceability to the 45 square kilometers of the inlet. This is our main Drainage channel, flooding could be a concern opening the inlet into a sanctuary zone.

The Shire's extension of the bird group's sanctuary proposal to the East incorporates the deep Main Channel. WIRG proposes that the sanctuary zone not include the deep Main Channel. (see WIRG map 7 attachment 17) The shallow flats of Poddy Shot Bay where the Black Swans flock and feed is the area that needs to be protected. When the water level drops in this revised area it will give the opportunity for the wader birds to roost and feed. It is important to note that roosting or wading sites are not usually suitable in a deep Main Channel. The Bird Group's sanctuary proposal did not include the main channel for this reason.



There is still uncertainty regarding the specific reasons for the decline of migratory wader birds to our region and where they go. Possible impacts include not only the decline in their wetlands on their journey from the northern hemisphere, but, also the impact of rising temperatures and sea level rise on their feeding grounds. The impact on seasonal recreation in and around the tidal delta sanctuary zone is also not clear. What is clear is that the health of the inlet has a direct impact on the health of the birdlife/fish/invertebrates that use it for not only breeding purposes but, also as a ready food source. Maintaining the health of the inlet is therefore crucial for not only the Denmark Bird Group's purposes but for the rest of the community for not only recreational use but tourism.

To give some background, the serviceability of the inlet's main channel was first dredged by the Denmark Shire and WIRG in 2010 under license from the Department of Water. The high bar openings have allowed the inlet channel to be as serviceable now as it was when it was first dredged. Wilson Inlet with its long duration of high bar openings is presently in a healthy, serviceable condition with excellent marine exchange with clean foreshore and good water quality.

The first 400m of the mouth from the ocean side has channel variation. Our mapping has shown over the last 12 years that the main channel is stable. This historical channel behind the Nullaki (Southern Gutter) is in all the Nautical and DPI (337) maps since their inception. Our members have been observers and elder guardians of this channel for over 75 years. The main channel can be seen with the naked eye from the Ocean Beach lookout. DWER and Water Corporation have been excavating to our main Channel for 43 years to open the inlet.

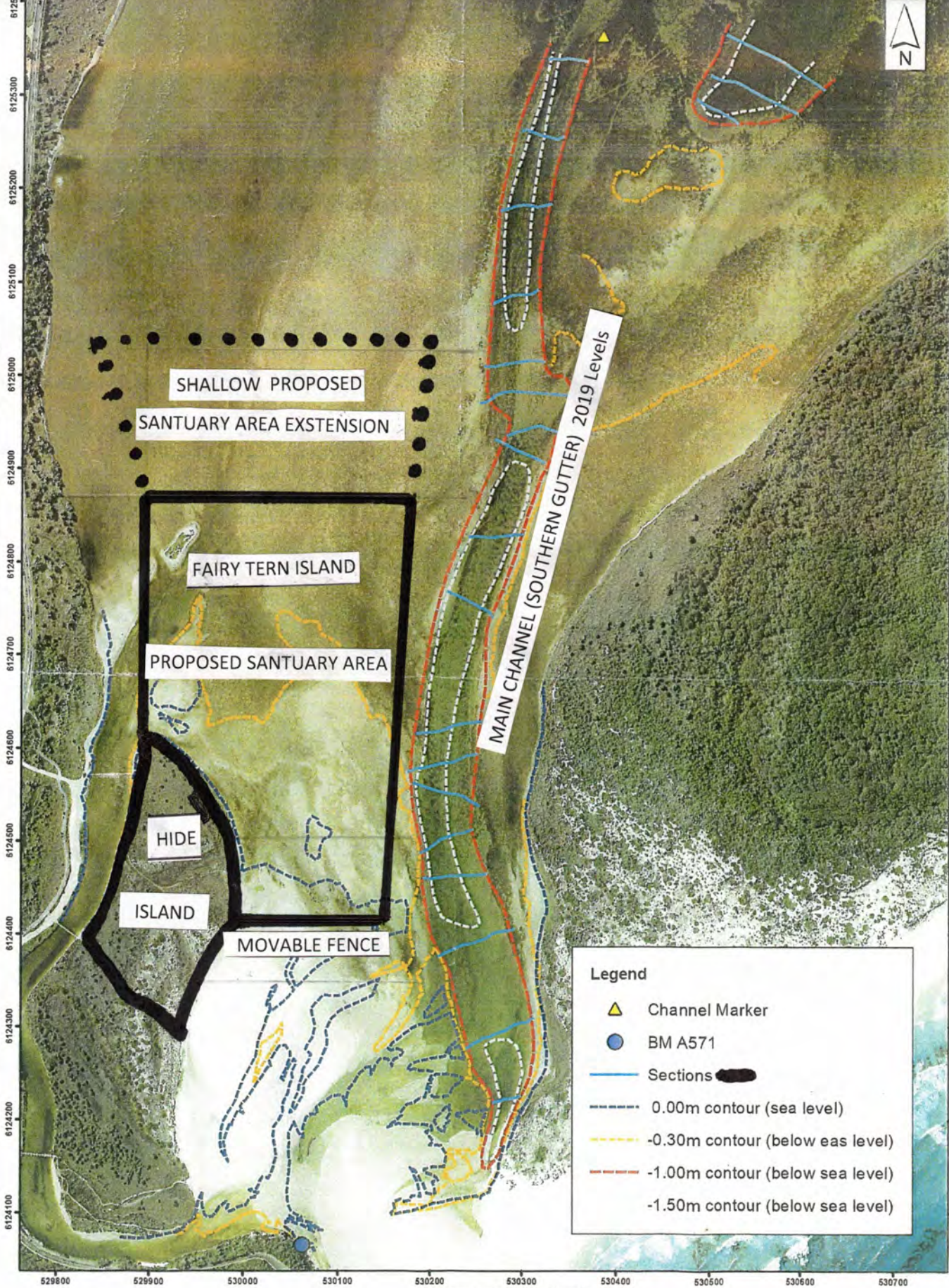
It is important that decision makers realize that inlets have historical channels that are highly significant for water exchange and maintaining the health of the 45sq kilometres of inlet. WIRG believes if the flood plain mouth is deemed a complete sanctuary zone, the bird group will have a preference for low sand bar openings. This will reduce the effective scouring of the main Southern Gutter Channel and decrease the duration of a sand bar opening. This, in turn, will reduce water exchange effectively reducing the serviceability and health of the inlet.

Historically the serviceability of the inlet has been negatively impacted by toxic algal blooms, the damming of the catchment, blue gum plantations (taking the ground water) and an ever drying climate due to global warming. We need to find a balance with the decision making to ensure the serviceability and functionality of the inlet so that all parts of the community benefit from a healthy inlet and this includes the Denmark Bird Group.

**REDACTED**

Wilson Inlet Restoration Group



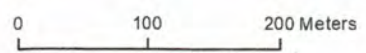


**Legend**

- Channel Marker
- BM A571
- Sections
- 0.00m contour (sea level)
- 0.30m contour (below eas level)
- 1.00m contour (below sea level)
- 1.50m contour (below sea level)

**Wilson Inlet Restoration Group - Channel mapping behind sandbar**  
**Figure 7. PROPOSED SANCTUARY AREA**

Note:  
 • Aerial photography from Landgate (Walpole - Bremer Bay Coastline, 12 may 2016)





E: 529900.78  
N: 6124864.18

E: 530443.41  
N: 6124864.18

Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach

Rock

Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach

E: 529825.26  
N: 6124403.08

E: 529995.49  
N: 6124421.84

E: 530316.39  
N: 6124421.84

E: 529928.80  
N: 6124231.52

LEGEND

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BIRD SANCTUARY AREA



Shire of Denmark

PRAWN ROCK CHANNEL ACCESS AREAS  
PLAN - BIRD SANCTUARY AREA

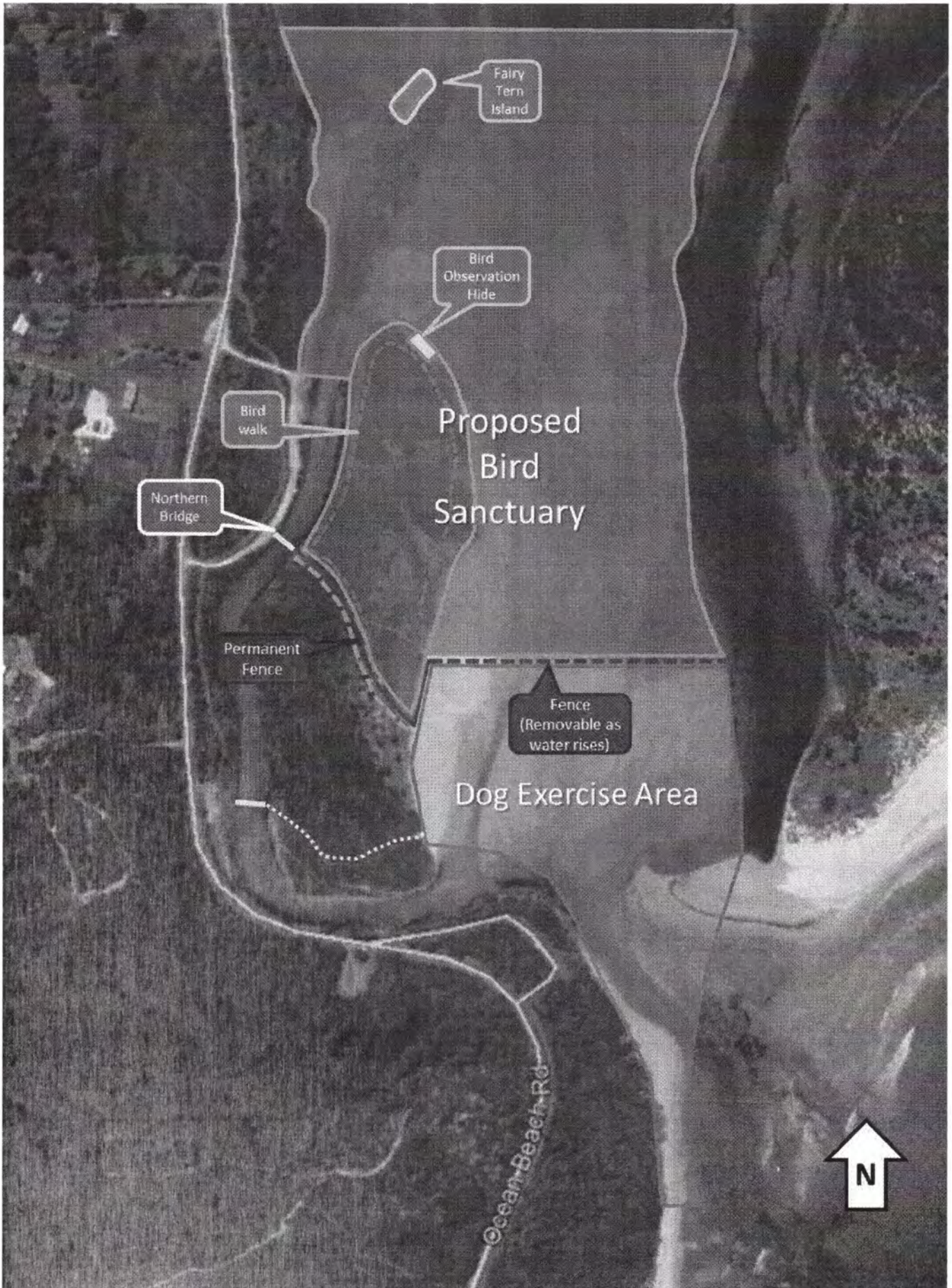
SCALE 1 @ 3000

DRAWN L.T.

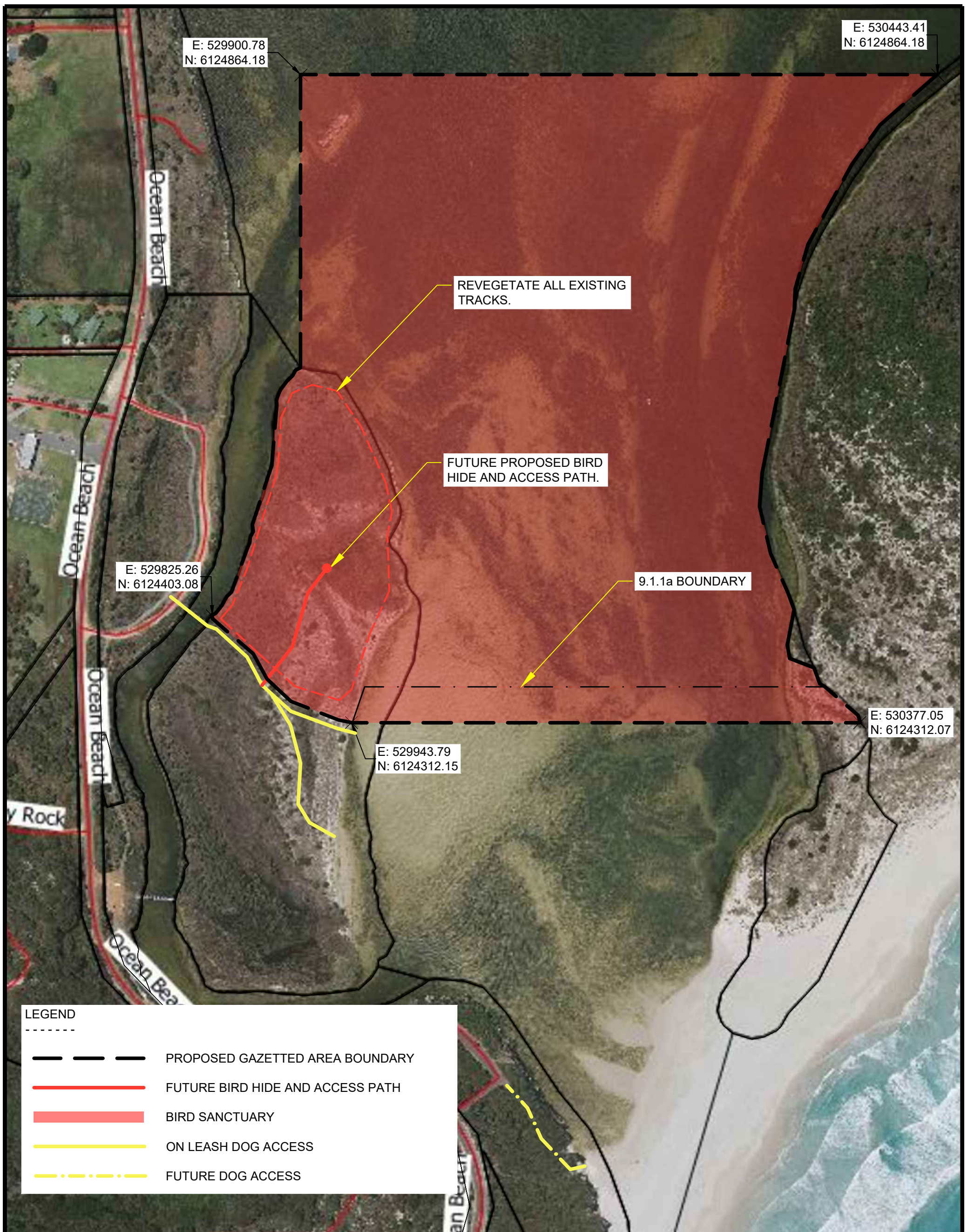
15 FEBRUARY 2022 - ATTACHMENT 9.1.2a



# Prawn Rock Channel Bird Sanctuary Proposal Map







LEGEND

- PROPOSED GAZETTED AREA BOUNDARY
- FUTURE BIRD HIDE AND ACCESS PATH
- BIRD SANCTUARY
- ON LEASH DOG ACCESS
- · - · - · FUTURE DOG ACCESS

1:1500 30 20 10 0 30 60 A1  
1:3000 A3

21 June 2022 - Attachment 9.1.1d



Shire of Denmark

PRAWN ROCK CHANNEL ACCESS AREAS  
PLAN - BIRD SANCTUARY AREA

SCALE 1 @ 3000

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