ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Members of the Aboriginal community have been consulted throughout the development of the project to determine if the development would affect any Aboriginal Cultural interests and record any sites within the development area.

An Aboriginal Heritage Survey of the site was undertaken in 2004 comprising archaeological surveying and ethnographic consultation and a Section 18 approval secured from the Minister. Aboriginal monitors are commissioned to oversee construction works affecting the creeklines.

OUR SPLENDID MARRI

Rapids Landing incorporates an array of large Marri, Jarrah and Peppermint trees that grew in the former paddocks.

The largest Marri is eye-catching and beautiful. Landscape Architect, Bill James, considers it one of the finest specimens in its class and as a result, a whole park and surrounding residential lots were actually designed around it.

The Marri tree is now a significant feature of the subdivision and will definitely become a local landmark.

WORKS IN BRIEF

- Weed control in preparation for planting of native riparian vegetation
- Revegetation of the creekline using local native riparian and some upland species
- Over 14,000 plants to be planted this season
- River restoration techniques - battering of eroded banks in preparation for planting, construction of rock riffles and habitat logs
- Construction of bio-retention swales, planted with local sedges for the retention of stormwater
- Public awareness on waterwise practices and minimal use of fertiliser for residents
- Signage to be installed incorporating educational information on local flora, fauna and the creekline environment
- Pedestrian access is via a footbridge over the existing seasonal creek, rather than multiple berm walls to minimise impacts on channel behaviours and streamflow. This access will encourage the appreciation of the environment with educational opportunities through interpretation signs.

For more information, contact:

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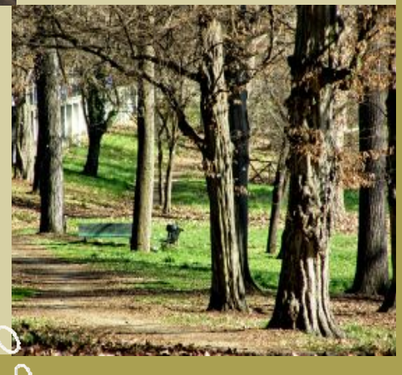
Environmental Initiative



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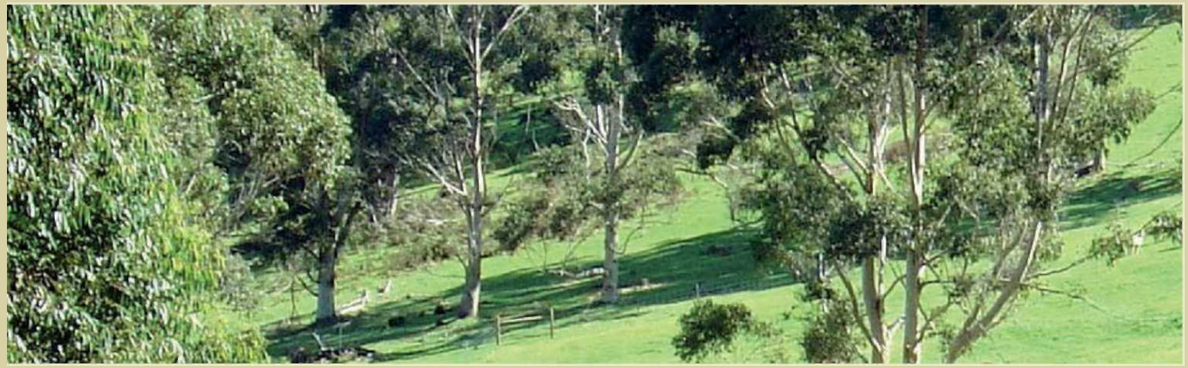

A PROJECT WITH FUTURE

It is not only responsible but also critical to consider and manage any environmental footprint through the process of accommodating a growing population.

There are benefits, however, in working to create a brand new environment that considers issues and introduces infrastructure that prevents major impact.

Extensive planning and assessment has gone into developing plans for Rapids Landing that not only adhere to environmental guidelines, but also exceed them.

Rapids Landing is amongst the most environmentally pro-active development projects in the State. Its innovative use of best practice management and sustainable design features have set new standards for residential living and provide an example to the industry.

ALL IN THE PLANNING

Prior to the subdivision approval, a range of environmental, engineering, landscape and heritage assessments were conducted. Some of these included:

- Environmental appraisal
- Flora and vegetation surveys
- Fauna survey
- Drainage management
- Landscape and rehabilitation proposals
- Aboriginal heritage survey
- Archaeological survey

Stormwater and Foreshore Management Plans have more recently been developed to protect and enhance the water quality entering the tributaries and restore the habitat values of the important Darch Brook system.

SAVING NATIVE VEGETATION

As a result of past land use, which saw both the land and creeklines cleared for pasture and uncontrolled stock access, native vegetation has degraded and the land has been subjected to loss of native understorey and weed invasion, with scattered large paddock trees.

Rapids Landing has been designed to minimise the clearing of any consolidated areas of remaining native remnant vegetation. Much of the public open space has been designed around large areas of native plant life with “buffers” (approximately 25m wide) planted along the Bussell Highway boundary to enhance the narrow strip on the existing roadside.

There **has not** been any identified species of listed significant flora on the project site.

REJUVENATING OUR CREEKLINES

Management plans are being implemented to protect and enhance native vegetation associated with the precious creeklines and the Darch Brook surrounding Rapids Landing.

The waterways through past land uses have been significantly degraded with significant loss of native fringing vegetation, erosion of banks and reduced water quality.

Thousands of local native riparian species and the construction of rock riffles will be planted to improve water quality, habitat values and restore the natural balance to the waterways.

MANAGING OUR WATERWAYS

All stormwater will be treated before it reaches any of the creeklines or Darch Brook and there will be no direct discharge to the watercourses.

Rapids Landing’s foreshore management plan both conserves and rehabilitates the environment, whilst allowing access for the community to enjoy the natural setting. The plans have been designed to:

- Protect and conserve the natural values of the foreshore including vegetation, fauna habitats and water quality
- Promote the foreshore as a conservation, recreational and educational resource for the use and enjoyment of the community
- Enhance access within the foreshore for passive recreational use
- Provide a long term strategy for the management of existing vegetation and implementation of rehabilitation plans
- Increase community awareness and understanding of the value of foreshores and the issues associated with their management

CONTROLLING STORMWATER

Environmental damage can be caused when stormwater flows are significant and not properly controlled. Design features can be implemented to ensure that pre-development stream flows will be similar to those experienced post-development. Some of these used in Rapids Landing include:

- Separating the road/verge run off peak flow from the house/lot run off peak flow
- Providing additional storage and retention on every lot via rainwater tanks
- Utilising best management practices that attenuate flow as close to its source as possible
- Maximising infiltration
- Maximising the number of discharge points in open spaces parallel to the creekline
- Not allowing direct discharge into the creekline
- Providing slow release compensation storage at every discharge point

A WATER TANK SOLUTION

In addition to features that actively redirect stormwater flows to less sensitive areas, Rapids Landing is introducing mandatory rainwater tanks to each home and encouraging people to increase the size of the tank with a significant rebate. Rapids Landing is the first to offer such an incentive.

The provision of mandatory water tanks assist in controlling the capacity of stormwater flow through the system. Therefore, each and every household is contributing to the maintenance of the environment with the opportunity to extend their own water use.

A ‘TREATMENT TRAIN’ APPROACH

A ‘treatment train’ approach has been adopted for stormwater management and nutrient removal, which will also enhance water quality. The treatment train approach assists in:

- Minimising run off and pollutants at source via infiltration, retention and re-use of roof run off and soil amendment to enhance nutrient removal
- Maximising infiltration and treatment of stormwater prior to discharge via a series of best management practices, including flush kerbing, bubbleup pits, porous paving, amended infiltration trenches and vegetated bio-retention systems, which enhance infiltration
- Maximising contact with vegetation and soils for all stormwater

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water quality testing on baseline surface and groundwater is conducted every three months.

This monitoring process began prior to the commencement of development works and will continue until its completion to ensure no impact.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Rapids Landing has been involved in extensive community consultation, working with the Augusta-Margaret River Shire, relevant government agencies and local community groups to ensure the project meets the planning criteria for the area.

Community involvement will continue with the incorporation of local artwork in the landscape and regular communications.

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