

**ADMINISTRATION & CORPORATE REPORT**

6.5.1	KALBARRI FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN	2
6.5.2	RPT SERVICES – KALBARRI AIRPORT	30

**6.5.1 KALBARRI FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Kalbarri</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>10.6.7</b>
<b>CORRESPONDENT:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>6 August 2012</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>Garry Keeffe</b>
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>1. Submissions Received</b>

**SUMMARY:**

Council to consider submissions received on the proposed foreshore parkland redevelopment plan and to formally adopt the plan with any amendments that may arise.

**BACKGROUND:**

After receiving a revised draft plan, Council at the April 2012 meeting resolved to advertise the draft Kalbarri Foreshore Landscape Master Plan for a period of two months to seek public comment.

At the end of the submission period 10 submissions were received and are attached.

**COMMENT:**

The following comments/clarifications are provided on each of the submissions received.

No comment on the submissions recommendations/suggestions are being made as these should be considered in the next phases of the project that being to finalise a plan and that plan to have specific detail of design types of parkland furniture etc.

Pascale Delhaize

Makes reference to storm water issues, these have never been raised as a concern before and all future car parks will have internal storm water runoff. The only car park that has water runoff directly onto the foreshore itself is at the central boat ramp and again there have never been concerns from environmental authorities or others on this issue.

Jan Verbaant

Car Park at Grey Street/Red Bluff Road Intersection – this has not been included in the plan as has already been planned for as part of the overall Grey Street upgrade which makes provision for a safer entry into a car park and lookout with some treatments/landscaping to make the entry more aesthetic than it is.

Pontoon/River Use – this is not part of the plans charter and Council has no jurisdiction of use in the waters.

Jacqueline Willbond

Bus stop – this was the area requested by the Department of Transport at a request from their drivers and unlikely to change. A better bus stop facility would be appropriate, however as it is in front of the motel it still needs to be low key.

IGA Pedestrian Crossing – if this is referring to an actual Zebra crossing then this will not occur due to the requirements stipulated by Main Roads WA.

Allan Wood – VMR

Requesting that consideration of an area for a new facility be considered in an area near Chainman's Beach. The relocation of the VMR will need to be part of any plan to allow for a future location. What Council needs to determine is if the site requested is appropriate.

Finger Jetty

The location of the current finger jetty was at the request of the Kalbarri offshore Angling Club and it was from their request that Council was able to obtain a grant for its installation.

There is no provision to install a finger jetty at the new northern site in the current project scope and before any consideration can be given the rock density and type needs to be established to allow pile driving to hold the finger jetty in place. This is currently being investigated and the Department of Transport are currently providing such data which will be referred to an engineering firm for advice.

When such advice is received then the placement of a finger jetty can be re-considered.

Also within the northern project the Department of Transport did not support the placement of a finger jetty at the new site as it would interfere with the launching and retrieving of the dredge. However the finger jetty can be relocated further upstream from the ramp where it should not interfere with the dredge operations.

No funding has been allowed for the placement or relocation of the finger jetty and will be subject to the receipt of grant funding.

#### Community Committee

The project needs to be community driven and within a number of the submissions the recommendation for a community committee to be formed to progress the plan is supported, this gives all works community ownership.

However the committee can only progress the plan to the point it can be adopted by Council to then commence implementation.

The process to date is a very early stage. If Council supports the formation of a community committee then the process would be that all comments etc received be considered by that committee for placement into the plan, once the committee is satisfied that the plan is nearing its final stages then the plan is again released for public comment and following that comment period the plan should then be ready for final adoption and implementation.

#### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

Advertising took place in all local newspapers on the draft plan. Future consultation will need to take place once the plan has been developed to a near complete status.

#### **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION:**

Once a plan is near final adoption, consultation with all relevant government agencies should also take place. These agencies are to include the Department of Environment & Conservation, Department of Transport, Department of Waters & Rivers, and possibly others.

#### **FINANCIAL & BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

Council will incur future costs to implement the plan and grant funding for majority of the plan will need to be obtained.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

*Local: Shire of Northampton Planning for the Future 2009-2019*

Council Strategic Plan is not specific to this project.

**VOTING REQUIREMENT:**

*Simple Majority Required:*

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 6.5.1**

**That Council:**

- 1. Seek community membership for a community based committee to progress the development of a final plan for the redevelopment of the Kalbarri foreshore parkland area, with that committee to have at least two Council representatives.**
- 2. That the community committee be required consider all comments from submissions received for inclusion or non inclusion within the next draft of the plan.**
- 3. That the community committee to determine its chairperson and to provide secretarial services with Council to provide assistance with future community consultation, advertising etc.**

To: Garry Keeffe  
CEO Shire Northampton

Subject: Kalbarri Foreshore Development Plan Submission  
Date: 3 July 2012

10-6-7  
**POSTED**  
IC223186

Dear CEO and Council,

The idea of a FDP is good and I strongly support improvements made along the foreshore, but I would like to emphasise that any change should enhance and nurture this naturally beautiful and still a relatively healthy foreshore.

Natural foreshores are fast becoming unique and is a major draw card for tourists and a reason why many people love living in Kalbarri.

This view was strongly supported in the survey conducted to provide Eco Scape with some of the communities wishes.

I would like to see this wish granted before any other.

As a member of a group of people who went to all the meetings regarding this project I would like to express my disappointment in regard to the process that was undertaken to get this far, it didn't allow for a "Bottom Up" approach with a committee of community members who have knowledge, experience and a network to suit.

In my view it would have been more beneficial if there was a public consultation with a independent facilitator to work with stakeholder groups before requesting written submissions on a plan that has very little information to support the decisions made on behalf of the community.

However, I do believe that the plan is in an early phase and it still would be of benefit if there are public consultations engaging the community in the decision making as the plan progresses.

To prevent the current trend of an ad hoc approach I recommend that the plan be implemented in phases starting with focus areas first.

Below are my ideas on the proposed plan for your consideration:

The first thing that needs to be addressed to save a bad situation from getting worse is storm water drainage and the erosion along the foreshore and river banks. The river will always create unforeseeable change therefore the health of the banks and beach are paramount.

Storm water is currently running directly off car parks onto the beach at high activity areas, Chinaman's, Sally's Tree and Boat Hire.

This can be rectified by having good planning and the use of sustainable drainage systems e.g. Pervious blocks, Vegetation/Garden beds, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems etc.

Good practises should be applied when managing water run off areas which in turn will solve many erosion issues.

The plan doesn't have lighting on the path that extends along the foreshore, this is one thing that is badly needed. At night during the summer months the foreshore is a popular picnic and BBQ area, the lack of lighting is a common complaint.

The proposed plan has removed the path along the road side, this path should remain, as it is sensible to have it there, people will want to walk along there regardless as it is a more direct route. It would also work well as part of a circuit for those that indulge in outdoor exercise such as jogging, cycling, walking etc.



The inclusion of Exercise Equipment really has no place in Kalbarri (looks like something that belongs in Claremont) and I believe is on the plan for the wrong reason, that being, the availability of funding.

There doesn't appear to be much on the plan that addresses the reduction of water usage. If more native garden beds were created along the unusable sloping areas of grass flanking the road it would help create more intimate areas that aren't so exposed to passing traffic. In these garden beds I would like to see more variety of native plants than those on the proposed list I personally wouldn't recommend the Phoenix Canariensis simply because palms are very much out of place here and there is no shortage of beautiful native trees to choose from.

Shelters on the beach have always had problems associated with the varying natural conditions they need to endure, therefore I recommend that all shelters are aesthetically pleasing and on higher ground in discrete locations not detracting from the natural environment.

The plan hasn't indicated what style of shelters, seating etc it proposes, it would be nice if there was a higher quality and a better style of product used than at present. Something that adds to the natural beauty without competing is preferable.

The use of Replas products in screaming colours everywhere is revolting.

The Rotunda is in no mans land, exposed to the prevailing winds and I find it hard to see the reasoning behind the idea. I recommend that this idea is scrapped and replace it with what I propose (further below) for the Old School site.

Starting at the car park on the bend of Grey St looking over the river mouth and town:  
This is our welcome statement.

As the first point of view of town this is a well used car park to take photos etc.

This area is subject to bad drainage and erosion, it would be advantageous if it had garden beds in areas that could absorb water run off and at the same time showcase the native vegetation.

Chinamans:

The proposed pathway that runs at the base of the dune along the road to Chinaman's Point should be on the other side of the road, along the waters edge and grassed area, as this is the most preferred line of path people like to walk.

The grassed area surrounding the toilet block is underutilised and would be better with more native garden beds and more shade bordering the grass creating nice protected picnic areas and at same time reduce water usage.

The proposed car park on section A of the plan will only create problems, as does the present situation.

The lower car park should be removed and the current car park near the grass on high ground should be extended. It will help simplify drainage management and at the same time reduce water used on the grass that gets little use.

The lower car park is in a fragile dune area that is subject to erosion and tidal flooding on a regular bases, therefore not a suitable area for a car park.

It would be better and less costly if nature was allowed to reclaim this area to the most part.

This is a perfect spot out of the wind to have shade trees and/or well disguised shelters off the beach.

The gravel road leading to the car park at the other end would be better as a pathway, taking you to an area with cultural significance, the Old School site.

#### Old School Site:

This could become a focus area as it is already a popular spot because it's out of the wind, close to beach and accommodation etc.

This is where I suggest that a creative structure be built in a similar style to the shelter at the Coastal Gorges. It could be incorporated into the side of the bank out of the wind with low visual impact but high functionality. It could, if done well be an iconic location accommodating small outdoor events or celebrations such as weddings etc.

It then would make sense to have a BBQ area on the grassed area directly above (school site) with shade and gardens. The surrounding grass area if levelled is a good area to have family sporting activities. A half Basketball court for example would more appropriate in this location rather than exercise equipment.

#### VMR and Sally's Tree:

Firstly the erosion in front of the car park at Sally's Tree needs to be addressed with a long term solution.

The drainage on and from the car park needs to be rectified with best practices.

The fish cleaning facilities should be removed and restricted to areas where there is little or no human activity in the water and where it doesn't pose a health hazard.

This is an extremely popular area for families with toddlers as there is a large calm shallow area perfect for paddling and all the other facilities are nearby.

The combination of children's play ground, family picnic area, motorised vessels, swimming, canoeing and reversing vehicles with trailers etc unfortunately will eventually result in a disaster.

The decision to put the floating jetty in this location was a mistake, the effort that is required to maintain the boat ramp so it is usable is not only dangerous but futile.

To relocate it to the boat ramp near the fisherman's pens would be more logical.

The foreshore and swimming area at Sally's tree and VMR would then be a safe sheltered passive water activity/swimming area.

The relocation of VMR would also be beneficial for all. It needs to be in location where it has a view of the open ocean and river.

The roof top could easily be beautified by turning it into a roof top garden and viewing platform.

The building could be turned into something that benefits stakeholders.

#### Post Office Car Park:

This car park has gone too close to the spring.

The Gidgamarra spring is a significant sacred site and should be given a great deal more respect.

This was a birthing site for the local Nanda people, therefore making it a special place and should get special treatment.

The Nanda people would greatly appreciate it if this area was more prominent in the recognition of their cultural heritage that connects them to the river.

This would also be of great interest for the visitors, especially those from overseas, and fitting with what is already an area that is mostly frequented by mothers with young children.

#### Seating:

Rather than having benches everywhere it would be nice if natural rock or limestone rubble seating was created, it could be incorporated into banks and/or sloping ground and made to look as it is part



of and in keeping with the natural landscape.

The shelters proposed for the area in front of the truck parking bay (Ajana Rd intersection) could easily accommodate something a little more interesting and in the style mentioned above. It looks like this section was not given much consideration, the fact it is directly in front of Kalbarri's largest resort should be a good reason behind providing some facilities. BBQ facilities would be of benefit if included somewhere near the proposed shelters.

The FDP has the potential to address various issues that will in the long term be beneficial to all stakeholders.

If the end result is a plan that reflects the communities wishes, preserves and rehabilitates areas that are currently suffering and increases the functionality of the foreshore then I believe that most people will be happy to accept some change.

To finish off I would like to mention that it is difficult to get a good idea of the over all vision of the FDP as the plan didn't give much detail.

I hope that the next phase involves a more in depth public consultation to progress the project.

With kind regards,  
Pascale Delhaize  
P.O box 389  
Kalbarri 6536

POSTED  
ICR23191DGK  
10.6.7

To: Garry Keeffe  
CEO Shire of Northampton

Subject: SUBMISSION regarding KALBARRI FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT

Date: 30 June 2012

Dear CEO and Council  
My submission has 2 main areas of attention.

The first is about the process to further develop this plan, the communications and the consultation, so Kalbarri will end up with a foreshore that current and future residents, visitors and stakeholders are happy with.  
I thank the CEO for his response to my letter (5 May 2012) (requesting some clarification on the status and process) in which he explains his own thoughts on the issue.

Secondly my submission is about the actual content of the Draft (nr 2) which has been made public recently.

In regards of "the process etc."

Personally I would suggest the next step in the process to have in-depth small community and stakeholder working groups under guidance of an experienced and independent facilitator to discuss and develop a draft (nr 3) with more depth, vision and detail. before having a process of only written submissions.

Below is an outline of how I think the plan could be approached.

#### **How to approach foreshore redevelopment?**

##### **Goals:**

- ^ Reduce Water Consumption
- ^ Prevent further Erosion
- ^ Enhance Beauty
- ^ Increase or improve functionality for different User groups
- ^ maintain endemic vegetation and natural look of river foreshore
- ^ create more shaded areas

##### **Strategy:**

Use small working groups consisting of community members, stakeholders and the consultants, under guidance of an experienced and independent facilitator, to discuss and develop a draft (nr 3) with more depth, vision and detail.

- ^ Gradually decrease water consumption and prevent further erosion while enhancing the natural beauty and increasing functionality for the Users.
- ^ Work on a long term vision and phased approach.
- ^ Better slow and good than ad-hoc and poorly executed, inconsistent results.
- ^ Take into account existing plans or strategies such as Kalbarri Foreshore and Coastal Management Plan, Townsite Strategy, etc.
- ^ Implement the wishes of the community expressed in the survey.

**Execution:**

The reduction in water consumption, the storm water run off and drainage as well as the erosion of the river bank and river beaches should be an underlying principle while achieving the other goals (enhancing beauty and functionality).

The Survey results (showing the desires of the community and visitors) should guide the process towards more detailed descriptions of the different aspects of the plan.

E.g. vegetation, materials choices and design/style guidelines for pathways, playgrounds, BBQ's, lighting.

As the project covers a big area the most logical approached would be to execute step by step prioritised areas.

**User Groups & Stakeholders****Residents:**

- Youth
- Families
- Elderly & Disabled
- Business Operators
- semi permanent (holiday house owners) residents

**Visitors:**

- Regional (WA) - Family Holidays
- Rec. Fishermen
- . . . . .
- Interstate - Family Holidays
- Grey Nomads
- . . . . .
- International - Backpackers
- DINKS (Double Income No Kids)
- Families
- Longer stay Retirees
- Corporate/business

**Stakeholders:**

- Shire
- Nanda
- Residents surrounding/bordering the area
- . . . .
- DEC
- DPI

**Consultation and Communications**

The Survey results have shown the wishes of the community and visitors.

The current Draft (nr 2) has some of those wishes transposed on a map.

In my view the current proposal is more of a rough concept drawing, a visual representation of the future foreshore, almost an artists impression.

It could be used in this still early and conceptual phase in the Project timeline to get community discussion and engagement happening.

The proposal currently contains very little detail and is not backed up by any supporting info as to why certain choices were made.

It forms in my view a good enough starting point to have the original committee(s) discuss



the plan.

Stakeholders should be approached separately to provide feedback and input and their recommendations weighed appropriately considering their relationship with the area.

Through a round of working in small work groups, made up out of community members and other stakeholders, with the consultant and guided by an independent facilitator, the plan should be developed to the next level.

The outcome should include pictures, illustrations, sketches and mood boards showing styles and examples of playgrounds, shelters, retaining walls, pathways, signage, benches, street and park lighting, public amenities etc.

### **Submission regarding the currently proposed plan itself**

See Attached: *Proposed Alternative Plan*

#### **Considerations**

^ The river foreshore, beach and the recreational activities on the beach and in the water are strongly connected with each other and to a point are inseparable.

^ Even-though different Departments or authorities may have to be involved, we should look at the issue as a land-beach-water based project.

^ I believe that Chinamans point has so far been excluded from this plan which I think is a mistake as it is a landmark location with magnificent views, lookouts, photo opportunities and the first view of the river and the town one gets when arriving from the South into town.

#### ***Focus Area Chinaman's point***

The lookouts and pathways including vegetation and erosion should be incorporated in the overall plan. The top car park on the sharp bend in Grey Street overlooking the rivermouth should be made a serious good look-out & info-bay.

It's probably the spot where most people stop and photo's are taken.

The lookouts in the dunes, Zuytdorp memorial etc and the pathway connecting them should be designed and constructed so it has minimum impact on surroundings and stops people from getting off the paths creating erosion.

#### **Materials:**

Red asphalt or raised paths (no concrete), stylish interpretive signage, (re-)vegetation plan.

The 2 low lying carparks (gravel) joining Chinamans beach and the "Old School" Site are currently too low and too close to the beach and are flooded out several times per year due to tidal and storm/flood events.

For the same reason the shelters on the beach in this area are also in an unsuitable location.

Also the meandering effect of the river causes the river to constantly wanting to erode this area.

A strategy should be in place to either manage this and protect the area from further erosion or accept the ongoing erosion and remove the shelters and the carparks and return it to nature.

#### ***Focus area: Sandspit and "Old School" site:***

The *Sandspit* area has a superb river beach and often slightly protected from winds.

▲ Pathway from stairs to that area.

▲ Shelters on the beach not realistic/practical (see above).

▲ Reduce water consumption and retain river bank

The top section (see plan) on the lawn near the OSS-Plaque and bore (and power), needs retaining through native vegetation and other natural looking retaining methods.

▲ The pathway could be part of this retaining structure.

▲ The lawn area to the South and West could be levelled so it can be utilized for recreational sports such as cricket, soccer etc.

▲ The current elevation levels in the lower parts of the area are already fairly level and could therefore fairly easily be transformed to be used for rec sports purposes.

▲ Water and power availability.

▲ The sloping lawn up to higher ground and the road could have a Southern border of native coastal waterwise vegetation.

The bottom section *Old School site* (see plan)

The Old School site should in my view a cultural/historical important location and could be used to provide for beachy activities, arts and entertainment and recreational sports.

The bottom section is currently a low lying (flood prone gravel/sandy car park).

This area is fairly well protected from the prevailing winds, this area is close to the Chinaman's Point and Beach, close to the Sand Spit, close to Reef Walker-jetty, close to the sealed car park near the VMR building.

The bank to the South needs retaining and I believe this area could be turned into a focal point.

A retaining wall made from e.g. limestone blocks could be designed to form an "auditorium/amphitheatre" styled venue protected from the winds, with cultural and historic values and suitable for sports such as beach volleyball, beach cricket and for special occasions such as music performances, weddings in daytime or at night.

A new stylish BBQ/shelter(s) could be built surrounding this venue, which has a big car park nearby.

*VMR and floating jetty:*

I understand it will be hard to accept but, if we use our common sense and look at the situation, we must come to the conclusion that this boat ramp is in the wrong spot and pretty ineffective.

I would like to see as part of this plan that no motorized boating should be allowed in a approx. 50 m wide zone of the river adjoining the river beach (on the town side) starting from Chinaman's point to the boat hire. It would create a much safer and more child/family friendly beach-park environment along this section of foreshore than the current situation with boats coming and going and being launched and retrieved.

The boatramp further up river should be upgraded (including parking, cleaning tables etc.) to provide boat launching and retrieving facilities.

The VMR building is for the same reason in the wrong location and should be moved to a more suitable location with better view points of river mouth and ocean.

The current building could be converted in the "canoe/kayak shed" or the "life-savers club" or even an ice-cream/cafe venue.

*Sally Tree focus area:*

Playground, BBQ, Tables and Benches, ablution block, showers, kitchen-wash-up facility. Currently Sally's Tree area is also being used as the venue for markets and bigger events.

I believe the "Market" idea (on a regular bases, with local produce etc) should be encouraged and therefore a more suitable venue should be considered with better access



(wheelchairs, gophers etc). Possibly in the car park itself.

The limestone bank dividing beach and car park is crumbling away partly due to storm water run off directed from the sealed car park into this bank and partly through tidal movements and storm/flood events.

Retaining this bank and dealing with the changing shape and flow of the river in this area is crucial to the area lying above (car park).

With all the recreational (non-motorized) activity in this area, on the beach, in the water, on the lawn, in the playground, at the BBQ-shelter, I believe, in the long run and with vision we as a community should consider to accept the fact that this is not the preferred location for a boat ramp in our future plan.

Currently the floating finger jetty however, gets used a lot as pontoon, dive swim jump venue.

A Pontoon in the river is high on the wishlist of the community and could be installed in this area.

Sally Tree *Playgrounds*, surround or box-in sandy playgrounds with limestone blocks creating boundary and seating.

Nature based, link beach with trees, lawns, gardens and flowers etc.

#### *BBQ-shelters*

Functionality: Cook, eat, drink, clean up.

Currently the drink fountain, the showers and toilet vanities are being used daily by visitors to do their dishes, causing plumbing and hygiene issues.

Therefore a washing up facility is needed in the set-up

The survey shows that people want quality materials and appropriate designs and styles and not ad hoc cheap and nasty solutions when it comes to BBQ's, amenities, shelters and tables/seating.

Guidelines, examples etc must be developed.

#### *Better lighting along the foreshore.*

A good lighting plan could transform the river and foreshore into a beautiful picturesque environment after sunset and enable the areas to be used for longer hours and more applications and must be an integrated part of this plan

#### *Terrace with Rotunda shelter*

The *rotunda*-like set up focal point in the current draft, situated across the road from the Allen Centre seems to me a bit alien and looks to be something thrown in the proposal without much knowledge or understanding of the weather conditions or the areas where people naturally will flow to due to the natural environment.

It also was not recognized in the survey as a desire or need and should be omitted from the plan.

#### *Exercise trail*

I strongly suspect that the inclusion of an *exercise trail* in the draft is a personal wish of Cr Booth as she has brought this forward on several occasions in the past and is also not something that received great support in the survey and should therefore not be on the priority list of the plan.

Other considerations:

\*limit vehicle access to service vehicles only.

\*emphasize and utilize to an advantage historical and cultural significant areas such as:

Chinamans Point  
Old School Site  
Gidgimarra Spring  
Sally Tree

And finally to finish of my submission I would like to say that a lot more in depth work needs to be done, in small working groups with good consultation, to carry to the next level. My ideas and plan are also only a rough idea/direction in which I believe we should develop and is open for discussion.

With Kind Regards  
Jan Verbaant  
0437 80 40 10

GK  
10-6-7

3 July 2012

To: G Keeffe  
CEO Northampton ShirePOSTED  
IC23187**Response to invitation for public submission re  
Kalbarri Foreshore Landscape Master Plan 1 - B**

Dear CEO and Council,

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment, although this is a difficult task given the master plan provides minimal detail on which to base opinions about long-term planning strategies. I query the logic of this process to date, and hope that the community will be given the opportunity for discussion to take place prior to further plans being drafted, which did not occur with the first master plan draft (LMP1 - A).

My submission is split into two sections. Firstly, strategies I believe should be given attention and incorporated into future planning decisions. And secondly, my comments on the second draft master plan (LMP1 - B).

**Planning Strategies**

1. **Shade:** Given our nine month high to extreme UV readings and high to extreme temperatures, it is vital we provide shade along walkways and in carparks. LMP1 - A clearly allowed for this, and it is disappointing so many trees have been removed in the second draft.
2. **Aesthetics:** Kalbarri is inside a national park, and should at every level be sensitive to that fact, with an aim at keeping the foreshore as natural-looking as possible.  
Square-edged structures don't sit well in natural settings (eg: Zuytdorp memorial plinth), while curved edges blend much more readily (eg: Natural Bridge lookout/shelter and toilet facility). Let's try hard to think outside the box and really make Kalbarri stand out from the rest.
3. **Materials:** Hardwearing, low maintenance and long-lasting are wise choices, but while plastic ticks those first three boxes, it looks cheap. We should avoid using plastic products, particularly in garish blue colours, and aim at replacing the existing plastic in the long term. Old jetty parts, logs and rocks would blend well with the natural landscape. Concrete can be formed and coloured into natural-looking rock formations.
4. **Lighting:** There is no indication of lighting on the plan. Done well it will greatly enhance the nighttime setting and usability of the foreshore. The blinding spotlighting we currently have in the park area is nasty by night, ugly by day and should be replaced and never repeated. Specialist public lighting advisors would ensure we get it right.
5. **Plant choices:** Kalbarri should celebrate and showcase its unique status as a riverside town inside a national park. With such a vast choice of native species to choose from, it is possible to create gardens and areas that can be textural, seasonally colourful, bird-attracting, water-wise, shade-producing and attractive.



## 5. Plant choices cont...

We should replace the existing palm trees and avoid planting more on the foreshore. Almost every private and tourist accommodation garden has them to satisfy that “tropical” look, but on a river foreshore in a national park in a semi-arid area they couldn't be more out of place. They also provide very little shade and nothing for native birds.

Coastal Moorts are fast growing shady trees that are easily shaped and kept to a preferred height. They are not prone to limb drop, have attractive smooth bark and can also be trained to incorporate sturdy and shady seating on suitable branches. (Geraldton Maritime Museum has good examples of trunk/shady canopy. I have an example of shady seating.)

It should also be noted that any garden—native or otherwise—needs maintenance. We will need a dedicated gardener who understands native plants. Past public native gardens have failed in Kalbarri simply because they have been expected to look after themselves.

6. **Vehicle access:** There should be no vehicles allowed on the beach. It is dangerous, smelly, and leaves the sand with ugly deep ruts that at times makes walking difficult.
7. **VMR Corner:** This entire corner needs to be focused on and given a lot more thought and care than it has had to date. It is right in front of a predominantly family-use area, but doesn't get used a lot for swimming for reasons including the sludgy bottom due to carpark runoff, boat and vehicle traffic and a beach that looks awful with crumbling “retaining” rubble being exposed by erosion. Things that need addressing in this corner are:
  - i. **Swimming vs boating:** One of the nicest, safest and most wind-protected areas for swimming is instead a boat-ramp and floating jetty area.

The floating jetty should be relocated to the northern end of town beyond the boat pens where there are already plans to locate another boat ramp.

This would also provide an opportunity to create a no-go zone for motorised boats (approx. 50 metres distance from the tideline) from the boat hire to the rivermouth, creating a safer more usable swimming area for everyone.

It would also make the installation of a pontoon in this area feasible – something often wished for by many in the community.
  - ii. **Sand build-up:** The floating jetty boat-ramp has sand build-up problems that need regular attention with the loader. It is a dangerous practice, bad for the machinery and a potential liability issue. Lumpy, noisy and dangerous earthmoving equipment is not a good look on a beach – ever.
  - iii. **Stinky bins/fish cleaning table:** Opening a rubbish bin and being assaulted by fish guts stewing in the hot sun when all you wanted to do was put litter into it is disgusting.

The fish-cleaning table should also be moved to beyond the boat pens, where a decent cleaning table should be provided, one that provides running water and shade as well as a dedicated fish bin.
  - iv. **Erosion issue:** The proudly signposted “revegetation project” beneath the carpark is a sad joke and needs a long-term solution implemented before the whole lot washes away. Integrating some seating nooks into a smart retaining solution would be useful, particularly if planting could provide some shade for them.
  - v. **Drainage issue:** The carpark drainage is terrible, there are puddles from daily lawn reticulation, and stormwater sludge washes directly into what should be a lovely beach and swimming area. This needs to be rectified.

**Comments Re Draft Master Plan LMP1 - B**

I begin at the rivermouth on the artist's impression and work my way along the foreshore.

- a) **Footpath in dunes to lookouts:** A boardwalk such as the one at Natural Bridge in the coastal gorges would address drainage and erosion issues.  
If it must be a footpath, we should consider using the same red asphalt used at the coastal gorges - it blends in well with the colours of the local environment and would give a sense of continuity along the coast and into town.
- b) **The southern "arrival experience":** This is difficult to comment on as there is no indication of what is intended. A lot of people stop there to watch boats come through the rivermouth – it should be a dedicated well-planned lookout. This was acknowledged on LMP1 – A and should have remained on the second draft.  
  
There's a need for a footpath (to connect with other footpaths) which should be divided from the vehicle area by a low native garden.  
  
Seats would be useful under a couple of shady medium-height trees located so as to not interfere with the view.
- c) **Lower carparks at Chinaman's:** This low area is flood-prone and should not be sealed. It is an eyesore, particularly from the lookouts. The LMP1 – A acknowledged this and shows the carparks removed completely and vegetated. That was a good idea.  
  
The large new VMR / Memorial carpark is ample to service the area. Because it is so low, carefully placed medium-height shade trees would not impede the view from the houses and accommodation opposite.
- d) **Large grassed area – Chinaman's:** It is one of the least used foreshore areas, even though it is the area most protected from the predominant winds and has stunning views up the coast. It needs shade and interest to entice people into using it.  
  
A dome-shaped soundshell at the western end open to the east would provide an excellent space to hold outdoor music/culture and other events and if done considerately and with good planning it would sit well in its surroundings, its shape reflecting the line of dunes behind it (think a smaller version of the Leeuwin Estate soundshell). Perhaps an earth-covered/green-roof design would work well, essentially making it appear to be a natural vegetated mound from three sides.  
  
Removing the lower carparks would allow their access road dividing the grassed area to also be removed and the soundshell to be located near the toilet block. If the toilet block were incorporated into the rear of the shell design, it could be practically invisible from the lookouts; and also provide access to a power supply.
- e) **Old school site:** Currently a rock and plaque are all that indicate a school was ever there. This would be a good location for a shady bird-attracting garden room hiding a low-key interpretive shelter / resting area. It would be a great spot for artists to paint the rivermouth scene while sheltered from the wind.
- f) **VMR Building:** This is a perfect building on which a green roof could be established, not only improving its appearance, but also reducing the energy costs to keep it cool.



- g) **Floating jetty:** As previously mentioned, it should be moved to the northern end of town beyond the boat pens where a new boat ramp is planned.
- h) **Footpath/cycle path through playground:** The path shouldn't meander through the middle of the barbeque and kids' play area. It would be better on the town-side of it, to utilise the shady trees and to reduce the chance of cyclists running into kids racing between playground equipment.
- i) **Other footpaths:** The roadside footpath should stay, particularly for use by cyclists, who may not always want to meander through the park along with other users.  
  
The existing casurina trees all the way along the riverbank provide welcome afternoon shade for walkers, but only when you're as close to them as possible because they are not tall trees. Footpaths should be planned accordingly to utilise this shade, although extra plantings to enable a more meandering rather than direct line pathway would be more attractive.
- j) **Exercise stations:** Do we really need these and who are we catering for? One dedicated exercise station area rather than a heap of them dotted along the foreshore would be an improvement, perhaps tucked away inside a garden room.  
  
Surely if people want to stretch or do pull and push ups they can sling a leg up onto a rock or park bench and use their imaginations with the playground equipment. If it's leg pumping exercise they're after there's always walking, jogging, pedal boats and cycling. And if it's rowing-type exercise they want, we do have canoes for hire...
- k) **Rotunda opposite Vistor Centre:** I'm not sure of the logic of putting this here, unless it is intended to double as a bus stop. It would be a vast improvement on the sad, exposed seat we currently have near the hotel's outdoor smoking area.  
  
Altering the road to allow a lane wide enough for a bus to pull in and load passengers and luggage would work well, with the added benefit of convenient parking for pick-ups and drop-offs, as well as booking, information and toilet facilities directly across the road at the VC.
- l) **Boat hire carpark:** A big yes to planting extra trees in there, shady carparking in our climate is a must.
- m) **Pelican feeding area:** A big yes to the tree planting there, with a view to removing the shade-sail in the long term. That relatively new structure already looks shabby with its supporting pole extensions
- n) **Garden area near IGA carpark:** This would be a great spot to provide a flowering native garden specifically designed to attract native birds. It is possible to plant native shrubs and low to medium height trees that provide a range of flowers year round – particularly from autumn through to spring. Providing a few bird baths—easily replenished with retic—would encourage them further. Bird watchers/photographers would come to Kalbarri just to experience this if it is done well.
- o) **IGA carpark:** Needs shady planting as per LMP1 - A. Entry/exits also need redesigning – it is dangerous; apparently confusing for some; and when busy it's difficult and dangerous for pedestrians crossing the road. Location of a pedestrian crossing needs to be well thought out.
- p) **Southern "arrival experience":** Yes to the row of trees. A second row on the eastern edge would be a good idea too, to block the view of any heavy vehicles using it when looking east from the foreshore. And to provide another shady parking area and shade on the embankment below it, for sitting and watching the action on the jetty, as many people do.

- q) **Toilet block at jetty:** This is another building that could benefit from being converted to a green-roof design. It could also do with a facelift – it is dark and dingy in there, simply plastering or even painting the walls a lighter colour would be a great improvement. The stairway leading to it also needs help, I have seen elderly people struggle with the high steps.
- r) **Historical aboriginal spring:** What a sad and embarrassing monument this currently is, with its metal grate and shabby plaque. If we are serious about displaying aboriginal history in this town, we have to do a lot better than that.

I apologise that this is such a long submission, there are clearly many things I think need addressing to ensure Kalbarri's foreshore is something we can all be proud of.

I would like to see a lot more community involvement by way of meetings in which ideas can be expressed and comments put forward. Unfortunately the submission process is generally not a good way of involving the Kalbarri community, yet the high turn-out at the initial meeting shows there is much interest in planning changes to the foreshore.

I have practical experience with earth-covered building, and welcome any discussion regarding this and anything else in my submission.

Regards,

Jacqueline Willbond  
PO Box 372  
Kalbarri  
9937 2512

**POSTED**  
ICR23145

NORTHAMPTON SHIRE COUNCIL				
File: 11-1-4 / 10-6-7				
20 JUN 2012				
Admin	Eng	Hlth Bldg	Town Plan	Rang
AK	NB		HW	

TO: Garry Keefe, CEO Northampton Shire Council

FROM: Allan Wood, Commander Kalbarri VMR673

SUBJECT: Sea, Search and Rescue/VMR facilities, Kalbarri

**INTRODUCTION:** Kalbarri Sea Search and Rescue/VMR make the following application for inclusion in the Kalbarri Foreshore Development Plan for an allocation of land on the foreshore reserve, and for such allocation to be included in the Kalbarri Foreshore Development Plan, to house a new radio room, training room and storage facility for rapid response craft.

**LOCATION:** Two sites have been identified, the primary site being to the north of the existing toilet block on the foreshore at Chinaman's Beach. This site would give easy access to power and water, and a clear, uninterrupted view of the Murchison River entrance. An alternative site is to the south of the toilet block and on the south side of the service road to Chinaman's Point. This would need to be recessed into the dune, and water, power and sewerage could be more problematical at this site.

**RATIONALE:** Our current building is liable to inundation at times of flood and high tide, and over the next 20 to 25 years rising sea levels will aggravate this situation. The current building does not have toilets and it is not economically viable to install these facilities. With more female volunteers this is becoming a health and safety issue as operators have to go off-air to leave the building to access a public toilet.

In 2011 Kalbarri Sea Search and Rescue/VMR logged on 3,025 boats leaving the river mouth and so far this year we have already exceeded this figure. A clear, uninterrupted view of the river mouth enables us to monitor traffic and to advise new boaties how best to exit and enter, thus reducing the possibility of serious incidents. Most life-threatening incidents occur in the river mouth – indeed, our last loss of life occurred in this location – and 2 recent incidents may have been averted had we had a better view of the entrance.

**CONCLUSION:** A new site needs to be large enough to accommodate a building 20 metres x 10 metres as all the facilities (radio room, training room, garage, showers/toilets) need to be on one level to minimise visual impact on the reserve. Moving to the suggested location would not result in dual usage at Chinaman's Beach as we would continue to launch and retrieve our rapid response craft from the boat ramp at the floating jetty adjacent to our present building. Inclusion now in the Kalbarri Foreshore Development Plan would enhance a future application for grant funding for this project, and our ability to meet work place regulations and future demands for our services.



NORTHAMPTON SHIRE COUNCIL				
File: 10-6-7				
28 JUN 2012				
26 June 2012				
Admin	Eng	Hith Bldg	Town Plan	Ring
GK			HN	

Shire of Northampton  
PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535  
Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Kalbarri Foreshore Landscape Master Plan

I write on behalf of the Owners of Kalbarri Murchison View Apartments (KMVA) situated on Grey St, Kalbarri regarding the proposed Kalbarri Foreshore development landscape master plan.

KMVA is a group of 20 privately owned resort units used for short-term holiday accommodation and as such is very much reliant on tourists who appreciate the existing unrestricted ocean and river views from the majority of the units.

While we are not against the development of the foreshore there are in our view, significant issues emanating from the proposal before Council that need to be addressed.

Can I also state that as rate payers with a vested interest in the development of Kalbarri, we were disappointed not to receive any notification of the proposal.

The key elements of the proposal that concern us are the suggested species of large trees that are not appropriate for the areas proposed for example:

The 14 Canary Island date palms along the entrance to the War Memorial may lead to future serious problems as they reach maturity and a height of 20-40 metres. They are an invasive tree with large, sharp fronds, prone to dropping heavy seed pods with potential liability to Council from persons injured by falling branches/seeds. They will also require constant pruning of branches and date pods at considerable ongoing expense to the Shire. The seeds may potentially stain the brick-paving and invasive if carried by birds into gardens and the National Park. The palms would ultimately restrict existing views of expensive real estate which would not only be detrimental to tourism, but potentially could require compensation to residents due to obstructed views impinging on property values.

Tourists visiting the area should be able to enjoy the region's native shrubs, birds and wildflowers. The plan offers an ideal opportunity to showcase the endemic species along the river foreshore which could offer spectacular floral displays and be an impressive marketing and promotion tool for Kalbarri. The vegetation/plantings along the footpath and bank leading to Chinaman's beach could also include colourful shrubs and groundcovers.

The internet offered the following concerns in describing other trees listed in the proposal:

- Banksia menziesii a 10m tree with spread of 1-3m
- Banksia prionotes a 10m tree not suitable as is native to the South West
- Melaleuca lanceolata, Rottne Island Pine 5-10m, dense, prefers alkaline/limestone soils
- Eucalyptus loxophleba 8m, loamy soils in wheat-belt area, moderately tolerant to salinity
- Eucalyptus camaldulensis massive 45m known as "widow maker" with large branches which frequently fall in strong winds, from Murray Darling area
- Eucalyptus victrix, WA Coolibah tree, grassy woodlands/wetlands not coastal saline areas

We hope you consider our views as constructive and look forward to a foreshore development that will appeal to residents and tourists alike.

Mel Bowler  
Chairperson KMVA Owners Group  
5 Thor Court, Ocean Reef WA 6027

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012

Ms. Blythe Varney  
Administration/Library Officer  
Post Office Box 563  
Kalbarri WA 6536

POSTED  
IC23134

Unit 7  
Murchison View Apts.  
Grey St.  
Kalbarri WA 6536

NORTHAMPTON SHIRE COUNCIL				
File: 10-6-7				
- 2 JUL 2012				
Admin	Eng	Hlth Bldg	Town Plan	Rang
GK			HW	

Dear Ms Varney,

It has only just been brought to my attention, by one of my fellow owners, that you have published a further Foreshore Redevelopment Plan for Kalbarri. Before I address the issue of the proposed redevelopment I wish to express in the strongest terms my dissatisfaction that as a property owner, thus a rate payer in Kalbarri, no attempt has been made to advise me of this proposal. It is indeed anything but a professional approach to publish this proposal in the local "Town Talk Magazine" and conduct a local letter drop, thus excluding absent property owners from an opportunity to make a timely submission. It would seem to me that if you expect the cooperation of the owners of property most affected by your proposal you would have endeavoured to establish good relationships through effective and timely communication.

**Now to the matter at hand: Foreshore Redevelopment Kalbarri**

While I have no opposition to the attempt to beautify (if that is what you wish to call it) the already naturally beautiful river front and ocean vistas I am concerned as to some of the selected plantings you have in mind for the avenue to the War Memorial, particularly the use of Canary Island Palms. Are you aware that these trees have the potential to grow to 20m with a trunk circumference of 1.5m? These trees also have large thorns on their fronds, which will be extremely dangerous in their early growing phase, unless it is your intention to plant mature trees having reached a height that keeps these fronds well above the average height of people walking under or near them. To do this will greatly increase the cost of this development.

A further point with these trees is that, to my knowledge, they are not native to this part of the Western Australian Coast. If we must have an avenue of trees why can't we have something that creates a wonderful splash of colour and enhances the spring display of Australian natives? If we are to lose our river views I, as an owner, would certainly prefer to see beautiful blossoming native trees than ugly palms dropping their fronds.



One other point I would like to raise. The planting of trees relates to the issue of mosquitoes, sand flies and midgies. When selecting your plantings why not include those varieties of natural foliage that are known to have a deterrent effect on the afore mentioned insect pests? Anything that can help reduce the local population of these insects would have to be appreciated by all residents, tourists and locals alike.

In reviewing the plan of the redevelopment it would appear that in the years to come most of the magnificent views up river and out to the river mouth will be obliterated almost completely. I well know that many tourists come to Kalbarri because of the natural beauty of the river and the ocean. Once these vistas are lost there will be those who will no longer come to visit.

In summary therefore I am not in favour of the proposed Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment Plan in its current form.

Yours faithfully

-----  
Ms M.C. Lissiman

cc Shire President, Shire of Northampton

Hon. G. M. Castrilli MLA Minister for Local Government

HJ & JA HUDSON

34 Grey Street,  
PO Box 378  
KALBARRI WA 6536  
Phone (08 99372554)  
huddojj@bigpond.com

POSTED  
10.6.12

27 June 2012

Mr Garry Keeffe  
CEO  
Shire of Northampton  
PO Box 61,  
NORTHAMPTON WA 6535

NORTHAMPTON SHIRE COUNCIL				
File: 10.6.7				
-2 JUL 2012				
Admin	Eng	Hlth Bldg	Town Plan	Rang
GL		J	HW	

Dear Mr Keeffe and members of the Kalbarri Planning Committee,

**Ref: KALBARRI FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

I write to strongly object to the planting of a grove of Canary Island Palms or any trees around the area of the war memorial. My reasons are as follows:-

1. Damage To Landscape Character  
The natural charm of Kalbarri's landscape, i.e. the coastal cliffs, Murchison River and ocean views, are natural assets which attract thousands of visitors to the area and therefore must be protected. Indeed, the planting of these trees would compromise the landscape character of the adjacent area.
2. Economic Damage  
Many property holders in the adjacent area have purchased their properties on the grounds of the natural surrounds and views, paying premium prices for their investment. Screening of the natural seascape with trees would have a serious impact on the value of their investment.
3. Canary Island Palms  
Upon research and also having had a Phoenix Canariensis (Canary Island Palm) on our property - this tree is in my opinion definitely not suitable.
  - a. They are not native to Australia
  - b. They can grow to 20 metres high and have a trunk of 1.2 metres diameter.
  - c. The barbs on the leaves are extremely dangerous, and I would think not suitable for a public area.
  - d. Pink and Grey Galahs love these trees, which will only add to the noise problem we now experience with these birds.

I have added a passage I found on the internet from Global Invasive Species Database which I feel is another very good reason not to plant phoenix.

*'Phoenix canariensis is a palm tree native and endemic to the Canary Islands. It is very hardy and can establish in a variety of soil conditions. In its younger stages Phoenix canariensis fronds can be harmful to humans and animals, due to sharp barbs that can cut off and embed themselves under the skin, eventually causing infection. Some individuals are also known to be allergic to the plant. Phoenix canariensis has also been documented as displacing native species and altering habitat.'* - Global Invasive Species Database

I urge council to protect this precious local landscape and amend the plan accordingly by honouring this ratepayers request not to plant the trees.

Sincerely,



John and Judith Hudson

GK

**Garry Keeffe**

---

**From:** Simone Chalmers [chalmers2007@aapt.net.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 May 2012 7:39 AM  
**To:** Garry Keeffe  
**Subject:** KALBARRI FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT

Morning Garry,

We would like to show our support for the "Kalbarri Foreshore Development" project as shown in the plans circulated for public comment. We believe this would be a fantastic development to beautify the foreshore and promote more use of it. The group of individuals who are responsible for this project should be commended on their efforts.

Nathan & Simone Chalmers

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No virus found in this message.

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Version: 2012.0.2171 / Virus Database: 2425/4997 - Release Date: 05/13/12

**Garry Keefe**

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**From:** Sunsea Villas [sunsea@wn.com.au]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 30 June 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** Blythe Varney  
**Cc:** Sunseavillas; Garry Keefe  
**Subject:** Kalbarri Foreshore Landscape Redevelopment Plan

GK

10-6-7

Councillors  
Shire of Northampton  
PO Box 61  
Northampton WA 6535

POSTED  
ICR23192

June 30 2012

The Owners of Sunsea Villas  
Strata Plan 23181  
38 Grey Street  
Kalbarri WA 6536

Re : Kalbarri Foreshore Landscape Redevelopment Plan

Dear Councillors,

We would like to lodge an objection to the avenue of trees ( phoenix cabatiensis ) proposed for the area near the memorial. As owners, and ratepayers, who depend on the viability of a tourism business, we implore you to reconsider this avenue of trees.

The tourism dollar is fragile at best, and the one feature that we have always advertised in the promotion of Sunsea Villas is the VIEW - the view of the river, the rivermouth and the ocean. Take away our view and you effectively take away our livelihood.

Yours sincerely,

Leonie Jenks  
Body Corporate Secretary



**Garry Keefe**

---

**From:** The Jetty Seafood Shack [jettyfish@westnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 May 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** Garry Keefe  
**Cc:** Pat; Jessica Booth & Ian Bursnell; Simone Chalmers  
**Subject:** Foreshore plan

Hello Garry

We have had a look at the landscape masterplan for the Murchison River foreshore.

It looks really good, and nothing controversial springs out.

In particular the plan for planting/revegetation is a good idea, and limiting vehicle access to the beach is an excellent idea, especially as more shelters are being provided. Not sure about the exercise areas, saw a lot of those in Perth, and very few, if anyone uses them, but if they are not costly then...

Even without this work, our foreshore is considered an asset and a nice surprise for many visitors. Mainly because it is natural and does not have buildings etc on it, and we can all enjoy it. No doubt something we sometimes take for granted.

Congratulations to those involved. Hopefully funding for this week can be obtained.

Best regards

Ellen and Martin

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Version: 2012.0.2171 / Virus Database: 2425/5000 - Release Date: 05/15/12

## 6.5.2 RPT SERVICES – KALBARRI AIRPORT

<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Kalbarri</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>12.2.3</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>6 August 2012</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>Garry Keeffe</b>

### SUMMARY:

Council to determine the future of Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) services into Kalbarri Airport.

### BACKGROUND:

The Kalbarri airport since its construction in 2001 has had RPT services operating through initially Skippers Aviation then it was changed to Skywest and under the recent state government tender process the service has reverted back to Skippers.

Over the years of operation the number of passengers now using the RPT service has dropped dramatically. Many reasons can be attributed to this drop but it is certain that two main factors are the cost and the time needed to travel. For example if you wish to fly from Kalbarri to Perth you are required to fly via Carnarvon. Also for Carnarvon passengers for them to fly to Perth they are required to go via Money Mia and Kalbarri at certain times.

With the RPT numbers decreasing it is placing a large cost and staff time burden on the Council and therefore the future of continuing an RPT service needs reviewing. The financial issues relating to RPT are reported on in the financial implications section of this report.

The passenger numbers for each year are as per the following:

Year	Perth to Kalb	Kalb to Perth	Total
2011/12	203	211	414
2010/11	481	490	971
2009/10	520	575	1095
2008/09	841	781	1622
2007/08	1177	1123	2300
2006/07	1030	1073	2103
2005/06	928	428	1356
2004/05	318	224	542

The current fee is \$15 per arrival or departure.

The airport is currently a licensed airport to allow for aircraft with 30 plus seats to operate from and also for night use by aircraft allowed.

To allow 30 seat aircraft the airport requires a number of inspections on an annual and biannual basis, being Airport Technical Inspection by an independent qualified inspector, cost \$6,200, every two years a Safety Audit Inspection by a qualified officer, cost \$2,000 to \$3,000, the cost of maintaining required manuals, undertaking risk management inspections, training exercises, various meetings etc.

#### **FINANCIAL & BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The airport has never operated in a surplus since its construction. The 10 year business plan for the airport indicated that for the first ten years that an operating deficit would occur.

However in the downturn of passengers and flights, it is unlikely that an improvement in the financial burden on Council is likely. Following are the deficits incurred of each year and also the income earned from RPT services:

	Deficit	RPT Fees
2004/2005	\$16,736	\$ 5,150
2005/2006	\$31,143	\$10,553
2006/2007	\$17,315	\$21,030
2007/2008	\$14,590	\$23,390
2008/2009	\$ 9,650	\$23,685
2009/2010	\$ 4,685	\$17,730
2010/2011	\$21,871	\$14,565
2011/2012	\$31,684	\$ 5,325

For 2012/13 the estimated deficit is \$32,780 with RPT income estimated at \$5,000.

As stated earlier for the airport to operate at its licenced requirements has additional cost burdens, technical inspection \$6,300 plus and safety inspections, now around \$3,000, the RPT fees received now does not cover these costs as well as staff time to inspect aerodrome a half an hour prior to the RPT service.

With no RPT service the technical inspection cost is eliminated as the airport would become a registered airport only and restricted to aircraft with less than 30 seats.

**COMMENT:**

By changing the registration but keeping the airport to the current standard it can be changed for a licenced aerodrome to a registered aerodrome if the time came where a more viable RPT service was available.

Although the savings are relatively small, \$6,000 per annum, it does not seem feasible in the long term to keep RPT services unless the passenger numbers increase dramatically.

There are however other issues to also consider.

Skippers Aviation were contacted in March 2012 to determine what effect it would have on them if the licencing of the airport was changed. They advised that if a change occurred then they would be in breach of the state government agreement to provide 30 seat aircraft to Kalbarri, Monkey Mia and Carnarvon.

It is also advised that at present the Carnarvon Shire is seeking to have the route to Exmouth and the north by Skywest changed to incorporate Carnarvon. If this was to occur then it is unlikely that flights to Kalbarri and Monkey Mia would be viable.

An option that can be investigated is for a charter service to operate between Geraldton, Kalbarri and Monkey Mia if the Carnarvon flight was changed.

Another option is to seek a government subsidy for the Kalbarri route which would make airfares cheaper and the route more viable to an operator. Before the new airport was constructed a charter RPT service was subsidised however that ceased when the new airport was constructed and changes to RPT routes throughout WA were amended. It is unlikely that the route would be subsidised.

If Council were to progress with changing the licensing of the aerodrome and RPT services ceased then the first step would be to commence negotiations with the Department of Transport as they are the regulators of the RPT routes.

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

Consultation will need to be undertaken to advise the community of any changes that may occur.



**GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION:**

As stated in the comment section, the first step would be to meet with the Department of Transport to first discuss the implications of ceasing an RPT route to Kalbarri

**VOTING REQUIREMENT:**

*Simple Majority Required:*

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 6.5.2**

**For Council consideration.**