

Frequently Asked Questions - Node 5 Mill Point

Q. How much will the project cost?

Stage 1 of the project, including Millers Pool upgrades, the foreshore carpark, the tree avenue and landscaping to the Old Mill will cost \$2.45 million.

The beach headlands cost \$550,000 and related infrastructure upgrade project to the river walls to the west of the Narrows will cost \$1 million.

Q. Did the City receive any grant funding for this project?

The City received funding of \$350,000 from the Swan River Trust for the river wall upgrade to the west of the Narrows and funded the remainder of the project from City funds.

Q. When will it be built?

Stage 1 of the project is planned for construction in the 2015/2016 and 2015/2017 financial years, for completion by Christmas 2016. Stage 2 and 3 of the project, the café and the rest of the western side of Mill Point Rd around the Old Mill is planned for future years.

Refer to the Staging Plan for more information on the project stages.

Q. What access will be available during construction?

Access to the foreshore surrounding Millers Pool (including the new beaches and headlands) and Car Park 11 will be restricted to allow construction activities to be undertaken.

Q. What about noise and dust during construction?

The impact of noise, dust and vibration to the public is expected to be minimal. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will be maintained on site at all times. This plan will outline strategies to keep noise, dust and vibration to a minimum. Controls include: dust suppression using a water spray system for activities where nuisance dust is likely to be generated. Visual inspection for nuisance dust will be used to determine if dust suppression is adequate.

A wind barrier (shade cloth) and site fencing will be used to reduce potential dust migration.

Noise is unavoidable, however work will be carried out within normal operating hours (Mon-Sat, 7am-5pm). All equipment will be fitted with appropriate noise suppression (muffler) devices and comply with pollution and noise regulations.

Q. What will the cafe look like? How long will the lease be?

The café shown on the plan is a concept only, to consider its form and how it could fit within the surrounds.

If the café is found to be feasible, further design will be required as a separate project at a later stage. For this process a separate approval and consultation process will be undertaken.

Leases of property on the South Perth Foreshore are set at a maximum of 21 years.

Q. What about cycling in the area?

Cycling is provided for with the existing shared paths from the Freeway and existing recreational paths within the reserve. Future plans for on-road cycle lanes for The Esplanade will improve commuter cycling along in this area.

Q. What is the Samphire being planted?

Samphire is a native plant to many areas within Australia, most commonly found in saline (salty) environments. Its habitat includes salt lakes and pans, salt marshes and coastal samphire flats, such as Millers Pool. Samphire occurs naturally around Millers Pool, where water levels naturally change through river tides. The presence of Samphire indicates a healthy ecology.

The new plan will have designated areas for the Samphire to allow it to flourish naturally along with other native plants. This ecologically rich pool is an asset to the foreshore and river in a location so close to the city of Perth.

Q. Are more trees being planted and how tall will they grow?

Yes, more trees will be planted and the new trees are indicated on the plan.

Most new trees will be medium sized trees that grow between six and 12 metres tall. Their location on the plan will enable city and river vistas from within the site and from nearby.

To help maintain an ecologically balanced healthy river system, all fringing vegetation is important. The area needs to contain a mix of native plant species including trees, shrubs, rushes, sedges, herbs and grasses, along with the samphires.

Q. Will there be any effect on birds, fish and animals in the area?

The plan involves limited excavation of Millers Pool to reduce the impact on the natural environment during construction. The mid tide footprint for Millers Pool will be kept the same, helping to maintain the existing ecosystem balance within the pool, and the little island in the pool will also remain. The plan will continue to allow fish to breed in the pool, and make their way to the Swan River through the existing pipe connection.

Once constructed, Millers Pool will provide habitat for many water bird species including ducks, cormorants, pelicans, herons, waders and terns.

Millers Pool is in close proximity to the Milyu Nature Reserve which is a Class A Nature Reserve on the western side of the Narrows Bridge, the home of many migratory waders and shorebirds. Milyu is Aboriginal for the Samphire plant.

Q. Will the change in the configuration of Millers Pool increase mosquito breeding in the area?

Millers Pool will have sloped banks that will allow enough water for the Samphire and other plants to grow, but no areas of shallow stagnant water, to prevent mosquitoes.

Q. What of the previous idea to open the pool up to the river?

The concept to amend Millers Pool so that it opened to the Swan River (in place of the existing pipe that connects them) was investigated but considered too costly at \$1.1 million for no real benefit, so the opening will not occur.

The funds will instead be spent on other more important improvements to fix existing site problems.

Q. Do the headlands at the beaches have a function?

The old beach adjacent to the Narrows Bridge has been moving eastwards for more than a decade. In recent years, sand from this beach had started to cover the pipe that connects Millers Pool to the Swan River. This pipe allows the pool to flush and helps keep the water healthy. The movement of the beach also meant that the end of the river-wall protecting the Narrows Bridge abutment had become exposed and is starting to fail.

The three new rock headlands will stabilise the beach, prevent further movement of the existing beach and create two new beaches at the site. The Millers Pool pipe has been extended through the eastern headland and the river-wall has been repaired. Other benefits include retention of existing vegetation and improved amenity through a more stable and accessible river edge.

Q. Will there be more carpark spaces? Can I still park under the Narrows Bridge?

Yes, even though the total carpark area will decrease, a more efficient layout means the total number of carpark spaces will increase when the carpark is redeveloped. You will still be able to park in the carpark underneath the Narrows Bridge. Motorbike and bicycle parking will be accommodated in the plan.

Q. Does the project consider traffic in the area?

Parking has been considered by redeveloping the existing carpark area, which is a remnant of the old road lanes of the foreshore road, into a more efficient carpark. Road modifications will include a raised plateau on Mill Point Road at the entrance of the carpark, which will help slow and modify traffic at this point, and aid in carpark entry /exit safety.

Q. What about the Aboriginal significance of this area?

This area was a camping area used by Noongar people. It was a low-lying flat area on the river's edge of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) known as Goorgygoogup and an important area with good fishing. Dolphins (Keila) liked the area. The Noongar influence, sense of place, history and stories of the natural landscape and human heritage could be incorporated into the physical and landscape design to enhance the project and the area. The Meeting Place is a picnic and seating area designed with this history in mind.

Q. What about the history of this area?

The original Millers Pool was used by the operators of the Old Mill to transport materials to and from their site. A number of landscaping elements such as the landscaped limestone 'canal' and the short jetty and poles in the Pool reflect this history.

Landscaping around the Old Mill will also echo the planted fields and crops present in the area during the operation of the Mill.

Q. Can I swim at Mill Point?

Swimming in Millers Pool is not permitted for both humans and dogs, to preserve its ecological habitat. However, the beaches between the headlands will permit access to the Swan River.

Q. Can I fish at Mill Point?

Fishing is not permitted in any lakes or pools of the South Perth foreshore, including Millers Pool, as they are all man-made water bodies that require environmental management and monitoring. Fishing is a common recreational activity in the Swan River in this area, particularly from under the Narrows Bridge.

Q. I live close to the area, will my city views be blocked with more tree planting or by the future cafe?

The vistas from the area have been closely considered in the plan's design. The proposed café is located to provide river, city and Millers Pool views from the premises. It is located to the west of the site to permit views and visual connection to the Old Mill and to the city and river from nearby residences.

Q. What type of lighting will be included?

Lighting to the carpark and roads will meet Australian Standard lighting for roads and carparks, requiring overhead lighting. The paths and picnic areas will have pole lighting along the paths and to the shelter.

Q. Will BBQs be provided?

None have been allocated due the proximity of the area to local residents. The area will be provide a range of other food services such as picnic areas to bring your own food, food vans and the possibility of a café/restaurant in the future.

Q. What about the food vans?

The food vans have been moved to the Coode Street node of the South Perth Foreshore and also in other locations around the City. The suitability of the sites and their success will continue to be monitored and assessed based on customer feedback.

Q. How is the pool edge to be regraded? Will it be safe to kids?

The existing pool will remain untouched with a gentler grade to the water than present. The concept plan shows this in red as an intertidal zone.