



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 13 September, 2016**

---

### **Wetland to be drained**

Oaklands wetland will be drained for three days to allow scientists from Adelaide and Sydney to study turtles while routine maintenance is undertaken.

The wetland will be drained on 28 September by returning stormwater to the Sturt River.

About 10 scientists and students from the University of South Australia and the universities of Sydney and Western Sydney will collect and study short and long neck turtles found in the wetland.

Mayor Kris Hanna said draining the wetland created a new opportunity for students.

“Combining an ecological study with maintenance work creates a unique opportunity for students,” Mr Hanna said.

“One of the roles of the wetland is to provide a facility where people can learn about the environment and wildlife, and this study adds to the many school tours and university research projects undertaken at the site.”

The wetland will be refilled with water from the Sturt River once the study and maintenance work has been completed, which is expected to be by 3 October.

Turtles collected during the study will be returned to the wetland along with any native fish that are caught. Pest fish, including carp, will be removed.

Maintenance work will include inspecting the wetland’s pumps and liner.

Man made wetlands are routinely emptied for maintenance, and this will be the first time Oaklands wetland has been drained since it opened in late 2013.

The wetland, which cost \$9 million to build and includes a walking trail, barbecue, and picnic areas, will be open as normal during the study.

Oaklands wetland is on Oaklands Road, Oaklands Park and contains about 12 megalitres of stormwater which is used to irrigate 11 Council reserves. The long-term aim is to irrigate 31 reserves.

Contact: Richard Watson, Communications Adviser, City of Marion, 0413 543 426



[facebook.com/CityofMarion](https://facebook.com/CityofMarion)



[twitter.com/CityofMarion](https://twitter.com/CityofMarion)



[youtube.com/CityofMarion](https://youtube.com/CityofMarion)