

Dear Mayor Katy Mair and Councillors,

I'm submitting this written deputation on behalf of many people that reside in the Canning Bridge Precinct. Many of us have lived in the precinct for the last 5 years and have contributed to the population in this area growing rapidly. Over the past 9 years since the CBACP was adopted by the City of Melville, the Council has funded numerous engagements involving the precinct, and public open space (or the lack of) is mentioned in all of them. The community want it NOW, not in 3 – 5 years' time after more community engagements are conducted.

The letter to the editor by Katy Mair that appeared in The Herald last week (Canning Bridge POS not forgotten), had a very catchy title and I was delighted to read the first paragraph which mentioned that Canning Bridge was a top priority in the POS Space Scoping Report that is going to be considered at the June meeting. It was not until I read the article in full and went online to read the Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda (18th June 2024) that I became dismayed and exasperated to learn that we will not be getting our POS in the near future, as many more obstacles and procedures (and yes... more community engagements) have to happen before POS becomes a reality. The article states that we need more public consultation. How much more? Speaking to people in the community, it is very evident that many are becoming disengaged and are sick and tired of having more public consultation. I would have thought that the fact that this has been on the table for nearly a decade, there has been a review of the original plan (588 public submissions with POS stressed as a priority), nearly 2,700 signatures on a petition to oppose any attempt to rescind the decision of the Council to approve two POS's in the precinct and still the Council aren't sure what the community really want???

I'm not sure where it's written that we, (residents) have made it clear that the POS planned for The Esplanade and Moreau Mews is not enough. All we have been asking for is some green space, where in my case, I could take my grandchildren to kick a ball, have a swing, meet neighbours and be social etc, and when it was voted in at last year's Council meeting we all applauded the Councillors who voted in favour of POS that they finally understood what the residents in the precinct were wanting. It was also heartwarming that Councillor Katy Mair (when I made my deputation to Council last year) singled me out after the voting had concluded and congratulated me on my deputation and said that she voted YES to POS at The Esplanade site and Moreau Mews as she could see the need for POS in our precinct. It is difficult for me to comprehend why her views have drastically changed.

I was also appalled to read in the article (and Agenda Briefing minutes) that another task of the Council would be to identify and investigate any potential areas ie drainage sumps, to be converted to POS. Really!! I know that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in October 2022, it was directed that the CEO continue investigations (meaning they had already investigated this in the past) into appropriate locations for POS in the CBACP with the findings to be presented to Elected Members before the end of March 2023. Did they come up with any appropriate areas in the CBACP? How many more

times and how much more money is to be allocated to this ongoing investigation?
Money and time are precious!

Speaking of money, I see that the article also mentioned 'budget demands'. If the Council are prioritizing POS in our precinct, then maybe it would be possible to apply for some federal/state grants which even in my limited knowledge in this area, I know are available. It is evident to me that this is just another excuse to stall and delay what Council knows needs to be done and that is to provide the ratepayers and residents in the Canning Bridge Precinct with POS that has been discussed, reviewed and voted on, on numerous occasions. The proposed POS Report should not be used as a greenwashing smokescreen to justify further delay in implementing the parks resolutions of April and June 2023. The City's resources would be better spent on securing grant funding towards the two parks already allocated as POS in the CBACP Review approved 10.2 at the April 2023 OMC.

I want to once again remind Councillors (old and new) that we don't want the CB area to be likened to water – 'reliable, providing the necessities for every day but nothing exciting' (which was described by 49% respondents of a community survey in Elements 2020 report), but instead we want it to be likened to a cocktail/mocktail – 'lots of variety with options to suit everyone' (which only 2% of people in that 2020 survey said it was at the time). Nothing has changed! How many more reports/surveys/engagements etc do we need until something is done. I urge you all to make it happen sooner rather than later and not procrastinate on where it's going to happen.

Mayor Katy Mair and Councillors, it's time to listen to the community you are representing and give the people living in the CB precinct the public open space that is desperately needed.

Thank you,

Joanne Ciccarelli