

Myuna Farm Master Plan

Version: 1.1

Date adopted: 6 October 2015

Responsible Department: Sport and Leisure

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1. Purpose

The Myuna Farm Master Plan provides strategic direction for a long term, sustainable and balanced vision for the farm.

The Master Plan has identified future opportunities that will allow the farms attendance and popularity to continue to grow whilst still retaining the essential attributes and elements which make Myuna Farm such a positive and successful community icon.

This Master Plan will

- Improve accessibility of Myuna Farm to a wide cross-section of the community through infrastructure improvements.
- Enhance the user experience through improved aesthetics and functionality of the layout and building design which will subsequently drive attendance.
- Enable Myuna Farm to continue to facilitate learning about environmental sustainability and agricultural through education programs.
- Enable Myuna Farm to continue to offer hands on experiences to a wide range of user groups.
- Maintain and improve animal husbandry procedures, animal handling and living conditions of animals kept at Myuna Farm.

2. Definitions

Council	means Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989
Councillors	means the individuals holding the office of a member of Casey City Council
Council officer	means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
RDA	Riding for the Disabled Association
TBLD	Thompson Berrill Landscape Design

3. Scope

The Myuna Farm Master plan identifies a number of development opportunities over an eight year timeframe. This master plan was developed was developed to respond to the operation of Myuna Farm, and build on its current services, programs and facilities, including:

- Hands on contact with a variety of animals to people of all ages and abilities;
- Educational programs covering the topics of farming and sustainability.
- Educational resources for farm visitors.
- Venue hire for celebrations and community groups.
- Sale and purchase of animals.
- Community events.

The Master Plan will enable Myuna Farm to contribute to the City of Casey's strategic goals as outlined in the following strategies and plans:

- Council Plan
- Casey C21 – Building a Great City
- Sustainability Plan
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Food Security Policy
- Casey Open Space Strategy

4. Context

4.1 Background

Myuna Farm comprises 50 acres of open space, and has provided a unique range of services, educational opportunities and leisure activities for over 20 years.

Myuna Farm was first managed and developed as a council owned facility from 1985 to support and address the needs of the recently created Doveton Housing Estate and residents of the then City of Berwick, and in 1994 the City of Casey assumed management. Myuna Farm has established itself as a reputable community facility. It has continued to grow in use and popularity, as indicated by the rapidly growing attendance numbers over time.

Myuna farm has experienced an annual growth in visitor numbers by approximately 140% over the past 5 years, with over 158,000 visitors through the front gates in the July 2014 to June 2015 period.

4.2 Current State

Myuna Farm is much more than a farm to visit in the suburbs. The farm is seen as a vital part of the community's identity and plays an important role in providing open space of comfort and respite for the community's physical, physiological and social well-being.

There are important elements which contribute to the success of the farm including a core attraction of over 200 animals related to farming in Australia. Visitors are able to experience up-close indoor interaction with baby animals through to hand feeding the large animals along walking trails around the farm. The farm also offers low cost economic opportunities for locals (e.g. garden plots, parties and school excursions).

The semi-rural farm character and setting within the urbanised surrounding suburbs is underpinned by the energy, compassion and positive service attitude of the staff towards all visitors and all members of the community who come to the farm. There is a high level of cultural diversity amongst visitors which correlates to the farm being located in a multicultural region.

4.3 Community Engagement

Council engaged Thompson Berrill Landscape Design (TBLD) to undertake the development of the Master Plan including an extensive consultation phase guided by Council's Community Consultation Policy. Consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and the local community included:

- Agency and Stakeholder Workshops
- Education consultation sessions
- Targeted mail-out to local residents
- Weekend 'Drop In' session for community feedback
- Public Exhibition of the draft Master Plan over a 4 week period

Following the community consultation, an Issues and Opportunity report identified positive community support and popularity for Myuna Farm. The report outlined the need for Myuna Farm to retain its current character and charm, and also address the operational and infrastructure improvements required for managed growth.

5. Plan

The Myuna Farm Master Plan outlines the aims and actions that provide direction on the facilities required to support and build on the services and programs offered by the community.

Aim

Myuna Farm aims to be “the city farm” by providing unique, enjoyable and educational farming experiences.

A Concept Plan has been developed to visually represent the improvements outlined in the actions below (**Attachment A**)

5.1 Farm Street Frontage

Enhance the street frontage by planting indigenous species to provide a buffer to the front paddocks, enhance the visual backdrop to the farm, provide shade for the animals and enhance the habitat corridor along the adjacent Dandenong Creek.

5.2 Kidds Road Entry

Upgrade and design an iconic welcoming and creative entry experience at Kidd's Road which brands, promotes and markets the farm.

5.3 Dandenong Creek Trail

Provide a shared trail connection and signage from the Dandenong Creek Trail to the Farm. Install bike racks to the front of the Cafe. Investigate bike hire within the farm to encourage healthy lifestyle and extend the visitor circulation further north into the site.

5.4 Community Gardens

Retain the community gardens. Investigate opportunities to divide large plots if demand for plots outweighs the number of plots currently available. Liaise with the

community garden plot members to provide produce to the Myuna Market and/or to the café.

5.5 RDA Horse Paddocks

Relocate RDA horses to the front paddocks, providing better pasture grasses, closer and improved facilities with feeding storage sheds and stables. Create dedicated trail for horse jinka amongst buffer planting.

5.6 Additional Tree Plantings

In conjunction with Council, plant additional shade and fruit trees within the car park and enhanced indigenous planting and trees within the informal open spaces and along the Dandenong Creek interface.

5.7 Car Park

Upgrade, enhance and extend the car park south into the existing Alpaca paddock. Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principals to compliment the sustainable philosophies of the farm and soften the car park appearance with plantings of selected fruit trees. Investigate the use of wind turbines and retain the car park parking capacity.

5.8 Myuna Market

Remove the former Dogs in Motion building and investigate the feasibility of re-establishing the Myuna Market, adjacent to the café, and provide additional shared car parking space.

5.9 Farm Entry Experience

Create a new entry experience celebrating the farm and welcoming visitors. Review and consolidate signage to provide visitors with key orientation, directional and informative signage as they enter the farm. Relocate bird enclosures to a designated bird/poultry area. Restrict farm vehicles from parking at the building entry area.

5.10 Myuna Farm Café

Continue to support the Farm Gate Café so that the external providers can provide Myuna Farm visitors with a diverse range of hot and cold food, beverages and healthy food options.

5.11 Playground

To improve playground function and interaction, design a creative integrated play space, reflective of the farm's character and charm to cater to a variety of age groups and abilities.

5.12 Gazebos and BBQ's

Upgrade and refurbish the gazebos, undercover shelters and BBQ's structures in materials reflective of the farm character. Additional BBQ's to be provided further north into the site at proposed open space areas. Relocate some existing hay bale picnic tables/shelters (further north) to provide for dispersion of visitors across the site.

5.13 Signage and Self-Guided Orientation

Review and consolidate existing signage across the farm. Design and develop an informative and creative signage plan. Design a clear central orientation point for visitors as they enter the site and negotiate the internal pathways. Investigate development and provision of mobile apps that assist self-guided tours.

5.14 Toilets

Upgrade and refurbish the existing toilet facilities.

5.15 Birthday Party Rooms

Rationalise upgrade and undertake refurbishment works of all party rooms. Design and decorate party rooms with farmyard animal themes.

5.16 RDA Pavilion

Retain the use of the Pavilion for RDA activities, shared with the Action Dogs group activities. Future improvements or works required to the pavilion are to be endorsed by all users of the pavilion.

5.17 Animal Nursery

Remove and relocate the lizard and snake enclosures, fish tanks and the central birdcage. Install tiered seating/resting area for parents to sit and or other small nursery animal enclosures. In the longer term, investigate the feasibility of a new custom designed Animal Nursery building further north into the site.

5.18 Informal Open Spaces

Establish informal open grassed spaces to the north of the farm for visitors to relax, gather with family and friends or have a picnic. Establish a shared walking route adjacent to Dandenong Creek to access the open spaces and appreciate the relocated farm animals and wetlands in the north.

5.19 Farm Animal Display Pens and Paddocks

Rearrange and establish new fenced paddock areas to accommodate all farm animals, including relocated animals from the front paddocks. Upgrade and enhance animal pens and enclosures to provide shade and a more natural character/environment.

5.20 Wetlands

Continue to enhance and promote the wetlands as a key destination at the site, and provide improved accessibility to the wetlands via the internal shared trail. In conjunction with Melbourne Water, investigate the opportunity to establish bird hides at the wetlands.

5.21 Sustainable Farming Practices

Develop a range of sustainable and ecological farming practices to demonstrate and showcase on the farm. Provide interactions suitable for a range of visitors from public visitors, school groups and to tertiary students.

5.22 Events at the Farm

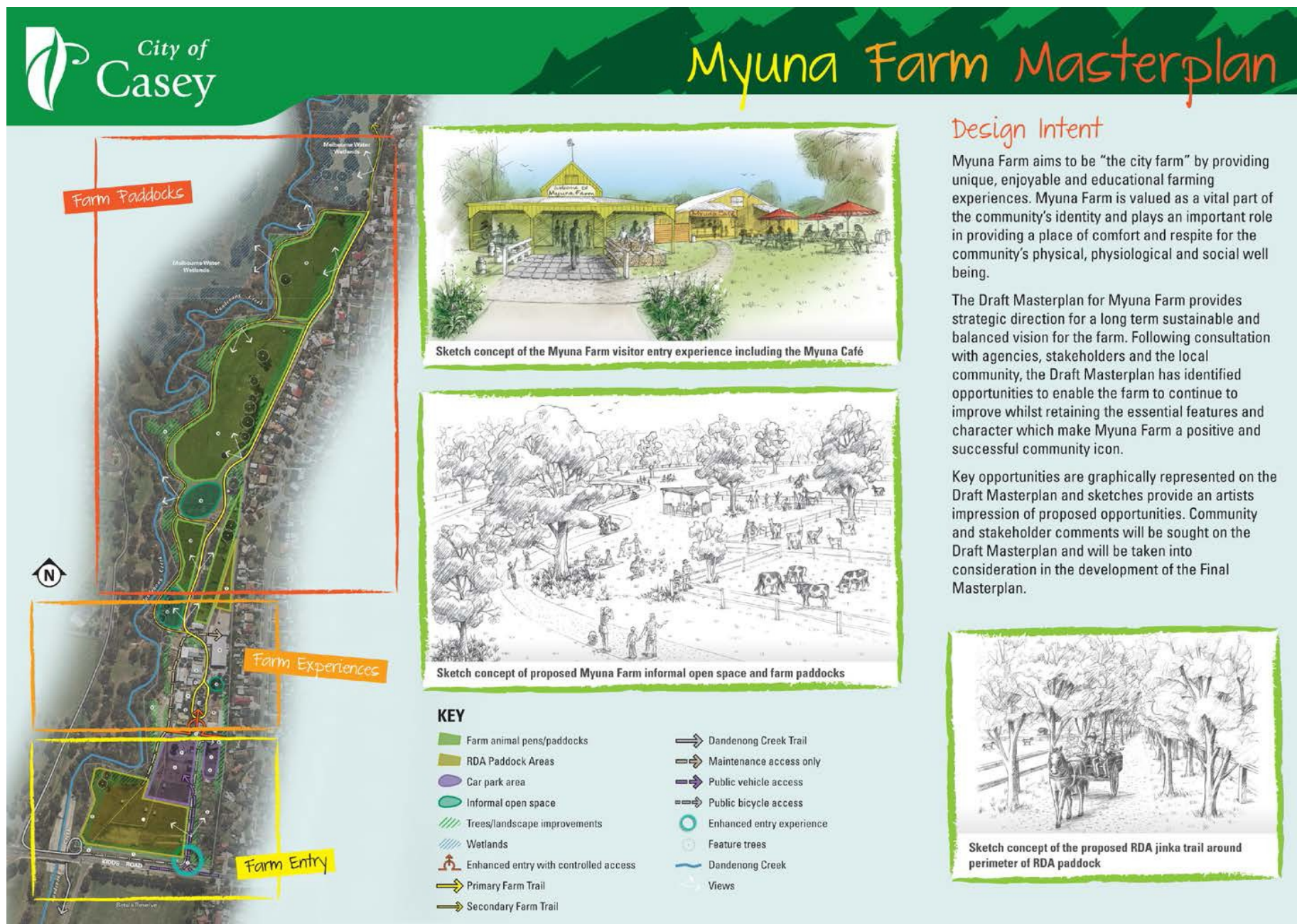
Retain the use of Myuna Farm for the annual Doveton Show and for local clubs to meet, exhibit and discuss their interests/hobbies. Retain the opening hours on Christmas Day, which attracts a large culturally diverse visitor group. Investigate and develop with City of Casey, additional community events and day and night activities at the farm.

6. Administrative Updates

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

7. Review

The next biennial review of this document is scheduled for completion by Day Month Year.





Farm Entry Area

1 Farm Street Frontage

Enhance the street frontage by planting indigenous species to provide a buffer to the front paddocks, enhance the visual backdrop to the farm, provide shade for the animals and enhance the habitat corridor along the adjacent Dandenong Creek.

2 Kidds Road Entry

Upgrade and design an iconic welcoming and creative entry experience at Kidds Road which brands, promotes and markets the farm.

3 Dandenong Creek Trail

Provide a shared trail connection and signage from the Dandenong Creek Trail to the Farm. Install bike racks to the front of the Café. Investigate bike hire within the farm to encourage healthy lifestyle and extend the visitor circulation further north into the site.

4 Community Gardens

Retain the community gardens. Investigate opportunities to divide large plots if demand for plots outweighs the number of plots currently available. Liaise with the community garden plot members to provide produce to the Myuna Market and/or to the café.

5 RDA Horse Paddocks

Relocate RDA horses to the front paddocks, providing better pasture grasses, closer and improved facilities with feeding storage sheds and stables. Create dedicated trail for horse jinka amongst buffer planting (Refer sketch concept C).

REFER FARM EXPERIENCES AREA



KEY

- Farm animal pens/paddocks
- RDA Paddock Areas
- Car park area
- Informal open space
- Trees/landscape improvements
- Wetlands
- Enhanced entry with controlled access
- Primary Farm Trail
- Secondary Farm Trail
- Dandenong Creek Trail
- Maintenance access only
- Public vehicle access
- Public bicycle access
- Enhanced entry experience
- Feature trees
- Dandenong Creek
- Views

6 Additional Tree Plantings

In conjunction with Council, plant additional shade and fruit trees within the car park and enhanced indigenous planting and trees within the informal open spaces and along the Dandenong Creek interface.

7 Car Park

Upgrade, enhance and extend the carpark south into the existing Alpaca paddock. Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principals to compliment the sustainable philosophies of the farm and soften the car park appearance with plantings of selected fruit trees. Investigate use of wind turbines and retain site car parking capacity.

8 Myuna Market

Remove the former Dogs in Motion building and investigate the feasibility of re-establishing the Myuna Market, adjacent to the café, and provide additional shared car parking space.

9 Farm Entry Experience

Create a new entry experience celebrating the farm and welcoming visitors. Review and consolidate signage to provide visitors with key orientation, directional and informative signage as they enter the farm. Relocate bird enclosures to a designated bird/poultry area. Restrict farm vehicles from parking at the building entry area. (Refer sketch concept B)





Farm Experiences Area

10 Myuna Farm Cafe

Design the café so it can provide services to Farm visitors (north side of café) and Myuna Market visitors (south side of café), with a diverse range of hot and cold food, beverages and healthy food options.

11 Playground

To improve playground function and interaction, design a creative integrated playspace, reflective of the farm's character and charm to cater to a variety of age groups and abilities.

12 Gazebos and BBQ's

Upgrade and refurbish the gazebos, undercover shelters and BBQ's structures in materials reflective of the farm character. Additional BBQ's to be provided further north into the site at proposed open space areas. Relocate some existing hay bale picnic tables/shelters (further north) to provide for dispersion of visitors across the site.

13 Signage and Self-guided Orientation

Review and consolidate existing signage across the farm. Design and develop an informative and creative signage plan. Design a clear central orientation point for visitors as they enter the site and negotiate the internal pathways. Investigate development and provision of mobile apps that assist self-guided tours.



REFER FARM PADDOCKS AREA



KEY

Farm animal pens/paddocks	Dandenong Creek Trail
RDA Paddock Areas	Maintenance access only
Car park area	Public vehicle access
Informal open space	Public bicycle access
Trees/landscape improvements	Enhanced entry experience
Wetlands	Feature trees
Enhanced entry with controlled access	Dandenong Creek
Primary Farm Trail	Views
Secondary Farm Trail	

14 Toilets

Upgrade and refurbish the existing toilet facilities.

15 Birthday Party Rooms

Rationalise upgrade and undertake refurbishment works of all party rooms. Design and decorate party rooms with farmyard animal themes.

16 RDA Pavilion

Retain the use of the Pavilion for RDA activities, shared with the Action Dogs group activities. Future improvements or works required to the pavilion are to be endorsed by all users of the pavilion.

17 Animal Nursery

Remove and relocate the lizard and snake enclosure, fish tanks and the central birdcage. Install tiered seating/resting area for parents to sit and or other small nursery animal enclosures. In the longer term, investigate the feasibility of a new custom designed Animal Nursery building further north into the site.

18 Informal Open Spaces

Establish informal open grassed spaces to the north of the farm for visitors to relax, gather with family and friends or have a picnic (Refer sketch concept A). Establish a shared walking route adjacent to Dandenong Creek to access the open spaces and appreciate the relocated farm animals and wetlands in the north.



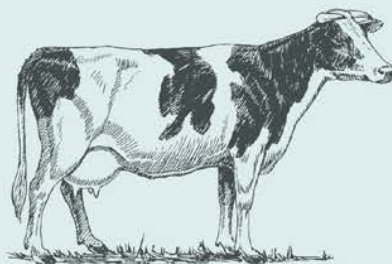
Farm Paddocks Area

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20 Wetlands

Continue to enhance and promote the wetlands as a key destination at the site, and provide improved accessibility to the wetlands via the internal shared trail. In conjunction with Melbourne Water, investigate the opportunity to establish bird hides at the wetlands.



Sustainable Farming Practices

Develop a range of sustainable and ecological farming practices to demonstrate and showcase on the farm. Provide interactions suitable for a range of visitors from public visitors, school groups and to tertiary students.

Events at the Farm

Retain the use of Myuna Farm for the annual Doveton Show and for local clubs to meet, exhibit and discuss their interests/hobbies. Retain the opening hours on Christmas Day, which attracts a large culturally diverse visitor group. Investigate and develop with City of Casey, additional community events and day and night activities at the farm.

Workshop at the Farm

Continue and expand the use of Myuna Farm and its facilities as a key location for community workshops. Workshops are to align with priorities from the Casey Health and Well Being Plan.

Education at the Farm

Retain and continue the use of Myuna Farm as a valued place for education for children across a range of ages. Continue to review and enhance the topical and important environmental and sustainability education programs.

Environmental, Cultural and Historic Farm Values

Design and develop interpretation signage for indigenous and existing historic elements at the farm e.g. the signal box and mature Red Gums. Investigate the relocation of the machinery display to a well-lit covered and visible location, with accompanying signage. The relocation of the existing machinery display allows for improved capacity and facilities to house the existing poultry animals.

