

Report: Parklands Survey

Kiewa River Access Proposals 2021



*Bush parks and trails
connecting community*

Kiewa River Access Survey 2021

Introduction

In November 2021, Parklands invited community feedback on plans for public pedestrian access to the Kiewa River in Baranduda via the Chapples Road reserve. in line with the consultation and communications plan submitted to DELWP in October 2021.

The survey

Respondents were advised that the survey related to Parklands work with the new Friends of the Kiewa River Group to plan restoration works and pedestrian access to a section of the Kiewa River in Baranduda that is accessible down the closed section of Chapples Road.

Maps of the site were provided on Parklands website.

The survey was confidential and open to all. It opened on November 16th and closed December 6th, 2021.

Promotion

The survey was publicly promoted in digital media including Parklands website and Facebook page. Flyers were dropped into mailboxes in the housing estate adjoining to Chapples Road.

Survey Participants

Respondents totaled 88 individuals. No requests for face to face consultation were received.

Survey Content

The survey set out the key elements of the proposal and invited people to use tick boxes to rank their approval for each element; 'strongly approve', 'approve', 'no opinion', 'disapprove', 'strongly disapprove'. Each element allowed one choice.

Respondents were invited to leave their details to join the Friends of the Kiewa River stewardship group.

Respondents were invited to leave further comment, and to book a time to meet with Parklands staff at the Baranduda Community Centre to discuss further.

Key Elements as set out in the survey

Pedestrian access is proposed with boardwalks across two unnamed waterways. These will involve the hand digging of ten footings.

As this area is seasonally inundated, it is proposed to only have a sprayed earthen trail, similar to the popular Kiewa River trail at Killara, which is inaccessible during floods.

Restoration works include revegetation along the river with a mix of local provenance species and these same species with provenance from hotter drier climates, as a climate adaptation measure.

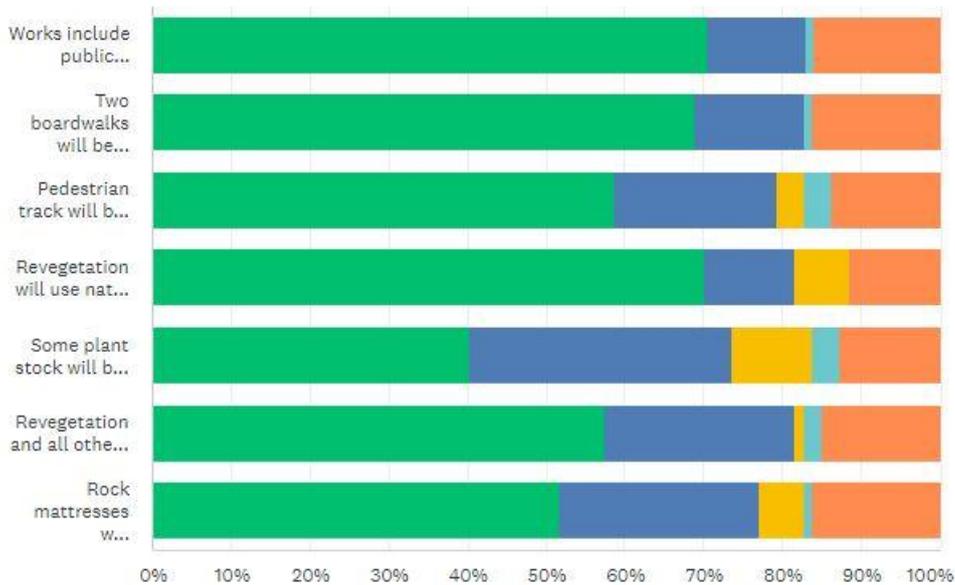
Maintenance and emergency vehicle access is proposed to be established along the closed section of Chapples Road. It is proposed to minimise impact by installing 200mm deep rock mattresses over the two unnamed waterways for this purpose. Safe access for timely spraying and slashing will save volunteer time with mowers and brushcutters, and ensure restoration efforts are maintained as blackberries are controlled efficiently.

What we heard

Key Elements

The graph below illustrates responses received.

Green = strongly approve, blue = approve, yellow = no opinion, light blue = disapprove, orange = strongly disapprove:



Summary of responses to key elements

- Works include public pedestrian access: More than 82% approval overall, with 70% strongly approving.
- Two boardwalks will be installed to allow pedestrian crossing of minor waterways: More than 82% approval overall, with 69% strongly approving.
- Pedestrian track will be a sprayed earthen track (ie unpaved): More than 79% approval overall, with 59% strongly approving.
- Revegetation will use native plants indigenous to the area: More than 81% approval overall, with 70% strongly approving.
- Some plant stock will be sourced from drier climates as a climate adaptation measure: More than 73% approval overall. This proposal had the largest 'No opinion' response at 10.34%.
- Revegetation and all other works will be sited to allow for maintenance and emergency vehicle access: More than 81% approval overall, with 57% strongly approving.
- Rock mattresses will be installed to create maintenance and emergency vehicle ford points across 2 minor waterways: More than 77% approval overall, with 52% strongly approving.

Friends of the Kiewa River

21 people expressed interest in joining the Friends of Kiewa River stewardship group.

Summary of additional feedback

27 additional written comments were received. The full transcript of comments is available as Appendix 1.

The majority of comments (18) were positive about the prospect of access to the river on Chapples Rd. Many expressed the desire for this to progress quickly, with several noting that Council approval had been granted some years ago.

Five comments expressed disapproval for public pedestrian access at the proposed site. Two of these refer to an erroneous assumption that ratepayer funds will be used to progress on this proposal. One suggests, also erroneously, that licensed public land is private property. These comments indicate the need for clarity in communications with Baranduda residents.

Suggestions were also made regarding revegetation and environmental restoration, wheelchair access and the inclusion of seating/tables, maintenance considerations including rubbish collection and other possible access points.

Next Steps

Parklands thanks the community for an enthusiastic response to this survey.

These results will be shared with the landholder (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) and Wodonga Council, and made available on Parklands website.

Modifications to the proposed plans will be confirmed and submitted for landholder approval, which is required before works can proceed. With landholder permission, Parklands will work with community, government and business partners to fund and deliver the plan.

Updates on progress will be reported regularly on the Parklands website www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au and social media.

APPENDIX 1: Comments received (sic)

1. I am really looking forward to these proposed plans as I live in the area and would use the river access regularly.
2. Hopefully they happen soon to allow us access. Will it be obvious where it is?
3. We strongly look forward to future works & access points along the Kiewa River
4. Access has been approved by Council since January 2019 this will allow the public to utilise this approval.
5. An excellent idea to allow easy public access to the river.
6. It's been a long time coming but something the community really needs.
7. I think it's important to consider environmental impacts of this work. It would be great to have a place locally where we can access the river and enjoy more nature areas, particularly with the growth of the housing estates. There is less space for getting out in bush, so this would be great
8. I think it is an excellent plan.
9. Use the access point on whytes road there is no need for another
10. Please be mindful if wheelchair access
11. The roads leading to this area a barely adequate for the current traffic load of the local residents. In particular, chapples rd from the kiewa valley highway. There is no parking at the access point. The residents of Camortom park have paid a premium to live in this quiet and secluded estate, it is not fair to increase the outside traffic. The residents, particularly those neighbouring the access will be left to deal with the rubbish left by outside users, because the members of this group will be no where to be seen.
12. There are access points away from people's houses and children. Use that. Keep our children safe not invite fire and strangers to people's backyards.
13. It would be great if works could begin ASAP to allow people to access the beautiful Kiewa River.
14. Fully supportive of the proposed changes to make river access for the general public more achievable
15. As an OAP I am unable to help physically but I will certainly pass this on to others who will be able to help.
16. Really good for the immediate and surrounding community
17. Very excited to see this proposal making progress - its been a long time in the making!
18. I fully support pedestrian access to our waterways. It's part of why our city is so wonderful. However, I would ask that all works be done in consideration with environmental/ indigenous experts to ensure damage to local flora/fauna is minimised and that appropriate native species are selected for revegetation purposes.
19. Looks well planned and great to see future consideration too. Thank you
20. I think it will be a huge benefit to our area. Bring it on!
21. This is an unnecessary use of rates for what purpose? Are people going to be able to walk up & down the riverbank? This would be an invasion if private property owners along the waterfront. There is plenty of access to the river at Killara & the rail trail.
22. As I live on Chappels Rd I do not want increased traffic or. Car park at the end of our road. I think we have enough river access at Kilara and at the dip which we use regularly and I don't think our rates need to be used for this project
23. I would like better signs, I still am unable to locate this area
24. Keen
25. Any thoughts on Increasing the number of access points (between Kiewa/Tangambalanga and the Killara bridge) and connecting them with a marked trail, formed or not. Provide access for riverine habitat improvements and an awesome walkway between Wodonga and Kiewa.
26. It's taken to long since council approval. Hopefully walking access will be provided soon for our families to enjoy the river and its wildlife
27. Table & chairs situated in shade areas will allow people to rest and enjoy the area without causing further damage. Signage regarding rubbish removal and access & private property required