

# Sustainable Fawkner

Encouraging sustainability, environmental conservation and  
community cooperation in Fawkner



Sustainable Fawkner  
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## Submission on public access to Glenroy Retarding Basins

We welcome Melbourne Water engagement on opening up for public access and use of the three retarding basins in Glenroy. This is important public space to be appreciated and nurtured with additional vegetation management and landscaping.

### Jack Roper Reserve retarding basin.

- Creating the concrete path to under the M80 bridge and the reserve in Hume municipality formalises an existing cycling/walking desire line.
- Inset more seating into the forest next to this path would be welcome.
- The outside gym equipment near Morley Street should use tan bark at its base, not the compacted rubber which produces microplastics as it wears adding pollution to the creek system.
- Water fountain near Morley Street a welcome addition.

### Campbellfield Creek Retarding Basin

- The wetlands area provides a refuge for wetlands birds and the kangaroos in Northern Memorial Park. There are about 3 dozen eastern grey kangaroos in the Northern Memorial Kangaroo mob. Provision of a bird hide is welcome.
- The perimeter access road around the site should be designated a shared use walking/cycling path.
- The area should be designated as strictly on-lead for all dogs.
- Melbourne Water should also investigate turning the Campbellfield Creek easement from the retarding basin to Box Forest Road as a shared use path, as a safe alternative to using Sages Road.

### Box Forest Road retarding basin

- Turning the concrete channel of Merlynston Creek into a series of wetland pools is welcome.

- The paths around the basin should be designated shared use for walking/cycling.
- The area should be designated as on-lead for dogs.
- Fence extensions should be provided for residents on the east side where the people on the embankment can view into backyards.
- A fence should be maintained at the front of the retarding basin, with an entrance gate that on occasion can be closed.

## Access for dogs.

Jack Roper Reserve/CSL can remain an off-lead area for dogs. But with signage saying they need to be on-lead when using or near paths.

The Northern Memorial Park Cemetery is already designated as Land for Wildlife.

Due to encouraging habitat and biodiversity, Dogs should be allowed in Box Forest Road and Campbellfield Creek basins strictly on lead, with appropriate signage. Any ban on dogs will only hurt responsible owners, not those who allow their companion animals to wander. Perhaps signage can include that this is native habitat for birds and kangaroos and dogs must be kept on-lead.

## Use of paths for walking and cycling

While Jack Roper Reserve has an arterial shared use cycling path, the other basins do not.

However access to all three reserves by bicycle (and walking) should be encouraged. These are places where children can learn to ride and explore with their families.

As the paths envisaged through Campbellfield Creek and Box Forest Road basins are not part of any significant cycling route, speed should not be an issue.

Bicycles are often mobility devices to enable people with limited mobility to get around and access nature. Any ban on bicycle use would deprecate their access and use of this space.

These paths should be designated as shared use, but that pedestrians /walkers have priority.

## Background

Sustainable Fawkner was formed in 2010 by residents of Fawkner to further sustainability and community resilience in the face of increasing climate change in our community of Fawkner and surrounds.

John Englart  
On behalf of Sustainable Fawkner