

From: Daniels, Chris (DEW)
Sent: Saturday, 10 October 2020 2:29 PM
To: Tony Lines
Cc: Adrian Skull
Subject: Allepo Pines at Cormorant Drive Reserve [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Dear Tony

Great to hear from you. I continue to hear wonderful things about the great natural preservation efforts by Marion Council and this seems to be one of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposal management plan and the thorough review conducted by Tim Mile and Sarah Telfer and a strong team of arborists and botanists including your own highly qualified staff. I have read the plan and feel I can make the following points:

- 1: the authors are highly experienced and well qualified to deliver these findings. The findings are based on their own deep experience and knowledge and a thorough review of both the literature and of, input from, other experienced and knowledgeable biologists. The authors of the management plan do not appear to hold strong views which might have influenced the direction of the report towards an inappropriate outcome.
- 2: The findings appear fair and reasonable. They are measured and do not appear to be driven by any particular agenda
- 3: The justification for the removal of pines appear clear on aesthetic (most are in poor health) and environmental-pollution (of the Field river) and weed-based grounds appear valid. The trees provide only a small amount of biodiversity value
- 4: The advantages to retaining the trees are discussed and include visual amenity for some residents and park walkers, and providing food for a small population of transient yellow-tailed back cockatoos and perching sites for night herons.
- 5: A notable omission is a lack of discussion on the possibility that the pines will attract sulphur crested cockatoos and /or corellas. These parrots (unlike Y-T B Cockatoos) are noisy and also have the potential to damage nearby property
- 6: The time frame, style of removal and matching plant replacement plan seem well constructed, reasonable and likely to deliver a high degree of success. The stepped plan also enables careful evaluation in response to any observed effects on the Y-T B Cockatoos and also in response to the reactions of the local residents.
- 7: Given the small number of trees, the wide range of the birds and the ready availability of other feeding sites, I am certain the removal of the trees will not affect the population of Y-T B Cockatoos across their range.
- 8: Some residents will be strongly attached to the birds and could conceivably be upset that the removal of the trees might lead to the disappearance of the birds from the area. Plans to limit if not prevent this happening need to be explained to the residents along with the information about how other birds will occupy the revegetated area once the trees are gone. Other residents might fear the process will lead to invasion by other pest animals, notably snakes, noisy miners and/or ibis.

I would suggest however that the program be preceded by a significant engagement process to inform the residents of the plan, and the reasons why. Perhaps even a guided walk by the Marion CC environmental officer would be valuable to demonstrate why the trees need to be removed and what the replacement ecosystem will look like. An explanation of the staged process would be very helpful in gaining residents' support. It might also be wise to involve the residents in the replanting if that was feasible.

Good luck
Chris