

## King Georges Paradise

### What was the problem?

- A secluded tranquil area located next to the Peel River in Tamworth attracted anti-social behaviour and littering. It was not formally designated as a park or recreational area, but utilised as one by default
- Close proximity to city centre and five fast food outlets within two kilometres
- High occurrences of litter in the area
- No infrastructure in the area (i.e. signs, bins or seating) to support recreational activities
- Public vehicle access to essential Council backup water supply infrastructure was subject to regular occurrences of vandalism



Before project and clean-up activities



After infrastructure installation

### What did we do?

- Installed essential infrastructure (i.e. fencing, seating, litter signage and bins)
- Engaged a contractor to clean up the site, mow the area on a regular maintenance schedule and use the litter check tool prior to each servicing
- Leveled site for better parking and drainage in the designated area
- Installed and locked solid access gate for essential vehicle access only
- Engaged with regular recreational users in conversations about the project and promoted objectives to encourage their support and foster pride in the area to maintain its amenity into the future

### Project features

#### Approaches used

✓	Cleaning and clean-ups
✓	Improved infrastructure
✓	Education and awareness
	Enforcement
✓	Community involvement

### Project details

#### Project length and timing

February 2014 to April 2015

#### Cost

\$25 500

\$23 043 (in-kind)

#### How was effectiveness/results evaluated

Council monitored the site visually and used the EPA's Local Litter Check tool to evaluate the changes to litter at the site

#### What was the result?

- Achieved 60% reduction of litter
- Council assigned a Directorate responsible for area into the future
- Established ongoing maintenance schedule of the area
- A significant number of partnerships formed internally and externally
- Regular users are excited about the improvements of litter signage, bins and seats

## What did we learn?

- When dealing with other external government agencies, approval processes for some activities need to be in place prior to grant applications being lodged, or there is a need to factor significant extra time into the project plan (i.e. approval of road closures or closing parts of a road near a river).
- Bin and litter signage infrastructure is the key to managing litter in a recreational area. If you provide it, they will use it.
- Projects that seem simple and straightforward can sometimes experience issues beyond your control. Don't give up, and you'll find a way.

## Legacy

This once 'no man's land' is now a reinvigorated community space with essential litter bins and signage to facilitate positive recreational activities and behaviours.



Locally tailored campaign



Locally tailored campaign

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