

# FACT SHEET

Page 1/2

21 May 2020

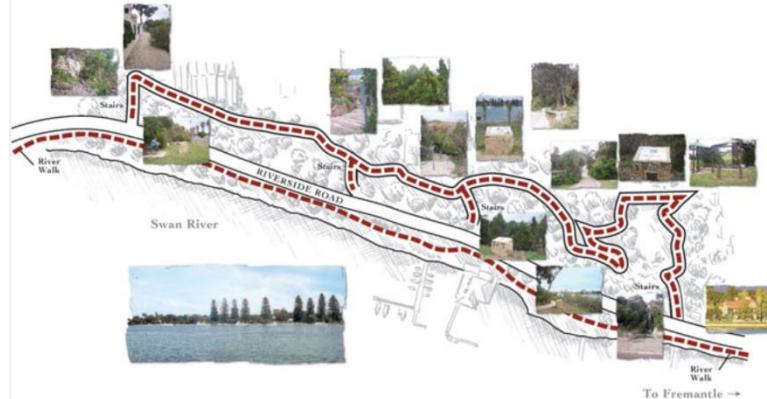
## Niergarup Track

The Niergarup Track runs along the cliff top in East Fremantle, offering stunning views of the Swan River and its foreshore. Signs along the way offer interpretative insights gathered from the local knowledge of the Noongar people (first nations), early settlers and more recent communities that have made their homes in this area, reflecting ancient and more contemporary history.

The Track crosses to the foreshore, then continues around Preston Point as a public access way along the river bank in front of the Swan Yacht Club, R.A.N. Reserve, Fremantle Rowing Club, Aquarama and the public parks, then re-joining the dual use path at Wauhop Park.

## Did you know...?

The name Niergarup is a word derived from the local Noongar language meaning “**place where pelicans meet**”. Images of pelicans are also reflected in the signage along the Track, and these majestic birds can often be seen along the river bank.



An interactive map of Niergarup Track is available at our website: [eastfremantle.wa.gov.au](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au)

## What's happening now?

The Town of East Fremantle is undertaking a series of works to upgrade and preserve the Niergarup Track.

### Phase 1

- In late May, the southern half of the limestone path will be re-surfaced with similar limestone material and a revegetation plan developed.

### Phase 2

- The northern half of the limestone path will be re-surfaced with similar limestone material. The revegetation plan will be implemented giving priority to smaller, shrub-like plantings of indigenous species so as not to impinge on views and to preserve native flora and fauna in the area.

## Advice for local residents and track users

For safety reasons, the track will be closed during the works for the re-sheeting to occur. When we are due to commence works on the Northern section of the track, we will need to establish access. Works will be undertaken to cause minimum disruption. The Town will keep nearby residents and users of the Track informed throughout this process.

**To stay informed of the latest developments and receive project updates, visit the Town's website, where you can also subscribe to our e-news at [eastfremantle.wa.gov.au](http://eastfremantle.wa.gov.au)**



## History of Niergarup Track

In 1993 Council adopted the East Fremantle Foreshore Landscape Strategy, and during the implementation of the study, a decision was made to formalise and protect the scenic dirt path along the escarpment from Merv Cowan Park.

As a WA 2001 Community Centenary Project, work was carried out to upgrade what was once known as the East Fremantle Federation Trail by laying crushed limestone, and installing plantings, seating, signage, stairs and intermittent fencing along the path. To do this, the Town received a grant of \$23,500 based on a 1:2 funding arrangement with Council's contribution of \$47,675 being mainly through in-kind donations of labour and materials.

The project was championed by the Friends of the East Fremantle Foreshore who assisted with the funding application and consultation process.



Along the Niergarup Track you will discover Merv Cowan Park named for WAFL legend Mervyn George Cowan (5 April 1925 – 22 May 2016) a member of the WA Football Hall of Fame.

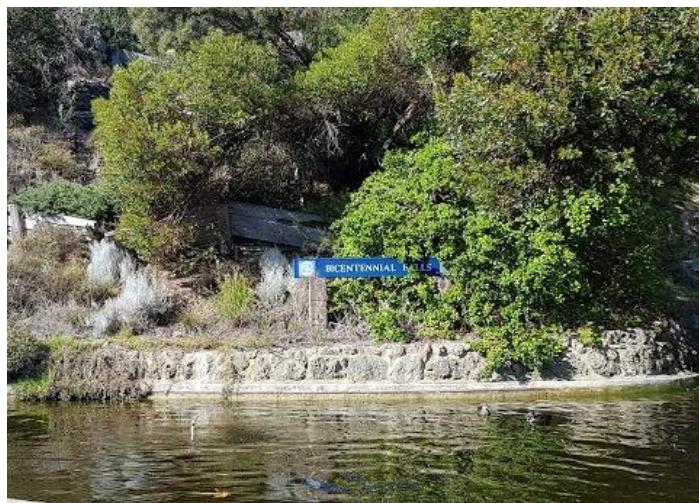
## Track Highlights

Along the Niergarup Track, walkers have a beautiful elevated view of the Swan River, and will encounter such highlights as Bicentennial Falls and rare native flora including the native female Fremantle Mallee tree.



The rare female Fremantle Mallee tree, left (*Eucalyptus foecunda*) grows along the Niergarup Track.

Track walkers can also admire Bicentennial Falls (below).



## Connection to Country

Prior to construction, advice was sought for the plan from the late Patrick Hume, a Noongar Elder, who suggested the name "Niergarup Track." The illustrations and interpretive signs along the Track were devised with support from the former Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), on advice from Noongar elders.

The Track was officially opened by then Mayor Andrew Smith and Patrick Hume on 1 May 2001 was funded by a Lotterywest, who also provided grant funding in 2007 to upgrade and realign sections of the Track which had been affected by erosion and to improve the staircase. Signage was restored in 2011 to repair damage caused by exposure to the elements.