

Bicentennial Lakes Revitalisation Project

This project will activate the Lakes, breathing life back into the area and surrounds for the enjoyment of our community and visitors.



Q&As - Bicentennial Lakes Revitalisation Project

1) Which information session can I attend?

There will be two on-site information drop-in sessions residents can attend.

The first one will be held on Saturday, 1 April between 8.30am and 10.30am and the second one will be held on Wednesday, 12 April between 3pm and 6pm.

2) Why is Council doing this work?

The Mareeba Bicentennial Lakes project was initially undertaken from 1988 - 1989 to beautify a large, narrow strip of urban watercourse, which had become overgrown and unsightly.

The area of interest included a series of small shallow lakes, islands, vegetation areas, pathways, open grassed areas and a connecting waterway.

While the lakes provide significant local amenity, they were not designed with a specific water quality function at the time and as a result the overall water quality in the lake is poor, resulting in increased weed growth and reduced aesthetics.

Council recognises there is a need to reinvigorate this area and the upgrade of Bicentennial Lakes was identified as a priority project in Council's three-year Parks and Open Spaces Action Plan.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the water quality and maintenance of the parkland and undertake further enhancements to restore the popularity of the area as an active recreation space for the whole community.

3) Will there still be lakes?

Yes. The first stage of the watercourse improvement work will occur in the southern section, between Rankin Street and Keeble Street.

The work in this section will improve the water flow along the natural water course by narrowing the two stagnant and swampy sections of the water way.

The area will then be revitalised to include a more open and active recreational space.

The next stage of the project, which will be delivered in following years, will be to revitalise the northern section of Bicentennial Lakes, between Keeble Street and Granite Creek.

This northern section will become a passive recreation space where the community can enjoy the peaceful lakes and wildlife with walkways and shady areas.

There will be some narrowing of stagnant water areas to improve water flow and quality through the northern lakes precinct, but lakes will remain for the community to enjoy.

4) When will the project happen?

The project will be completed in stages.

Construction to revitalise the southern precinct between Rankin and Keeble Streets is the first stage and will start in mid-2023.

It is expected to be completed in early-2024, weather permitting.

5) How will flooding be improved?

Council has engaged the services of hydrologists and water engineers to model the water flow through the gully for various scenarios to ensure impacts to properties and infrastructure of minor and major flooding events are minimised.

The proposed site for the active recreation precinct area in the southern section (between Rankin and Keeble Streets) is above the flood zone that would be inundated in a 1 in 100-year flood event.

For a baseline reference point, the 2023 January/February flood event was considered a 1 in 5-year event.

Overall, it is expected that works will slightly reduce the likelihood of flooding to properties in the area.

This does not mean the parklands will not flood at all as it is an urban waterway as seen in the 2023 January/February flood event, however the main infrastructure is being sited outside the flood zone.

6) When will the works in the northern section kick off?

The next stage of the project, to revitalise the northern section of Bicentennial Lakes, between Keeble Street and Granite Creek will commence from 2024.

Council will be undertaking separate engagement for this section at a later date.

7) Will the ducks be impacted?

As part of the design, Council commissioned a comprehensive environmental study across the entire Bicentennial Lakes Precinct and the habitats of the local wildlife were identified to ensure they will not be impacted by the upgrades.

8) Will any trees be removed?

Council will protect the existing trees as much as possible and an Environmental Management Plan is being prepared to assist with this.

Where there is no other option, some trees may have to be removed to achieve the design outcome, but this will only be as a last resort.

Trees that are targeted for removal will be of lower significance where possible.

9) Why will the half-pipe (arched) bridges be removed?

The half-pipe (arched) bridges will be replaced with accessible flat footbridges to meet today's safety and accessibility standards.

10) Will the footpaths be replaced?

The current footpaths will remain, with older sections to be replaced and upgraded to provide wider pathways.

11) Where will the active recreation space be?

The new active recreation space will be in the area opposite Mason Street, locally known as the "Mango Tree".

12) What is an active recreation space? Is it a playground?

There are many elements and features that make up an active recreation space, which can include a traditional playground, as well as other play features.

Council believes it should be the community that chooses what they want to see in their active recreational space.

Council will have a more accurate picture of what final elements and features will be incorporated in the active recreational space once the community survey closes

13) Will there be an adventure playground and pump track?

Council will have a more accurate picture of what final elements and features will be incorporated in the active recreational space once the community survey closes.

If the community, via the survey, informs Council they would like to see a pump track and elements of an adventure playground incorporated in the active recreational space, then they will be considered in the final design.

14) How will the high school be impacted during the project?

The pathways that link Mason Street to Abbott Street and the back of the high school will not be accessible during construction, but access will be reinstated as part of the project.

During construction, students will need to access the school via alternative footpaths or Keeble or Rankin Streets instead. These detours will be signposted.

These pathways will be inaccessible for the entire construction period which is expected to take up to six months.

15) Will the roads be impacted? Is traffic control going to be in place during the project?

Some minor temporary traffic changes will be in place during construction.

There will be some vehicle and truck movements, mainly along Mason Street and near the causeway at Keeble Street for the duration of the project.

16) Where is the toilet block being built?

A new toilet block will be built near the active recreational space in the southern section adjacent Mason Street.

Its exact location hasn't been determined. Its location will be included in the final design.