

Advice Note

Responsible Officer:	<u>Director Community Development</u>
Date of Meeting:	<u>18 August 2020</u>
Meeting of the:	<u>Council</u>
Item:	<u>CD20/8131 Petition to the City of Melville – Bert Jeffrey Park</u>

DETAIL

Further information was supplied in the EMB 14 August 2020, as per the request at ABF 4 August 2020.

Cricket is played at Bert Jeffrey Park in the afternoon, not all day. During the afternoon on a summer's day in Perth, many families will seek shelter from the heat, rather than expose children to it.

A fence around the playground is not currently proposed, though there are some examples of fenced play grounds in the City of Melville.

The insurers have provided advice communicated to Elected Members, via the EMB 14 August 2020 because it is unlikely that a cricket ball will enter the play ground area and even more unlikely that it will come into contact with a playground user. Furthermore, in the highly unlikely event a person is struck by a cricket ball, the risk is low that it will cause a severe injury or worse.

The Applecross Cricket Club, a current user of Bert Jeffrey Park is classified under Cricket Australia's Community Facility Guidelines as an Open Age – Community Club requiring a minimum boundary of 50m with a recommended boundary of 60m. A buffer zone distance is recorded in this facility guideline as a preference. If this buffer zone was a requirement, it would mean that cricket is unable to be played at any Active Reserve in Melville as there is no field which has a 20m+ buffer to infrastructure.

Consideration has been given to current and future use in the design of the amenity building facility, it has been determined that the facilities proposed are adequate for this use.

The construction of the amenity building is required to facilitate all forms of use at the reserve irrespective of the sport, recreation and leisure use of the space. It is basic and essential infrastructure that is able to serve current use, such as the casual soccer group who plays every Monday afternoon, the junior soccer coaching clinics on a Saturday mornings, Cricket on a Saturday afternoon or social family gatherings.

If the Reject and Replace Motion is accepted then this shall be the sixth time this Item has come before the Council. See below previous Reports.

1. OMC, 20 February, 2018.

The agenda tabled a motion received via Special Meeting of Electors, the motion was as follows:

“Motion

The Electors of the district want Council to direct the Chief Executive Officer to cease all work and expenditure on any developments at Bert Jeffery Park until such times as:

1. the Department of Local Government has finalised the current Authorised Inquiry, as announced on 29 November 2017, into the City, and
2. the local community is thoroughly consulted about the change in use and any developments at Bert Jeffery Park and the community's views taken into account in relation to any use and development activities at the park, and;
3. the Chief Executive Officer prepares and presents to Council a report, in the context of a longer term sports and recreation strategy, a detailed assessment of alternative locations for the Applecross Cricket Club. Alternative locations include but not limited to Shirley Strickland Reserve Ardross, Tompkins Park Alfred Cove and John Creaney Park Bull Creek; Troy Park Attadale, all of which are, or adjacent to, existing "sporting hubs"(Report), and;
4. Council considers and votes on the Report.”

The recommendations were as follows:

That the Council;

- 1. Having considered the motion from the Special Meeting of Electors held on 1 February 2018, notes the intent of the motion.**
- 2. Notes that a report will be prepared for consideration by the Council on the development of any infrastructure at Bert Jeffery Park, for consideration by the Council, by no later than May 2018.**
- 3. Directs the Chief Executive Officer to advise the mover of the Motion at the Special Meeting of Electors in writing of the Council's resolution.**

These recommendations were carried (11/2).

2. OMC, 15 May, 2018.

The agenda tabled an item CD18/8107 – DEVELOPMENT OF AMENITIES BUILDING AT BERT JEFFERY PARK.

The key issues/summary is as follows:

- This report follows Recommendations endorsed by the Council following a Special Meeting of Electors in February 2018 that requested a report be prepared for consideration by the Council on the development of any infrastructure at Bert Jeffery Park, by no later than May 2018.
- The report provides background regarding the installation of a turf cricket wicket at Bert Jeffery Park and the proposal for the installation of a small amenities facility at the Park.
- Results of the community engagement in regard the preferred location of the small amenities facility are provided that show a low response rate (9%) of local residents invited to comment, largely opposed to any installation of a small amenities facility at this site.

- Officers are recommending the location of the amenities facility in line with Cricket Australia Guidelines and the particular features of the site.
- Officers seek support, in principle, for the proposed location and project that will then be considered for funding in the 2019-2020 Budget.

A procedural motion was raised to council to defer the consideration of the report CD18/8107 to June 2018 OMC.

The motion was carried unanimously (12/0).

3. OMC, 18 September, 2018.

The agenda tabled an item CD18/8107 – DEVELOPMENT OF AMENITIES BUILDING AT BERT JEFFERY PARK.

The key issues/summary is as follows:

- This report follows Recommendations endorsed by the Council following a Special Meeting of Electors in February 2018 that requested a report be prepared for consideration by the Council on the development of any infrastructure at Bert Jeffery Park, by no later than May 2018.
- The report was presented to the May 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council. At the meeting a decision was deferred and the report was to be represented to a future meeting with additional consultation.
- The report provides background regarding the installation of a turf cricket wicket at Bert Jeffery Park and the proposal for the installation of a small amenities facility at the Park.
- Results of the community engagement in regard to the preferred location of the small amenities facility show that of the 208 letters sent out to residents for comment only 19 responses were received, (9% of letters sent). Of those responses 15 were against a facility and four were in favour.
- Officers are recommending the location of the amenities facility in line with Cricket Australia Guidelines and the particular features of the site.
- Officers seek support, in principle, for the proposed location and project that will then be considered for funding in the 2019-2020 Budget.

The recommendations were as follows:

That the Council;

1. Notes there is a basic level of supporting infrastructure required on active reserves to facilitate use.

2. Approves the Bert Jeffery Park location plan (attached) as the future location of the amenities building at the Park.

These recommendations were carried (8/5)

4. OMC, 17 September, 2019.

The agenda tabled a motion received via Special Meeting of Electors, the motion (Motion 3, part 1, pertaining to Bert Jeffrey Park) was as follows:

“The City of Melville to

1. Include Bert Jeffrey Park in the Active Reserve Infrastructure Strategy (ARIS) process and stop all changes to Bert Jeffrey Park and rescind previous decisions;”

The recommendation was as follows:

- 1. Confirms that Bert Jeffrey Park is included in the Active Reserve Infrastructure Strategy (ARIS) Process.**

This recommendation was carried unanimously (13/0).

5. OMC, 18 August, 2020.

The agenda tabled an item CD20/8131 – PETITION TO THE CITY OF MELVILLE – BERT JEFFREY PARK.

The key issues/summary is as follows:

- A petition signed by 105 residents of the City of Melville, and one non-resident, was received on 27 May 2020 requesting Council to stop the development of an amenity building at Bert Jeffrey Park, Murdoch.
- This petition was presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council, 16 June 2020, where Council resolved to acknowledge the petition and requested a report be prepared (to report back to council).
- This report follows the aforementioned resolution.
- Funding to construct the amenity building formed part of the Annual Budget for 2019/2020, and was carried forward to the 2020/2021 Annual Budget.
- Officers recommend proceeding with the construction of the amenity building, as planned.

The recommendations are as follows:

That the Council having considered the petitioners requests:

- 1. notes the petition received, requesting that the development at Bert Jeffrey Park be stopped; and**
- 2. notes that the building has been significantly reduced in size over that which was previously planned and envisaged; and**
- 3. directs the CEO to advise the lead petitioner of the outcome.**