



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 10 February 2017
For immediate release

Launch of Alternative Concept Plan for Tompkins Park Site.

The superb natural values of Alfred Cove are under threat from a proposal by Wave Park Group Pty Ltd (WPG) to construct an artificial surfing facility on the Swan River foreshore at Tompkins Park.

Dismissing community submissions proposing alternative uses for the site, the Melville Council has presented Elected Representatives with a recommendation to accept a business plan that could see a massive surf sports, recreation and retail facility built for private profit on one of the most important areas of public open space remaining along the River.

The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group had recommended instead that the area be carefully landscaped to strengthen, complement and support not only the superb and internationally celebrated natural values of the Swan River at that location - including the Marine Park and A-Class Nature Reserve - but also its Aboriginal and other heritage values, the creative energies of Atwell Arts Centre and Gallery, existing sports fields and the desire of young and old alike to access beautiful and freely available places along the River for quiet reflection, relaxation and gentle exercise.

SERAG's Alternative Plan will be launched this Monday. Its main elements include:

- *For Young Families:* An engaging nature play area to facilitate the physical, cognitive and emotional benefits unstructured play delivers, and picnic facilities to address the passive recreational needs of young families within increasingly compact urban housing.
- *For Cyclists & Walkers:* Realignment of the heavily used dual-use pathway to remove a number of very dangerous bends that have contributed to serious accidents resulting in spinal injuries, and a 'pit stop' where running repairs to bicycles can be effected.
- *For Nature:* Re-vegetation of a ribbon of foreshore land as a wildlife corridor habitat, and the conversion of an existing drain into a living stream.
- *For Nature-Lovers:* Viewing platforms (with interpretive signage) overlooking the River from which local and international visitors can appreciate the unique landscape vistas and natural values of the Estuary, without compromising those values.
- *For all the Community:* Multi-use spaces and a 'retro' café restaurant in the current 1950s bowling club building. Located between Point Walter and Point Heathcote on the River's margin and adjacent to Atwell Arts Centre and Gallery and a busy retail precinct, the café should be popular with walkers, cyclists and other visitors to the area.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

If you would like an interview with a representative from SERAG, please contact:
Catherine O'Neill (Secretary) Phone: (08)93392439 Email: swanestuaryreserves@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.swanestuaryreserves.org.au>