



RAPID CREEK LANDCARE GROUP INC.

OCTOBER 2017

**SUBMISSION TO: CITY OF DARWIN
DRAFT LAKESIDE DRIVE PRECINCT MASTER PLAN**

The Rapid Creek Landcare Group commends the City of Darwin on carrying out public consultation about this important and highly valued area in the lower Rapid Creek catchment. Our current project *A Focus on the Lower Catchment* can be downloaded here. It provides reference to the importance of this area including the mangrove system. Comments specific to the Lakeside Drive area follow.

The draft plan shows two options for vehicle access to parking areas for the Lakeside Drive Community Garden. We acknowledge that a vehicle access track with a locked gate on Lakeside Drive should be continued for authorised personnel. It would seem most logical to formalise the existing locked access track (shown as the southern option). The northern option seems unnecessarily long.

For unlocked public parking the carpark should be immediately adjacent to Lakeside Drive with access straight off Lakeside Drive into the carpark (e.g. no driveway). The carpark will need to be bollarded to prevent vehicles accessing the parkland area. In recent times considerable effort has been made to restrict vehicle access into the Lakeside Drive parkland. If an unlocked driveway is installed it will make those efforts meaningless.

Experience in other areas of the catchment show that even if bollards are placed along tracks many problems emerge. Illegal dumping (including residential garden waste, appliance packaging, appliance dumping and contractor building and landscaping waste) is common along the access track off Charles Eaton Drive despite it being bollarded. Often bollards or fencing are damaged or moved allowing inappropriate vehicle access throughout the parkland and bushland leading to erosion and weed issues. Also see discussion on page 5 of *A Focus on the Lower Catchment*. If the tracks or driveways are installed without locked gates this type of activity will increase at Lakeside Drive.

Weeds are prevalent right along the mangrove edge and in the small 'islands' of native vegetation scattered throughout the parkland areas. Weed management is not mentioned in the draft master plan but there are detailed references to weed management in the current Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan. The Lakeside Drive Precinct Master Plan needs to have weed management included.

It would be good to see some covered barbecue areas similar to those at the Water Gardens installed for locals' use. It will also be useful if any shared paths link up with the Charles Darwin University network in a meaningful way (download CDU cyclists' map here).

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