



13 February 2023

Media Statement

Management of Laratinga Wetland

Please see statement below attributed to Council's General Manager Infrastructure, Phil Burton.

"Laratinga Wetland and the surrounding environment is approximately 60 hectares and boasts a biodiverse ecosystem which has become a refuge for wildlife and a recreational space for the community. It is a popular destination for tourists and locals and has become an ecological, recreation and social success story. The once weedy cow paddock is now thriving with diversity.

"Council is responsible for managing the Laratinga Wetland so that it can perform a function of effectively polishing treated water from the adjacent Mount Barker Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as supporting the recreational pursuits of our community.

"Trained maintenance staff and specialist local contractors are engaged to maintain the wetland and adjacent areas incorporating paths, boardwalks, shelters, signage and landscapes.

"In addition, the Mount Barker district has dedicated and skilled volunteers who work in our natural areas on a regular basis and are supported by staff to undertake a variety of really important tasks. The efforts of the volunteers are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

"Council does not rely on volunteers alone to remove weeds. Integrated control measures are employed within the wetland which includes bio-friendly chemical control (spraying) applied in accordance with the registered chemical label, brush cutting, mulching and hand weeding. For larger woody weeds, cut and swab techniques are used to avoid off-target damages.

"Weed control is highly dependent on seasonal and daily weather conditions including rainfall, wind, temperature, storm events, fire days as well as the needs of fauna that use the wetland.

"Council balances its resources across all its open space, recreation and natural areas to deliver an appropriate level of service and each year reviews this allocation to ensure it is effective and sustainable."

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