



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

21 February 2025

Mr Peter White
stjames4069@gmail.com

Dear Mr White

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2025 regarding the mowing maintenance at Boblynne Street Park.

I appreciate you taking the time to contact me regarding this issue and outlining the ongoing frustrations that the residents of St James Estate are experiencing. I am sorry to hear that you are dissatisfied with the level of servicing we have been able to deliver. In response, I have asked Councils Public Space Operations (PSO) team to provide me with information on this matter.

I am advised that under the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, this site primarily functions as a drainage easement and is not always suitable for public access. I can confirm that Council is aware of the issues faced at this location and have been working to service this area as best as possible.

I have been advised that St James Estate Park is scheduled for mowing 16 times per year, however, due to a bridge closure and a lack of alternative access, Council's grass-cutting contractor has been unable to consistently service 100% of the park area, specifically in wet conditions where the site becomes extremely slippery and dangerous. It has been reported in recent years that approximately half the park has been inaccessible on several occasions, due to persistent wet conditions. In particular, the Kenmore Tavern side of the creek cannot be serviced safely when the creek is flowing rapidly, as there is no suitable machinery access point.

I understand that Council's City Standards team undertook an inspection of this site on 3 February and determined that there are currently two rock cause way crossings, one which allows access off Boblynne Street and one further upstream which allows access back to the northern side to the parcel of parkland in question. Works have been programmed and prioritised to adjust the level of these existing rock causeways to lower the existing static waterway level and to partly raise the submerged upstream causeway which will have the effect of reintroducing the access that previously existed for grass cutting operations. This work is expected to be completed by the end of April.

While these works will assist in extending the area that is able to be mowed, unfortunately, creating direct access to all parts of the parkland is not possible without crossing the shallow waterway. As you can appreciate, the serviceability of this area is also more difficult during wet weather, in particular long durations of wet weather, and taking into consideration the general parkland terrain when wet.

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Attempting to mow under these conditions may cause significant ground damage, leading to erosion and deterioration of the natural surface, while also posing unacceptable safety risks to staff and/or contractors. While I commend residents for taking a proactive approach to clear certain areas, I wish to ensure the safety of the public and do not advise residents to attempt mowing of this area, given the safety concerns.

I am pleased to advise that this location remains on the grass-cutting schedule and access will improve once the works outlined above are completed. However, during periods of unsafe or restricted access, certain sections of the park may not be mowed which is unfortunately unavoidable during wet periods. Council will continue to investigate opportunities to better service and handle this site moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. I hope the above information is of assistance in explaining the issues faced in providing complete servicing of this location.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerrie Freeman', written over a horizontal line.

Kerrie Freeman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ref: CO00430-2025