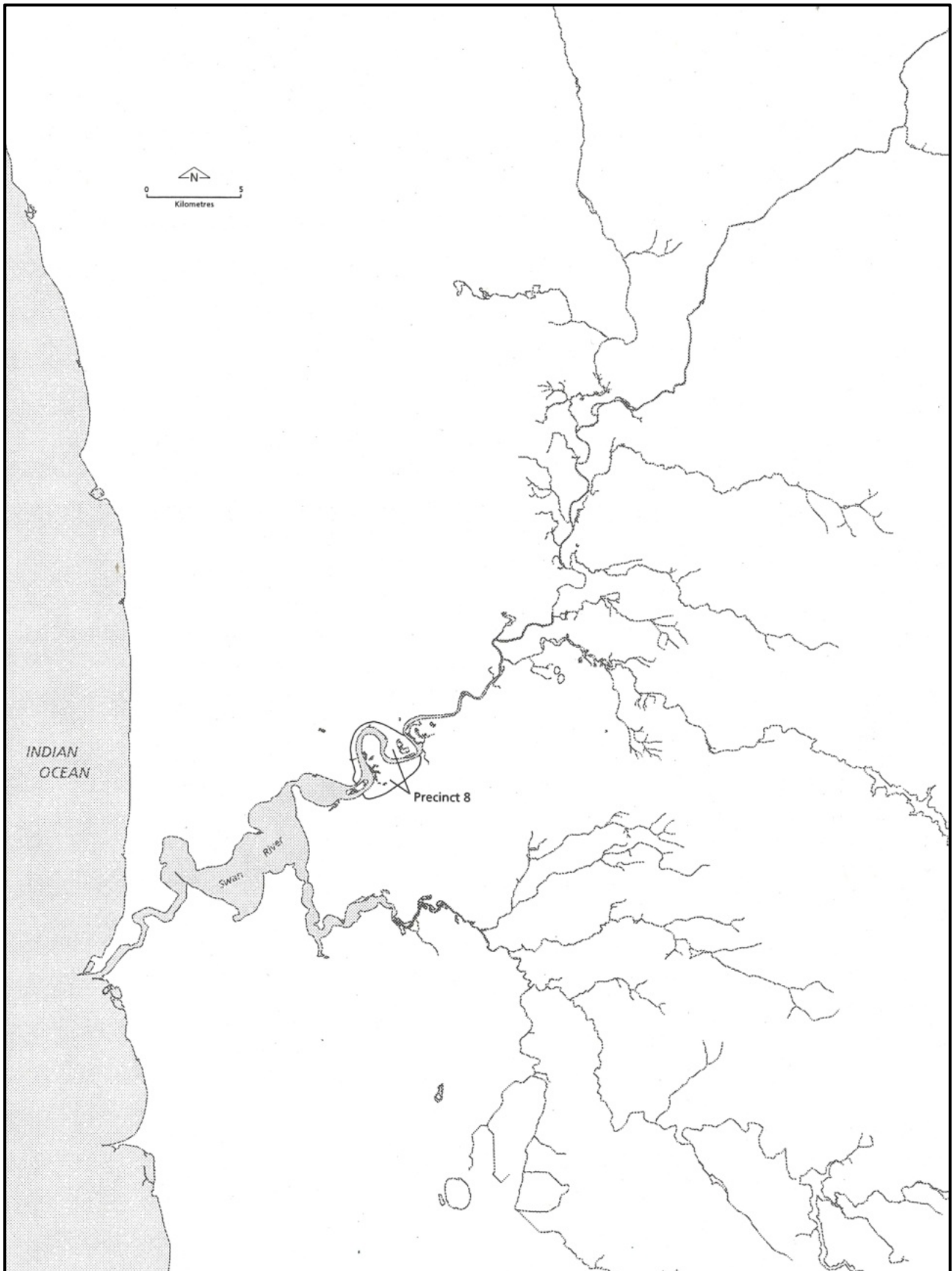


Precinct 8

Burswood Island to Maylands Peninsula
(Causeway Bridge to Bath Street Reserve)



Summary

Burswood Island to Maylands Peninsula (Causeway Bridge to Bath Street Reserve)

The Swan River takes the form of broad, graceful regular meanders upstream of Heirisson Island to Maylands Peninsula. The wide channel seasonally inundates the remaining flat alluvial sediments, such as Maylands Peninsula. The landform is particularly attractive as it highlights the river meander bends with the flat peninsulas nesting into steeply sloping escarpments of the opposite banks.

The escarpment line curves in a parabolic form with the low points being the peninsulas at either end and the central curve tapering to a uniform, higher ridge.

There is little natural riparian vegetation along the foreshore in this section due to extensive landfill and intensive land use in the area. One of the most attractive vegetation complexes is the samphire flats and fringing reed communities at the Maylands Peninsula. Remnant flooded gum and paperbark communities are present along the southern foreshore between Belmont Park Racecourse and Abernethy Road, however these complexes have been overrun by weeds. The northern section of the foreshore has little indigenous vegetation between Trinity foreshore and Maylands, rather exotic trees have been planted or weeds have invaded remaining areas of inundation.

A prominent riparian feature was the old Bunbury rail bridge which has been recently replaced with the new Goongoongup rail bridge and the high tension power lines. Several small jetties are found along the river section which add interest to the water body. In the past, this section of the river has been subject to various industrial and degrading land uses. The East Perth Redevelopment Project has recently widened the Claise Brook drain into an inlet and has landscaped the new banks attractively using a mixture of exotic and Australian flora and limestone retaining walls. The new development will be a mixture of residential and other urban land uses. North of the inlet is the derelict East Perth Power Station which is of historic significance and a prominent river feature. The Maylands Peninsula has a mixture of single and high density residential properties on the topographically higher land. Most of the peninsula used for recreation and conservation. The old Maylands Brickworks have been recently restored and along with Tranby House provide interesting landscape features as well as being of historical significance to the area.

Burswood Island Resort is a large modern development which stands out rather than complements the river environment, however the landscaped gardens and highly maintained appearance, is more attractive than the adjacent railway reserve land. At present, the northern point of the peninsula is currently being developed as a major transport node to bypass the main city area and consequently is an unattractive construction site. There is a mixture of high density flats and single residential blocks along the Rivervale foreshore and the land west of Abernethy Road is currently being redeveloped for residential land use.

Biophysical Processes

Geological Processes

East Perth's geology is characterised by leached quartz sand with over sections of Tamala Limestone (DCE, 1980). However adjacent to Heirisson Island at the floodplain meander bend the more recent clay and silt fluvial and estuarine deposits have built up on the limestone and sand. East of Bardon Park, the Tamala Limestone derived sand gives way to the Bassendean Sand which is leached dunes of white and grey quartz sand. However more recent fluvial and estuarine deposits of clay, sand and loam have formed over the extensive flood plain areas. The eastern section of the Maylands Peninsula is part of the Guildford geological formation. It is described as being sandy clays to clayey sands and as including colluvium and alluvium.

There are several soil associations within this small precinct, however much of the original associations has been extensively disturbed due to past land uses and ongoing earthworks. The East Perth area consists of the Vasse Soil deposits which are poorly drained plains with estuarine deposits. Around Burswood Island and the western part of the Maylands Peninsula, the soil is part of the Swan Association which consists of red podsolic and undifferentiated alluvial soils (McArthur & Bettenay, 1974). The eastern section of the Maylands Peninsula consists principally of alluvial clays. The soil is part of the Guildford Association and has alternative layers of sand and clay.

Topography

The area is part of the Swan Coastal Plain which is low lying and gently undulating. The western section of the precinct borders of the edge of the Spearwood Dune System while the eastern portion is part of the older Bassendean Dune System. The Spearwood Dune Systems consist of higher dunes compared to the low sandy hills and sandy swamps of the Bassendean Dune System. The alluvial deposits typify the precincts landform. Both the Maylands Peninsula and Burswood Island are flat alluvial plains while the opposite banks of these peninsulas are quite steep embankments. The East Perth landform is gently undulating, however the slope is quite steep around the East Perth Cemetery and Banks Reserve. Much of the original low lying land around Claisebrook has been infilled and reshaped for various developments.

Hydrological Processes

Water Features

The Swan River continues upstream of Heirisson Islands with a highly sinuous meandering channel. The original varying channel

width has been altered so that today the channel width is relatively even. The depth has also been increased to allow improved transport movement. Originally, the channel depth was less than a metre in places. The river sediments in the channel at East Perth vary from fine sediments to silt, sand, rubble and mussel shells (Camp Scott Furphy, 1992a).

The water is fresh for almost four months of the year in winter. In the summer months, stratification occurs with a saltwater intrusion upstream and the maximum salinity level occurs in early autumn. There is a natural spring adjacent to Goodwood Parade which creates a permanent swamp surrounded by a dense band of vegetation.

Bathymetry

The channel has been dredged in the past and the depth varies between 2-4 metres below mean water level. The river upstream is shallow and is approximately 1-2 metres below mean water level.

Erosion and accretion

Originally, the soft sediments would have been subject to the natural processes of erosion and accretion in places where there was little retaining vegetation. The use of speed boats has increased the erosion of the banks, however restriction of these vehicles to the Belmont Water Skiing Area has reduced vegetation degradation. Pine retaining walls have been placed to decrease the loss of landfill at Goodwood Road. Management plans have been implemented by the Stirling City Council which aim reduce the loss of samphire flats from the Maylands Peninsula. Reduced vehicle access to the foreshore has minimised the loss of the vegetation community and consequently the foreshore is more stabilised in this area. The landfill at Trinity College foreshore is eroding exposing the rubble and rubbish used to create the foreshore.

Flooding

There are several floodplain sites in this precinct which have been infilled. These include the Burswood Island Casino Complex and the western side of the Belmont Park Race Course. The samphire flats are subject to seasonal inundation and areas such as the land in front of Saint Anne's Hospital are also damp throughout the year.

Vegetation Communities

Native

Vasse Complex

The Vasse Complex originally occurred along the foreshore from the Causeway to Bardon Park and on Heirisson Island and a small section of the Burswood peninsula (DCE, 1980). It would have been a mixture of closed melaleuca scrub to a fringing woodland of flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) and melaleuca species. It would have also included an open forest of tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) on the higher land. At Heirisson Islands and the West Perth wetlands swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*), moonah (*Melaleuca pressiana*) and saltwater paperbark (*Melaleuca cuticularis*), swamp sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*), Christmas tree (*Nuytsia Jloribunda*), robin redbreast bush (*Melaleuca lateritia*) and coojong (*Acacia saligna*) would have occurred. Little of the complex remains, however some remnant species do occur along the foreshore and are discussed below.

Swan Complex

At the Burswood peninsula and the western half of the Maylands Peninsula, the original flora would have been identified as being the Swan Complex (City of Stirling, 1987). A remnant paperbark wetland typical of the Swan Complex occurs at Berringa Park. The vegetation ranges from fringing woodland of flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) and swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) with localised occurrence of low open forest of sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*) and saltwater paperbark (*Melaleuca cuticularis*). The understorey species include bearded twine rush (*Leptocarpus* sp), shore rush (*Juncus kraussii*) and bogrush (*Schoenus* sp).

Guildford Complex

The northern section of the Maylands Peninsula would have originally supported the flora identified as being part of the Guildford Complex. The complex ranges from a mixture of open to tall open forest of marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*). The understorey species include bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*), black gin (*Kingia australis*), blackboy (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), and buttercup (*Hibbertia* sp).

Karrakatta Complex

The Karrakatta Complex occurs at West Perth and Mount Lawley areas away from the river. The complex is predominantly tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*)

The understorey consisted of slender banksia (*Banksia attenuata*), firewood banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) and bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*). Sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) and peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) are also present. Shrubs include coastal wattle (*Acacia cyclopis*), coojong (*Acacia saligna*), dwarf sheoak (*Allocasuarina humilis*) and buttercup (*Hibbertia hypericoides*)

Bassendean Complex

The flora of the Bassendean Complex occurs on the higher areas at the northern and southern sections of the precinct. The vegetation ranges from woodland of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*), and various banksia species including firewood banksia (*Banksia menziesii*), slender banksia (*Banksia attenuata*), holly leaved banksia (*Banksia ilicifolia*) to sedge lands on the moister and lower sites.

The Swan and the Vasse Complexes which line the foreshore will have sedge and samphire communities which are briefly described below.

Juncus and Sarcocornia communities

Shorerush (*Juncus kraussii*) communities line several sections of this precinct's foreshore and characterised by its emergent form. The samphire beaded glasswort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) occurs in areas adjacent to the shorerush complex in the north-western part of the Maylands Peninsula, and is the dominant vegetation complex in the southern foreshore area. This is often associated with the other succulent samphire (*Halosarcia* sp). Knob sedge (*Carex inversa*) and marsh club rush (*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*) are also present in the lower lying drainage of the Maylands Peninsula. At Burswood Island, there are clumps of shore rush (*Juncus kraussii*) and pale rush (*Juncus pauciflorus*) and a salt pan community including seablite (*Sueda australis*) and creeping brookweed (*Samolus repens*).

Exotic

The Trinity foreshore understorey is predominantly couch grass (**Cynodon dactylon*). The landscaped gardens adjacent to the Causeway are made up of various Western Australian Melaleucas and other species which have forms and characteristics which make them suitable for landscaping.

The Claisebrook Inlet banks were until recently flourishing with weeds and exotic trees. Most of these have been removed during land excavation; however several trees which have aesthetic appeal are incorporated into landscaped gardens. The new gardens consist of non indigenous natives as well as exotic species. At present, there is no vegetation along the foreshore due to land works. Banks Reserve is a grassed open parkland with isolated mature trees, such as fig trees (**Ficus* sp), and several exotic palms. There are no understorey shrubs.

Sections of the foreshore between Saint Annes Hospital and Bath Street Reserve have many exotic species which flourish in the damp conditions. They include bulrush (**Typha orientalis*), fig (**Ficus* sp), couch grass (**Paspalum dilatatum*), pampas grass (**Cortaderia selloana*), morning glory (**Ipomoea indica*), blackberry (**Rubis fruticosa*), arum lilies (**Zantedeschia aethiopica*), elephant ear (**Philodendron hastatum*), and jacaranda (**Jacaranda minosifolia*).

Burswood Island has an abundance of weeds and exotic species. These include castor oil (**Ricinus communis*), geranium (**Pelargonium* sp), pampas grass (**Cortaderia selloana*), bulrush (**Typha orientalis*), giant reed (**Arundo donax*), pigface (**Carpobrotus* sp), fennel (**Foeniculum vulgare*), broomrape (**Orobanche minor*), lupins (**Lupinus* sp), and poplars (**Codonocarpus continifolius*). Grasses are abundant and the more prominent species are Guildford grass (**Romulea rosea*), couch (**Cynodon dactylon*), African lovegrass (**Eragrostis curvula*), one sided oats (**Avena barbata*) and veldt grass (**Ehrharta calycina*).

Historical Land use & Resulting Environmental Changes

Claise Brook was named after F. R. Clause, a surgeon of the H.M.S. Success (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1992). The name Clause Brook was eventually misinterpreted as Claise Brook. The watercourse was used to drain the lakes on the northern section of the city and became Perth's main sewer towards the end of the 1800s. A scheme in 1870s to set up a silk industry on the river banks involved planting mulberry trees which remained up to one hundred years later despite the industry never reaching fruition.

A prominent landowner was Peter Brown who owned many properties along the Swan River, including the East Perth Power House site. The East Perth Gasworks was established in 1915 to increase gas supplies to the existing facilities for Perth (Camp Scott Furphy, 1992b). Gas was produced by carbonisation of coal supplied from New South Wales in retorts. The process involved removing ammonia and hydrogen sulphide (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1993). From 1926 coal tars were separated from the aqueous coal to form light tars, creosote and pitches. Other methods of gas extraction included a water gas plant established in 1929 which produced gas from oils and a catalytic reforming plant which operated until 1971.

Wastes which were produced included tars, tar residues, complex cyanides and sulphates. Catalytic oils including heavy metals such as vanadium and nickel were also produced (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1993). The north of the site was originally very low and was infilled with rubble to reduce the risk of inundation. There was extensive land infilling during the time which the gas works were operating.

The Claise Brook drain was redirected to a more southerly entrance to the Swan River in 1915 and has been until recently a node of industrial land use. Some workshops and the East Perth Power Station still exist in the area, although many of the State run operations are being relocated.

The area known as Burswood Island was first settled in 1829 by Henry Camfield and his family and servants (Public Works Department, 1979). The 1000 acres of land took the form of a low lying peninsula leading to a ridge and steep sandy hill with scrubland (today's Burswood Island to Lathlain). He called it Burswood after his home *Burswood Estate* in Kent, England. They planted Indian corn and potatoes which all failed in the first years. Eventually, the land was leased to Solomon Cook who established a large market garden at Burswood.

Travelling upstream of the Causeway was difficult in the early years of the colony due to the shallow waters. In 1830s, a canal was constructed through the Burswood isthmus creating an island (Battye, 1912). The canal, however quickly filled in by the late 1830s and it was replaced with a new canal built through the peninsula at today's Trinity College.

Western Australia's first golf course was built on Burswood Island in 1895 (State Government of WA, 1984). The clubhouse was a mud hut. The Burswood racecourse was established in 1899 adjacent to the golf course. The racecourse was changed to Belmont Park in 1902 and a second race course Goodwood was established between the old canal and Belmont park ten years later. Both courses operated for years until Goodwood was sold in the mid 1940s.

The land was used as sewage settlement ponds between 1906 and 1934 as part of the Burswood and Claisebrook treatment works (State Government of WA, 1984). Bacterial septic tanks were located at Claisebrook and at Burswood filter beds were located and were infamous for their smell. Other light industries were established in the area and by 1919 Swan Portland Cement was operating from the peninsula. After World War II, the land became a domestic rubbish dump site until 1972. Swan Portland Cement dredged over 1.5 million cubic metres of shell upstream and downstream of the Causeway for cement between 1973 and 1976. During the same period the Blizzard Sand Company

Precinct 8 - Burswood Island to Maylands Peninsula (Causeway to Bath Street Reserve)

dredged almost 10 000 cubic metres of sediment from the same area of the river channel.

The Riversdale Estate was the first attempt at a residential development in the area and land was offered in the 1890s. This was not particularly successful; however several residents lived in the area known as Burswood. Due to the undesirable land use in the area, the name was changed to Rivervale in 1921. The Burswood Island Resort and Casino was opened in 1985. The resort and golf course is located on landfill from past river dredging.

In 1911, the Sisters of St John of God bought a large house called *Keer Weer* where they established a hospital. They later purchased more land and St John of God Belmont Hospital was established.

In early 1830, the first settlers to the Maylands area arrived on the ship *Tranby* (Carter, 1986). The Maylands peninsula was divided into eight grants (City of Stirling, 1988). One of the early settlers to the area was Joseph Hardy who settled on the eastern bank of the Maylands Peninsula. He suffered several misfortunes, his first two mud houses being washed away. However his third dwelling built in 1836 proved to be very enduring and *Tranby House* still stands today.

The opening of the Fremantle to Guildford railway line was important for the growth of the area and a station was opened at Maylands in 1900. This allowed low cost residential land to be made available to the settlers (City of Stirling, 1987). The Maylands Peninsula was cleared in the 1900s by two Chinese families for market gardens. Recent enhancement works revealed the rectangular systems of the drainage channels which have been colonised by reed communities. The market gardens tended to be on the higher land away from the salt marsh communities due to soil salinity and drainage constraints (City of Stirling, 1988). The area was locally known as 'Chinamen's Bay'. Several land uses contributed to the degradation of the vegetation communities in Maylands. From 1920s, the area became degraded as belts of weeds extended over the abandoned market gardens. It is believed that blackberries, bamboos and other weeds were well established by this time. The area has been generally poorly maintained. Several disturbances included installing the sewer line (1920s) and a natural gas pipeline (1986).

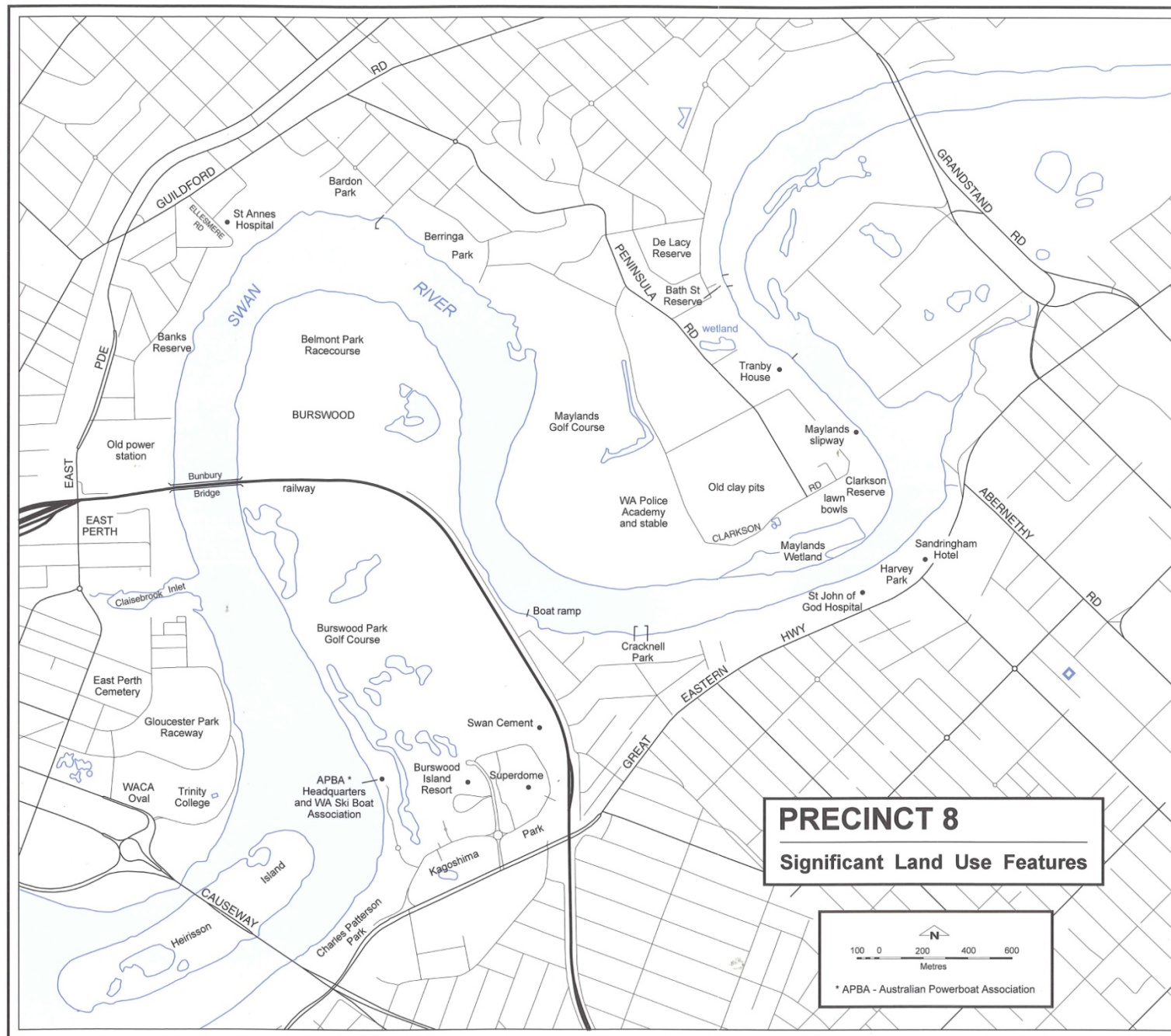
In 1923, 52 hectares (130 acres) in the Maylands Peninsula were resumed by the Commonwealth Government as the site for an aerodrome (City of Stirling, 1988). This was used until 1964 when the land was temporarily used as a recreation site.

In the early 1920s the extensive clay deposits in the Maylands Peninsula became attractive to the brick-making industry (City of Stirling, 1987). The Metropolitan Brick Company, under the direction of Mr Robert O. Law, purchased several small dairy farms and various other properties including the Mill Pottery works, which was the first pottery works in the colony. In 1927, Mr Law built a complete brickworks at Maylands which included a Hoffman kiln. A second plant came into operation in 1936.

The Meckering earthquake of 1968 seriously damaged the brickworks. The eastern Kiln and chimney stack were subsequently demolished and the rubble used to fill portion of the claypits. On 30 September 1973 H.L. Brisbane and Wunderlich made a successful bid for the Metropolitan Brick Company. After the further acquisition of Monier Limited the holding company changed its trading name to Metro Brick. In 1980 the City of Stirling purchased the brick kiln and claypits from Metro Brick (City of Stirling, 1988). In 1984 all brick making works ceased. The City of Stirling moved to protect the brickworks as a historical/tourist attraction. The National Trust included the kiln curing sheds and the extruder shed and tower on its classified list in 1985.

As early as 1955, the Stephenson/Hepburn Report suggested that the Peninsula would be an ideal location for a major arterial road crossing the Swan River. The Metropolitan Region Scheme in 1963 reserved a section of the peninsula for a highway under the Public Purpose Classification. The rest of the land was zoned urban land use. Portions of the aerodrome buildings and land were reverted and reserved for 'Police Purposes' (City of Stirling, 1987). Strong objections to use of the site as an equestrian park and Police Depot were received. By 1969 the City of Stirling had allocated a large amount of money for the development of the Swan River foreshore. A concept plan for the aerodrome site was proposed with the possible inclusion of a golf course. By 1988, the State Government had decided not to proceed with the 'Swan River Drive' crossing. As a consequence, work commenced on the redevelopment of the area including the Maylands Peninsula Golf Course.

One of the most prominent urban development projects in the area was the 1972 Bond Corporations' medium density development called *Tranby on Swan*. There have been several dredging and infilling operations in this precinct. Between 1946 and 1964 there was continual dredging between the Causeway and the Bunbury Bridge as part as the flood control program by the Public Works Department (1979). The spoil was dumped on Heirisson Island. The river foreshore and wetlands were infilled using dredge spoil by the City of Perth at Rivervale between 1950 -1972. Between 1965 to 1966 dredging continued in the area, however the spoil was placed on the Rivervale foreshore.



Precinct 8 - Burswood Island to Maylands Peninsula (Causeway to Bath Street Reserve)

Flood control continued in 1968 between the Bunbury Bridge and East Street Maylands. The spoil was placed on Burswood Island. Maylands foreshore was dredged for navigation and used to form a beach in the area in 1969. The ongoing process of dredging upstream of the Causeway continued between 1969 and 1973.

Present Land use and Social Patterns

There is a wide variety of land uses in this precinct. There are several residential areas adjacent to the river which are mainly separated from the river by the foreshore reserve. On the northern banks, a number of turn of the century homes have been renovated and many are quite prominent to the river user. Interspaced with these large blocks are high density townhouses and flats. The most prominent are the Maylands multistorey flats which are not of a high standard of architecture. The 1990s have seen a dramatic change in the residential land use in the area with subdivision of large blocks to build a large number of townhouses and units.

Trinity College is located on the north bank of the meander bend before it opens into Perth Water. The college consists of mainly modern buildings which are up to three storeys high in a simple yard with lawn and trees. The foreshore reserve around this area is public open space and adjacent to the Causeway are landscaped gardens.

The former East Perth Gasworks site has been contaminated with the by products of the manufacture of gas. The contaminants were principally coal tar and its derivatives which had spread to adjacent parts of the Swan River and Claise Brook drain. As part of the present redevelopment of the East Perth site, the soils were removed from the affected areas and the buildings demolished and removed. The site is present being developed for a mixture of residential, commercial, educational and public open space purposes by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (1993).

On the northern bank of Claise Brook the old East Perth Power Station is a prominent feature. The main building is still standing and is of historic significance and at present a working party is deciding how to best utilise the property. At present, the main building is derelict, the windows broken and the roof missing. The East Perth Power Station - Technical Services and Scientific Section is still operating from the site. These have a new building and two upgraded older buildings. There are several high tension power lines which quite prominent on the skyline and emphasise the industrial land use of the area. Other land uses include light industry, warehousing and government utilities. The new Goongoonup railway bridge has been recently opened and has replaced the old Bunbury rail bridge.

Saint Anne's Hospital is located adjacent to Ellesmere Road and overlooks the foreshore at Mount Lawley. It is made up of several functionally styled buildings and a major multistorey complex which is a prominent landscape feature. Adjacent is an old factory which is set back on the ridge of the foreshore. In front of the factory is a block which has been invaded by weeds and there is considerable soil disturbance.

Much of the Maylands Peninsula is used for recreational purposes and is discussed below. The Stirling City Council is currently designing concept plans for the old brickwork claypits which will assess the community preferred concepts for these historic and prominent landscape features. Although the privately owned land on the peninsula has been zoned for residential purposes, most residential development has occurred on the eastern banks in the form of high density townhouse. The original *Tranby on Swan* development has since been surrounded by numerous low rise units. Most overlook the river and their front gardens are not visually separated from the adjoining foreshore reserve. One of the most attractive land uses of the peninsula is the Maylands slipway where private boats are built and maintained.

Other land uses include the large area set aside for the Western Australian Police Academy and stables, the original Perth aerodrome.

Burswood Island is at present the site of the Belmont Racecourse, the Bunbury railway, the Swan Portland Cement Factory and the Burswood Island Resort. The resort has a casino, hotel, convention centre, tennis club and golf course. On the eastern bank of the railway is an area of light industry including car panel beaters and furniture workshops.

The current State Government has approved the construction of a Burswood bridge and road to improve public transport access to the city. The road will run down Orrong Road and cross the river from the Belmont Park Racecourse to East Parade and parallel to the existing Bunbury Bridge. The bridge is part of the City Northern Bypass Project. At present, the reserved land at Burswood Island is very weedy and the earthworks are currently taking place.

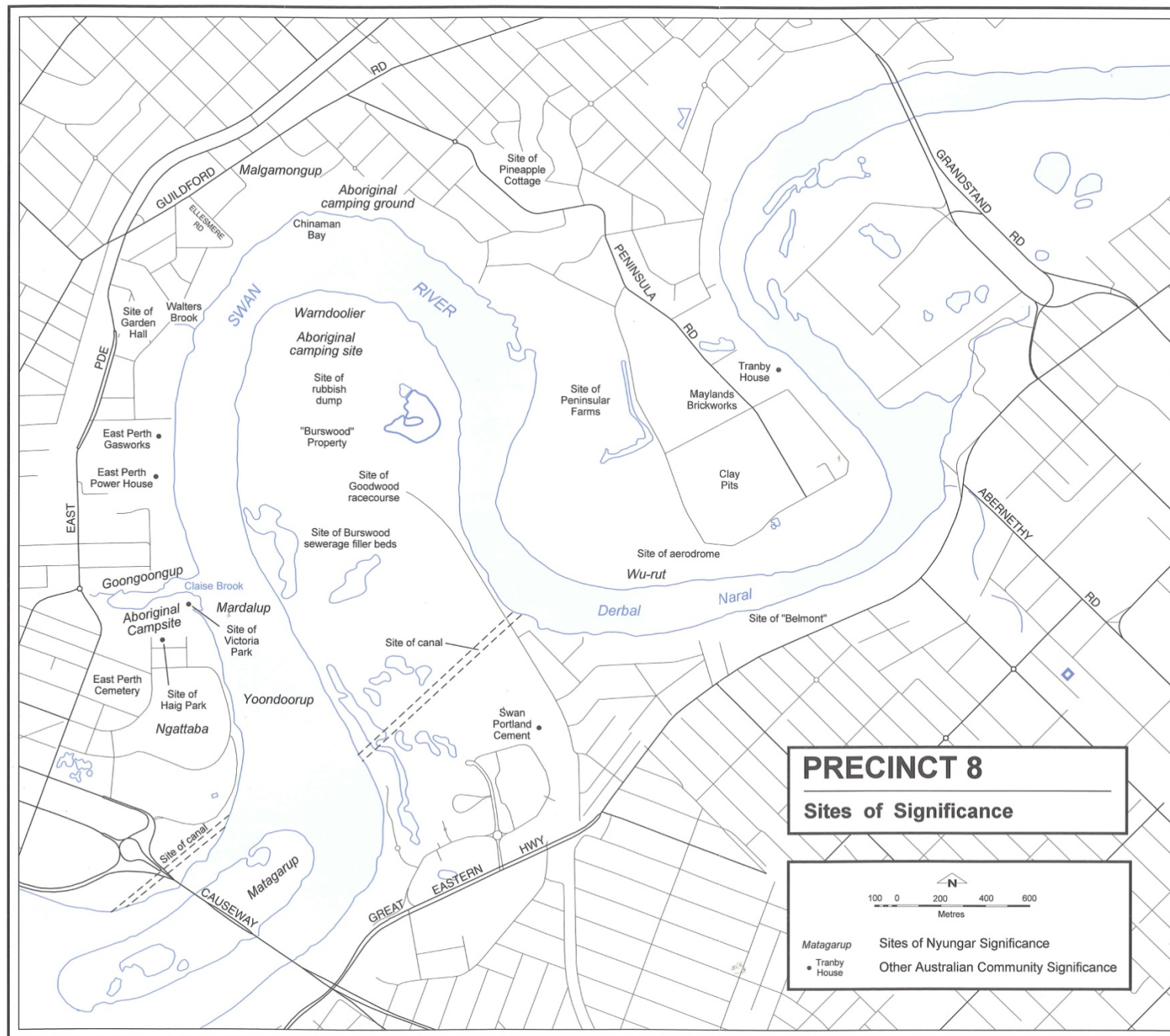
Recreation nodes

There are several parklands within this precinct including Banks Reserve, Bardon Park, Berringa Park and Hardey Park. All provide valuable areas of open space and are all well maintained with toilet blocks and picnic facilities.

Adjacent to Burswood Island the water is designated for speed boat and water ski clubs use. There are several recreational activities in the area.

Passive and active recreation includes cycling and walking, fishing, worm bait collection, golfing, bird watching, water-skiing, yachting, prawning and picnicking.

Over the years, the City of Stirling has commissioned a number of studies on the public open space along the river foreshore. It has responsibility for managing reserves and has developed recreation reserves and protected conservation areas including the tennis and bowling complexes and a boat ramp. Recently, the City of Stirling opened the Peninsula Golf Course on the land which was set aside for government use. The golf course incorporates the recently renovated Maylands Brickworks which have been retained as a feature of local significance. The Maylands rehabilitation area encompasses the samphire communities along the foreshore. The Mount Lawley Sea Scouts have their club house at Banks Reserve.



Landscape Description

Public access

Public access around the foreshore in this area is quite well catered for. There are dual use paths are present for a short distance on Burswood Island, as well as the East Perth foreshore. There is also a dual use path at Maylands rehabilitation reserve which allows pedestrians visual access to the samphire flats. The Belmont skiing area has boat ramps at Goodwood Parade and Clarkeson Road allows easy water access. The Maylands and Burswood Park Golf Courses are only accessible to patrons. Belmont Park Racecourse separates the foreshore by fencing and public access is restricted.

Sites of Nyungar & Wider Australian Community Significance

Nyungar significance

Claise Brook campsite was tucked into the recess of the Swan River and has been used by many Nyungar families since colonisation as a camping ground. The area is known as *Mardalup* or the 'place of the small marsupial' (Collard *et al*, 1996). It is near the present day Gloucester Park which is also known as *Yoondoorup* or 'place of a black stumpy tail lizard' (Collard *et al*, 1996). The brook adjacent *Yoondoorup* is known as *Goongoongup*. In the 1930s (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1992), it was believed that the freshwater spring was still flowing. As recently as 1985, two Aboriginal families visiting Perth used this site as a camping ground. O'Connor (1989) notes that the residences of Boomerang House (Aboriginal Community Centre) were maintaining contact with the site until the late 1970s. The site is currently being redeveloped by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. It is believed that Haig Park was also part of this campsite (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1992). The Swan River around Burswood Island area is known to Nyungars as *Warndoolier*.

Burswood Island has was used by Nyungars up to the 1920s and possibly later. Apparently many shacks were built all over the island, housing both local Nyungars and others from as far north as Moora who would spend some time at this site.

According to Lyon (in O'Conner *et al* (1986) Maylands Peninsula was known to Munday's people as *Wu-rut*. Two Nyungar archaeological sites have been recorded and these consists of stone artefacts on Maylands Peninsula. Bardon Park at Maylands is known to have been a Nyungar camping ground last century due to its sheltered position. Nyungars call this place *Malgamongup* which means 'on the shoulder, the place of the spearwood camp on the hill' (Collard *et al*, 1996). O'Conner *et al* (1989) record that between 1930s and 1960s up to 30 Nyungar camped here at a time.

Other significance

In 1967 Tranby House was classified by the National Trust.

The Maylands Brickworks kiln and tower have been recently restored as a local landmark and of historic significance to the local area. The adjoining claypits have become artificial wetlands and although they are full of weeds and rubbish they support numerous waterbirds as a roosting site.

In 1890s a park was established at Claise Brook and was known as 'Victoria Park'; it has a band stand, gravel paths and a caretaker's cottage. It is believed that some of the mature exotic trees planted in the park are still present and have been incorporated into the new Claisebrook Development.

Haig Park was known to local residents as the 'Bull Paddock' which was, according to local residents, an Afghan camel teamsters' resting area. It is believed that there may have been some Aboriginal camps at this site. Haig Park was established in 1936 by filling in low lying land on the southern bank of Claisebrook.

The East Perth Power Station is considered to be a site of historic significance (East Perth Redevelopment Authority, 1993).

A plaque has been erected to commemorate the Swan Portland number one dredge (built at 1834) at Goodwood Parade. Timber dredges with coal burning engines operated along this stretch between 1927 and 1956 to load barges with shell from the riverbed for making cement. Old jetty piles run along the Rivervale foreshore. It is believed that these are the remains of the jetties which were used to transport materials for pottery manufacture late last century (Vic Fitzsimmons, pers com 1995).

Apart from the dredge, two other river wrecks occur in this precinct and these include at Belmont the Daisy (built in 1910s) and at Maylands the Trixen (built 1904).

Claise Brook was referred to as the 'Swamp Drain' as it drained the whole area upon which the Perth Railway Station was built. In 1890s conditions were so bad that typhoid outbreaks were common.

Conservation areas

Wetlands

Refer to System 6.

System 6

M50 Swan River Foreshore, Maylands

Between Banks Reserve and Clarkson Reserve (Maylands) including the foreshore and Bardon Park, was recommended for environmental management due to its valuable environmental significance. There were several points of concern highlighted in the report. The Maylands Peninsula claypits were sites of infilling and rubbish dumping. The foreshores were subject to erosion and salt marshes were degraded by motor boats and vehicles. The area west of Bardon Park was highlighted as having been degraded by weed invasion.

The Maylands foreshore is significant for fauna, particularly waterbirds. The Department of Conservation and Environment report (1983) states that the reed beds in the north-west of the Peninsula are feeding grounds for many waterbirds, including such species as swan, coot and crane. The salt marshes, trees and adjoining extensive wading areas in the north-east of the Maylands foreshore area, make up one of the few undisturbed areas along the Swan River which support a wide variety of waterbirds.

The City of Stirling has a foreshore management plan for part of the area and some areas have remained in private ownership (1988).

Precinct Description

Waterform and natural riparian zone

The river takes the form of broad graceful and regular meanders upstream of Heirsson Island to the Maylands Peninsula. The wide channel often inundates the flat alluvial sediments at Maylands Peninsula. This would have been typical at Burswood and other lower lying foreshores, however successive land infilling and dredging has resulted in higher unnatural banks. The river embankment at Belmont Park Racecourse is almost vertical due to the earthworks. In places, such as Trinity foreshore the landfill is eroding and the exposed rubble and rubbish is an unattractive element. There is little unaltered foreshore in this area and most of the riparian features are the result of various land use activities. At Berringa Park, a ribbon of sedges grows in front of the paperbark wetlands.

The relatively natural foreshore continues around to the Maylands Golf Course where remnant foreshore communities are present, although some additional planting has been recently completed.

Landform

The landform around Trinity College is very flat, although in places it appears to have subsided slightly where the landfill has settled. The landform rises steeply behind the Trinity foreshore and remains topographically higher and more undulating till the Maylands Peninsula. The foreshore in this higher area is quite flat and narrow and in most places is held back by retaining walls. The peninsula decreases in slope quite rapidly to the foreshore.

From several viewing points along the northern bank of the river, the concave slope of the escarpment is quite evident and is the most influential natural landscape feature in determining how the land use appears to the viewer. The Maylands samphire flats are on flat swampy land, however most of the land behind these areas has been raised by infilling and is relatively flat, apart from the depressions made by the old claypits.

Similarly, the Burswood Peninsula is quite flat and would have originally been subject to regular inundation. The Rivervale area rapidly rises to a steep and tall embankment with very little foreshore until the Ascot Peninsula, where the slope decreases quite markedly. The landform is particularly attractive as it highlights the river meander bends with the flat peninsulas nesting into steeply sloping escarpments of the opposite banks. The escarpment line curves in a parabolic form with the low points being the peninsulas at either end or the central curve tapering to a uniform height.

Vegetation

There is little natural riparian vegetation along the foreshore in this section due to extensive landfill and intensive land use in the area. There has been some replanting of indigenous and other Australian flora adjacent to the Causeway. These are in the form of beds with lawn. In this area, the riparian vegetation consists of a few date palms which have self seeded on the river bank and planted *Juncus* reeds which occur in a few isolated nodes. Between the Trinity car park and the end of Ardent Street, there are several exotic trees such as small pines and Morton Bay figs. These have been planted with no particular pattern and rather were to simply provide shade to river users. There has been even spaced planting of exotic trees along the foreshore in front of the gasworks and private residences. Banks Reserve has a mixture of exotic and indigenous plants.

The trees tend to be isolated specimens except for more recent plantings of melaleucas close to the foreshore which act as a screen and shelter. The Saint Anne's Hospital has an exotic garden on the foreshore which has been attractively landscaped in an eclectic and formal style. Adjacent to Saint Anne's Hospital, there is an area of inundation which is abundant with weeds which grade up to low form grassy weeds in front of the old factory on the hill. The entire area is overrun and has several persistent species such as pampas grass, bulrush and morning glory.

At Berringa Park there is a small paperbark community which is being encroached on by weeds and lawns from the adjacent residential area. Adjacent to the Maylands Yacht Club is a section of overgrown exotic trees and weeds. This has been fenced off, however there are several exotic species encroaching on the already disturbed Maylands rehabilitation foreshore. The foreshore supports an attractive wide belt of reeds, paperbark and samphire flats. The *Juncus* reeds are particularly pleasing; they form a wide belt with a very soft brushy texture, while in autumn and winter months the samphire is a striking red.

Tranby House has a cottage garden and the adjacent flats have neatly maintained lawn and a mixture of exotic and native trees. Bath Street Reserve has exotic trees such as coral trees which are rather attractive in this urban environment.

The vegetation between Belmont Racecourse and the Sandringham Hotel consists of remnant reed-paperbark-flooded gum communities; however most of these communities have been seriously degraded. The effect is one of neglect and it is unattractive compared to the original soft tones of paperbark and flooded gum which would highlight the steeply sloping landform and narrow beaches. Elements of the original pleasing foreshore vegetation are the flooded gum branches which often overhang the waterform creating both a horizontal and a vertical element to the riparian vegetation.

Riparian land use

Adjacent to Trinity College there is an exposed drain pipe with an eroding metal head, as well as, several bent metal poles protruding from the river bank. The river banks were constructed with landfill material and as a result the erosive action of the water has exposed the rubbish and rock rubble. The effect is unattractive; however in places *Juncus* has been successfully replanted and may be encouraged to further establish itself along the banks.

The Goongoonup rail bridge occurs adjacent to the site of the Bunbury rail bridge. The Goongoonup bridge is a functional style with v-formed concrete piles and narrow concrete superstructure. At the site of the recently demolished Bunbury rail bridge, a new Burswood traffic bridge is planned to run parallel to the railway bridge. There is a old loading jetty adjacent to the East Perth Gasworks which is quite attractive in the industrial context, however the inconsistent retaining wall materials detract from the foreshore. A small sand bank has formed at the mouth of the Banks Reserve drain and there are retaining walls along the more steeply sloping river banks.

Bath Street Jetty is a particularly attractive feature. Until recently, the steeply sloping foreshore was retained by pine bollards, however these have been replaced by limestone walls which have given the parkland a more formal appearance. The original pine bollards were attractive and were similar in style to the fencing around Tranby House. Hardy Park Reserve has a wooden jetty which provides access to the water and a pleasant node in the area.

The riparian zone around Burswood Island has been redeveloped into a parkland type landscape. There is a mixture of trees, landscaped gardens and native riparian vegetation and the effect is well ordered. Recently a pleasant series of statues have been placed adjacent to the Burswood Casino. The Story Teller commemorates Dame Mary Durack and her story The Swan River Saga, and Hopscotch commemorates traditional games. Both statues provide for audience participation allowing children to play the game or sit on the story teller's bench. The casino gardens have an information centre and several artificial water bodies and gardens.

Belmont water-ski area has access ramps at both Maylands and Belmont. The Maylands ramp and car park is particularly large, however there has been planting of native trees to screen the area. The Belmont car park and recreation area is rather degraded with the barbecue facilities being vandalised and weeds flourishing in the riparian vegetation. The old dredge which is commemorated in a plaque is mossy and rusting in the river. In addition, weeds flourish and the foreshore is poorly maintained. It is questionable whether it adds an attractive element to the visual landscape. A few remaining piles of an old jetty which used to run along the southern foreshore, emerge from the water among the riparian vegetation.

The foreshore east of the Sandringham Hotel is currently being redeveloped. There are a few old riverside houses which have not yet been demolished but will eventually be replaced by new residential developments.

At present, several weeds flourish in this area and it is visually unattractive. There is an old drain which has formed a sand spit at its mouth. The drain is poorly maintained and for some reason an old bath tub has been wedged into the drain retaining bank. The area will clearly be improved by landscaping and revegetation.

Land use

Trinity College has been built in several styles which are typically institutional and functional rectangular shapes. The college is separated from the foreshore by a high cyclone wire fence which is noticeably bent in places. The college has several tall trees planted in the lawned grounds. This is very much the back end of the school, and surprisingly the buildings are not orientated towards the river. Adjacent to Trinity College is an informal car park which is made up of weed and loose bitumen stone. The car park needs to be improved and it would be of great benefit to extend the foreshore parkland into this area which would minimise the impact of the school buildings and adjacent Gloucester Park Raceway.

Gloucester Park Raceway has an attractive entrance which is tucked away between Trinity College and the WACA. The raceway has a car park facing the river foreshore. The raceway itself is separated from the foreshore by several metal boards and sheds. The area is fenced with cyclone wire which is partly screened by large weeds, such as bamboo and fennel. Although the WACA grounds are not directly on the foreshore, its floodlights and stands are a prominent skyline feature. The six floodlights are large concrete structures which are a dominant vertical element and rise above most of the surrounding buildings. They detract from the foreshore and in particular the adjoining Queens Park and Causeway area. There is an informal parking bay at Arden Street which overlooks the river.

The new East Perth Redevelopment is currently under construction. To date, the Claise Brook drain has been broadened into an inlet. The inlet has become an attractive water feature in the centre of landscaped gardens. Several of the mature trees have been retained and incorporated to the attractive landscaped gardens. The gardens have a visually pleasing mixture of native and exotic flower beds and several pathways which curve with the new raised landforms. The dominant feature is the attractive pedestrian bridge which spans the new inlet. The outdoor furniture is of high quality and there are several sculptures, in both the gardens and inlet. The inlet curves into the pedestrian crossing and has boat bays on northern entrance wall. The curves then become a rectangular water body which creates a formal feature.

The surrounding banks have been reshaped to quite steep slopes which will be grassed and interrupted with gardens and viewing areas. The retaining wall north of the inlet appears to give the river's edge a trained and unnatural edge. The higher land is currently being developed as a high density urban area.

The area has become a show piece for high standards of architecture and, judging on by the current buildings, will be an attractive urban area. Several elements have been retained which indicate its past industrial land use, such as the old warehouses retained for new purposes. An example is the Boans Warehouse which is currently being used for plays and other large patronage events and will be converted to units. One of the most interesting features is that the entire skyline from the river has changed dramatically since the construction of the inlet. It has allowed the city skyline to be viewed at the mouth of the inlet whereas prior to the construction the skyline was not visible because of trees screening the skyline.

East Perth Power Station - Technical Services and Scientific Section is still operating from the site. These have a new building and two upgraded older buildings. The most dominant feature is the old power station building itself. At present, Western Power and the East Perth Redevelopment Group have a Working Party which is establishing what opportunities could be taken for the site. There are several high tension power lines which are quite prominent on the skyline and emphasise the industrial land use of the area.

Banks Park is currently a steeply sloping face which is lawned and has a few scattered exotic trees. There is a drain which runs through the park which is lined with wooden retaining walls and has a small wooden crossing. There is a fenced play equipment section. The park does provide valuable open space; however there is opportunity to improve the gardens, particularly as it is named after the explorer and botanist Joseph Banks.

The Vincent and adjoining Maylands residential areas have a wide range of residential building styles. There are several attractive old houses which have been renovated, newer homes and high density housing. The Saint Anne's Hospital overlooks the foreshore and is several storeys high and consists of a number of buildings. The buildings are institutional in style and are rather unattractive. An unattractive early 1970s high-rise apartment block is a prominent feature on the skyline and together with the hospital is not complementary to the steep embankments. There are numerous townhouses and units on the Maylands escarpment. They vary in style, materials and form and consequently some buildings complement the attractive sloping landform better.

Precinct 8 - Burswood Island to Maylands Peninsula (Causeway to Bath Street Reserve)

Bardon Park is an attractive area of open space. There are several artificial water bodies and fountains, which create interesting focal points in the steeply sloping and undulating topography. The park has several amenities and barbecues. There is a large square car park on the hill which is a popular viewing point, however it could be broken up by shrubs which would reduce the impact of the bare flat surface. There are several attractive old houses adjacent to the park including Bardon Park House which was built in 1917. The newer houses have a high degree of urban pride.

At the base of the park is the Maylands Yacht Club which has a mid 1980s brutalist style. The club house has neat grounds and an associated wooden jetty is an interesting focal point. The yacht club is tucked into the curve of the slope and is not intrusive on the river landscape, however from the river the beach area appears bare compared to the adjacent fringing rush communities.

The most prominent features of the Maylands Peninsula are the old brickworks and claypits. The brickworks building and chimney stack have recently been renovated by the local council and the brick kilns are attractive structures. The area has been cut off from the public by a maroon Federation style fence while the background is the weed filled claypits. The adjacent City of Stirling Peninsula Golf Course has been recently completed and as a consequence the greens are neat and the trees planted are immature. The club house has been constructed in a Federation style to be in keeping with the opposite brickworks. The golf course parking is in front of the brickworks which is rather unfortunate. It may have been better to have the car park slightly away from the kilns and have a grassed and landscaped area linking the kiln and undulating golf course visually. At present, although neatly landscaped, the car park and maintenance sheds are the unattractive aspects of the golf course and these are adjacent to the most important historic landscape feature in the area. The golf course restricts other river users, however the nearby Bardon Park does provide other recreation facilities.

The Western Australian Police Academy and stables are located between the golf course and brickworks which isolates part of the peninsula. The buildings which can be viewed from the foreshore are irregularly placed demountables which are low formed. The area has cyclone fencing and the vegetation is generally weeds and a few scattered trees. At present, the Academy is not particularly visually intrusive, however screening of the buildings using indigenous flora would enhance the landscape.

Maylands Tennis Club, Bowling Club and pool have all been constructed in dark brick and are neatly maintained.

Native vegetation hides the cyclone wire fences and the buildings and the clubs are quite complementary to the adjoining foreshore reserve.

On the east face of the peninsula, private properties restrict access to the foreshore and the corner block zoned for regional open space is fenced off from Hardey Road. The corner reserve is at present badly neglected and weeds flourish in the low lying land. The adjoining blocks are single residential properties which front onto the foreshore and access is restricted. Adjacent is the Maylands slipways which provide an attractive slightly informal landscape feature. The sheds and boats not only provide colour and activity but have a pleasing land use link with its riparian location.

There has been recent infilling of the lands around the high density Tranby on Swan development. The original townhouses are quite attractive high density buildings which are stepped back from the foreshore and consequently are not particularly intrusive on the foreshore which has a gradually increasing slope towards the northern end of the peninsula. The newer high density townhouses are quite low formed and are similar modern designs. It is unfortunate that these townhouses have been crammed into the Tranby House viewscape and the attractive historic building is no longer a prominent feature on the landscape. There is a wetland which has been encompassed by the townhouses, which links them to the riparian nature of their location.

The Burswood Island Resort/Casino is a prominent feature on the flat peninsula. Each building has a different form and has been made to stand out rather than complement the river environment. The angular buildings are painted white and have highly reflective windows forming a gleaming structure among bright green lawns. At present, the landscaping is very neat and adjacent to the foreshore Australian flora has been planted. The effect is open parkland with wide stretches of lawn which is not unpleasant, however it could be broken up with some native flora, especially close to the foreshore, which would provide valuable wildlife habitats on the highly disturbed peninsula.

The industrial wedge on the peninsula is a relic of the past rubbish site land use. Swan Portland Cement has made an effort to reduce the visual impact of the plant buildings by painting them a soft green and planting eucalypts along the boundary, screening much of the complex at standing level. However the chimney stacks and storage tanks are behind the casino complex skyline and consequently the landscape appears industrial.

The Burswood Island Peninsula has an area of land reserved for the Burswood bridge and road which is at present very weedy and the soil is greatly disturbed due to landfill. The area is currently a worksite for the recently completed Goongoongup Railway Bridge. The site has great potential for indigenous plants and wetlands recreated in the transport reserves which would minimise the visual impact of these amenities. It should especially be considered that a wetland and area of inundation could be recreated to compensate for the loss of the original foreshore habitat.

Belmont Park Racecourse has fencing around the raceway which acts as a vertical element on the low lying peninsula and accentuates the unnatural vertical embankment. The car park and float parking area is wide and would benefit from screening from the river. At present, west of the racecourse a number of high tension powerlines, electric rail powerlines and tracks which are not particularly attractive landscape elements but are vital urban amenities. The workshops on the eastern section of the peninsula are not visible from the river due to the Belmont water ski reserve parkland and residential properties separating this area from the river.

Along the steep escarpment are a few modest single residential houses and the attractive federation St Columbine's hospital. East of Hardey Park several high density flats are located on the edge of the escarpment. Generally the styles are not of a high standard of architecture; however those units which are stepped back from the escarpment or are hidden by the tall flooded gums are more complementary than the flat faced taller styles. St John of God Hospital overlooks the river and has a mixture of building materials and styles which are partly screened by the riverside vegetation.

Sandringham Hotel has been built in a low form which overlooks the river. At present, much of the surrounding vegetation is exotic trees and weeds which detract from the riparian landscape. The adjoining car park and bottle shop are rather prominent and unattractive features when viewing the opposite Maylands Peninsula. In particular, there is a prominent advertising sign.

At present, the foreshore west of Abernethy Road is being redeveloped as a new residential area. There is the opportunity for the new development to design the landscaping according to the natural sloping gradient and for the foreshore be revegetated using indigenous species.

Landscape Interpretation

Dominant Landscape Character

The original landscape character for this precinct would have been the Natural landscape character type. This would have been flat alluvial terraces deposited in front of older dune formations, and covered in flooded gum, sheoak and paperbarks. The natural landscape character type has been dramatically altered leaving only the wide meander of the river around Burswood Peninsula. Even the alluvial islands and irregular foreshores have been dredged and smoothed out.

Today, much of the precinct is suburban in landscape character, with a range of housing styles and suburban land uses such as schools and shopping centres. The Rivervale section of the suburban land use has numbers of flats located on the high paleo dunes adjacent to the river. Similarly at Maylands there are numerous flats and units making up the suburban landscape.

The old East Perth Gasworks and various workshops are the remnants of a once larger industrial landscape. The Bunbury Railway Bridge and several high tension powerlines contribute to the industrial character. Today although many of the old industrial buildings are empty or converted, their style indicates an industrial landscape. This landscape is slowly changing to an suburban landscape with the East Perth redevelopment. At Burswood Island, the Swan Cement chimneys emphasise the light industrial land use on the eastern side of the peninsula. In addition, there are several workshops and sheds in this area.

Much of the precinct has been recently been converted to a parkland and recreational landscape character. The Burswood Island Resort has a number of parks and a golf course surrounding the main complex. It has been included in a recreational landscape, however this could be further classified as a 'resort' landscape which could be found anywhere in the world. Other large areas which are used for recreation are the Belmont Park Racecourse and the Maylands Golf Course. Smaller parklands are found dotted along the foreshore. The foreshore at Clarkson Reserve has some spectacular samphire which although of high conservation value is in an area which is dominated by parkland and sporting facilities. The Maylands slipway is a difficult land use to classify. It has been identified as a recreational landscape character type linking with a small parkland at Tranby House. Tranby House is also difficult to classify as it is so closely surrounded by suburban land use that the house from some angles just merges in with the landscape. However due to the attractive gardens and the ribbon of parkland along the foreshore it has been included in the parkland landscape character type.

Significant Viewsapes

One of the most attractive views of the river is the 180 degree view of the Burswood Peninsula from Bardon Park. The view is balanced with the curve of the Swan River around the peninsula. The land use of the peninsula is not particularly spectacular; however the broad horizon allows a large amount of land to be viewed from Bardon Park.

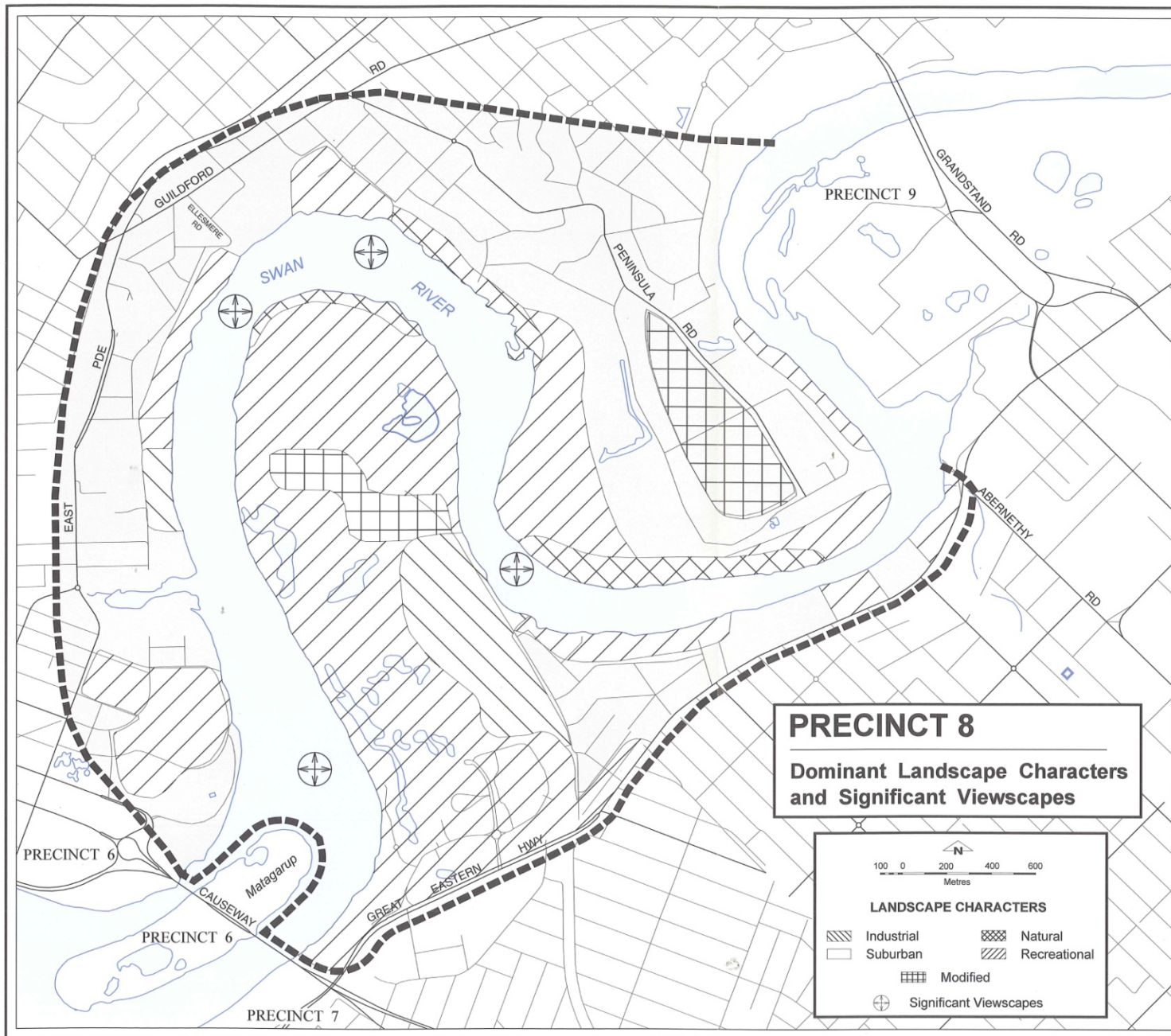
A limited but important viewscape is of Tranby House and the surrounding parkland, which from certain angles can appear much as it would have been last century. Downstream the Maylands slipway is an attractive riparian land use with informal sheds and scaffolding which fits nicely into the river landscape. There is a limited but attractive viewscape adjacent to Clarkson Reserve. This is the view of the samphires and the curve of the Rivervale foreshore. The Rivervale embankment is relatively high and steep, while the Maylands foreshore is relatively flat. At the Maylands golf course the old brickworks chimneys are important elements in the landscape. The Swan Cement chimneys are also prominent in the same viewscape.

Conforming and Non Conforming Elements in the Landscape

The Burswood Island Resort is a unique feature along the Swan River as the complex is built a resort style which does not conform to the surrounding land use or landform. The complex itself is well maintained and, given that the surrounding land use is industrial and suburban, the non conformity is not necessarily negative. The Swan Cement chimneys are prominent in the viewscape and are non conforming in the 'resort' landscape. It is interesting that the Australian Power Boat Association has built a headquarters office which attempts to have minimal impact on the surrounding riparian environment. Unfortunately, as the dominant landscape element in this area is the resort, the low height, spreading verandah and simple style of the boating association office is equally at odds with the surrounding landscape character.

Another example of a building which does not enhance the landscape is the Sandringham Hotel which has a large advertising sign and is located on an attractive ridge overlooking a graceful meander of the Swan River. The building although only one storey is prominent due to its location and style on the ridge.

Tranby House has been surrounded by recent suburban infill. Relatively high density housing and units surround the historic house and garden and it is unfortunate that these elements impose on the viewscape.



The Maylands slipway is an attractive land use in the riparian location. Trees enclose the slipway and isolate it from the surrounding suburban land use. The boats appear attractive on the water, but, it is important that they do not infringe on environmental values and are maintained in good condition, and do not use the fringing vegetation or retaining walls as moorings. The fringing vegetation is an important landscape feature in the area and it is important that it remains in good condition.

Much of the land use around West Perth has not taken advantage of the river views and the buildings tend to have the worst side orientated towards the river. This is partly due to the fact that previously the river views around this area were of industrial land use and waste dumping areas. There is now the opportunity to enhance the foreshore at this point by upgrading the least attractive features, such as the sheds, fences and car parks at Gloucester Park.

There are several small elements which detract from the amenity of the landscape. Banks Park has few trees and a prominent residential fence. The park could be improved by sensitive vegetation planting. The Bardon Park car park is a large unbroken detracting element in what is a rather attractive recreational area. Low shrubs could be planted to break the spaces into smaller less detracting elements. Several pipes and landfill material are apparent along the Trinity foreshore and these detract from the riparian landscape.

Other features which are detracting in the riparian environment are the mixture of retaining wall materials ranging from rubble to limestone walls. Similarly, the remnant vegetation in the area has been degraded by severe weed invasion, which detracts from the community. The indigenous vegetation typically has brushy, fine leaved trees and ribbons of dark green sedges, while the invasion of bright green broad leaved plants detracts from a valuable and enhancing landscape element.

Recommendations for Maintenance and Enhancement of the Present Landscape Character

- The present landscape character of the Burswood Peninsula has been degraded by dredging and weed invasion. There is the opportunity to rehabilitate the foreshore around Burswood Peninsular with endemic riparian species. Similarly, Trinity College banks could be improved by revegetation of the fringing vegetation.

- Several suburban landscape elements detract from the suburban landscape. The car park adjacent to Trinity College has been built without regard for the attractiveness of the riparian location. As a first stage to improving the landscape character the car park adjacent to Trinity College could be screened using vegetation. The Arden Street car park could be screened in same manner for continuity.
- There is an opportunity to improve the orientation of Gloucester Park and other riverside buildings towards the river by the temporary screening of fences and other unattractive features.
- The East Perth Power Station presents many exciting options for redevelopment. Currently a working party is examining options. The building has historic value, attractive brickwork and is an important element in the landscape of East Perth. Warehouses can be converted into roomy apartments, entertainment or shopping complexes while retaining the best qualities of the original building and retaining their industrial style.
- To alleviate the impact of the car park adjacent to the Maylands brickworks the claypits should be improved. By upgrading these into a wetland with indigenous species and providing viewing positions for wildlife watching and admiring the brickworks, the Maylands foreshore would become one of the best areas for wetland conservation and recreation in the region.

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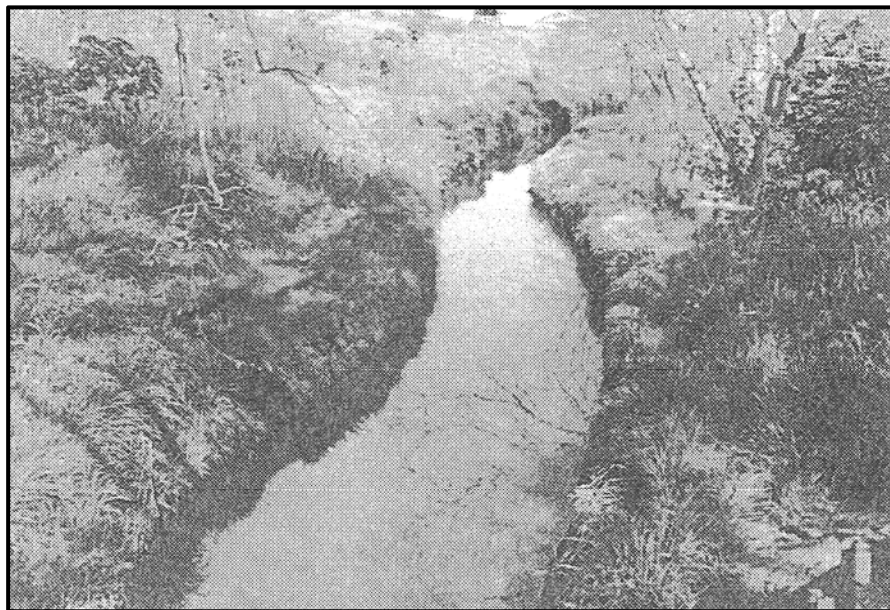
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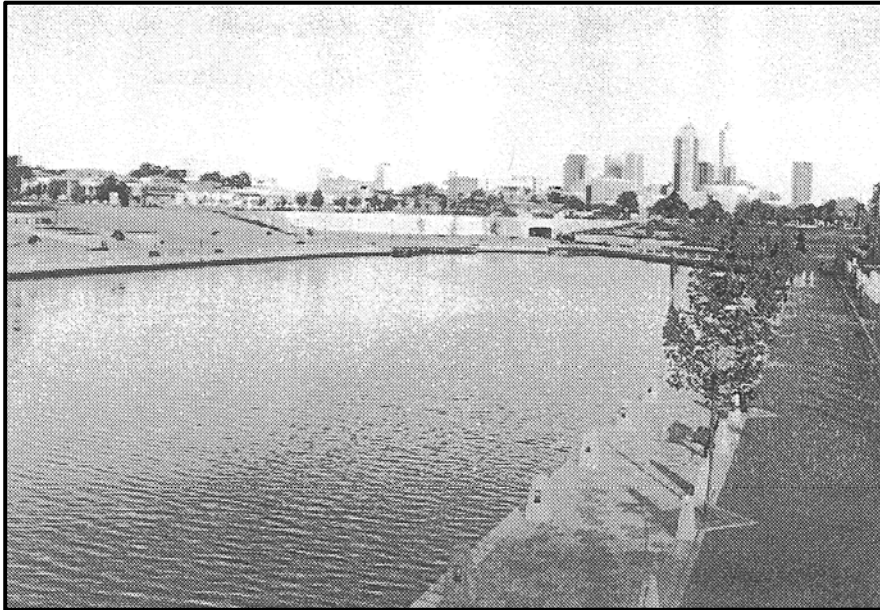
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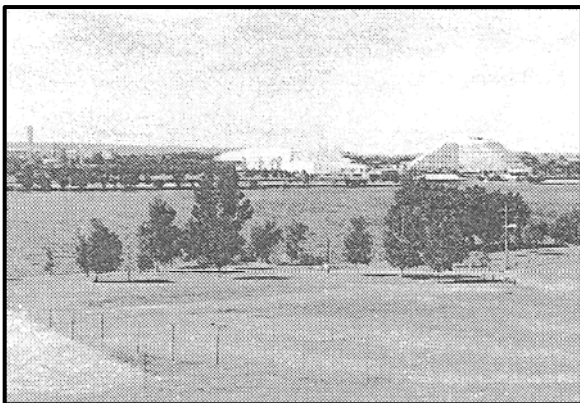
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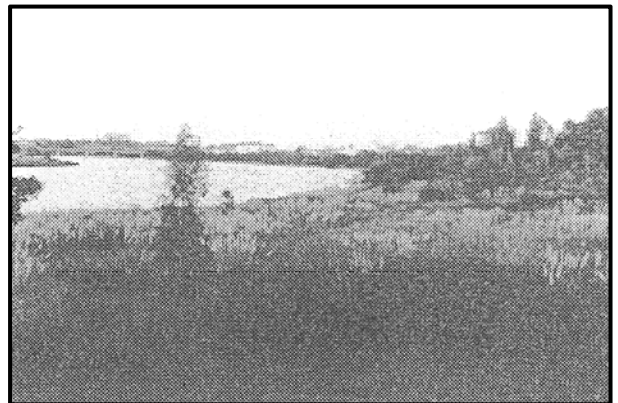
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Claisebrook Inlet, East Perth, 1992.
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Burswood Island from East Perth, 1997.
Swan River Trust.



View from Bardon Park, Maylands, 1997.
Swan River Trust.