



# Officer Presentation


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CD26/62 – John Connell Reserve Field Extension Proposal



City of  
**Melville**

## Background and Key Context

- In March 2022 the Leeming Spartan Cricket Club received a Federal Election Commitment from the Member of Tagney, Sam Lim of \$650,000 to relocate cricket nets (completed in 2025) and undertake a field extension (this proposal).
  - At the June 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council resolved:
    1. *To provide authorisation to the president of the Leeming Spartan Cricket Club to submit a vegetation clearing application for an area of 0.65ha to the east of the existing playing fields to accommodate the oval extension to the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER).*
    2. *To advise the club that it is the City's preference to work in conjunction with the clubs to manage the planning, design and construction works associated with the oval extension, should this proceed.*
  - A clearing permit was granted by DWER in June 2025; subsequently the City has prepared a Business Case and Report for Council's consideration (this item).
  - A petition was presented to the October 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council signed by 276 residents and 38 non-residents seeking the City not remove the trees for the field extension.
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## Details

### *Clearing Permit:*

- Permit holder must not clear any vegetation after 23 July 2027
- Weed and dieback management
- Directional clearing
- Offset – Revegetation and Rehabilitation of Ken Hurst Park
- Record keeping and reporting
- Estimated cost of five-year revegetation and rehabilitation plan is \$1.05-1.3M
  - Includes seed collection, planting, on-going planting, maintenance and feral animal control.

### *Six options*

<b>Option</b>	<b>Inclusions</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
1 – Original Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Extension to east</li> <li>• 2 x 60m cricket fields</li> <li>• 4 x senior soccer fields</li> <li>• 100 lux sports lighting</li> <li>• Cut, fill and re-turfing western portion of existing reserve.</li> </ul>	~\$4.31M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ~0.53ha of clearing</li> <li>• Supported by Cricket Club, not supported by Leeming Strikers Soccer Club (Soccer Club)</li> <li>• Not supported by environmental groups and John Connell Whadjuk Noongar Reference Group</li> </ul>

## Details

*Six Options continued...*


Option	Inclusions	Estimated Cost	Additional Comments
2 – Revised August 2025 Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field extension to east</li> <li>• 1 x 60m cricket field and 1 x 55m cricket field</li> <li>• 4 x senior soccer fields</li> <li>• 100 lux sports lighting</li> <li>• Cut, fill and re-turfing western portion of existing reserve</li> </ul>	~\$4.68M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ~0.55ha of clearing</li> <li>• Supported by Cricket Club and Soccer Club (Soccer Club)</li> <li>• Not supported by environmental groups and John Connell Whadjuk <u>Noongar Reference Group</u></li> </ul>
3 – No clearing required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field reconfiguration</li> <li>• 2 x 50m cricket fields</li> <li>• 4 senior soccer fields</li> <li>• 100 lux sports lighting</li> <li>• Cut, fill and re-turfing western portion of existing reserve</li> </ul>	~\$2.1M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not supported by cricket and soccer club</li> </ul>

## Details

*Six Options continued...*

Option	Inclusions	Estimated Cost	Additional Comments
4 – Former landfill site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional 1 x 60m cricket field</li> <li>• 2 x senior soccer fields</li> <li>• 100 lux sports lighting</li> <li>• Car Park</li> <li>• Changerooms and toilets</li> </ul>	~\$10.88M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater license unknown</li> <li>• Contamination Site provision in estimated cost for developed area, however not for 12 ha broader site</li> <li>• Not supported by Cricket and Soccer Club</li> </ul>
5 – Beasley Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New synthetic cricket pitch</li> <li>• Two-lane cricket practice net</li> </ul>	~\$308k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turf challenges due to sting nematode and Bassendean Soils</li> <li>• Does not enhance sporting space for soccer</li> <li>• Not supported by Cricket Club</li> <li>• Not supported by Bull Creek-Leeming Junior and Senior Football Clubs</li> </ul>
6 – Retain status quo	N/A	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not meet outcomes sought by clubs</li> </ul>

## Details and Financial Implications

- Should Council support Options 1 or 2, the timeline to meet the clearing permit requirement of clearing to be completed by 23 July 2027 is significantly tight.
  - Local State Members of Parliament have expressed an interest in supporting the field extension and early discussions to provide a level of funding have occurred – although no commitments have been made.
  - Typically, the State Governments Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) which is currently on hold would provide an avenue of external funding.
  - Under CSRFF, the City would be eligible to apply for up to 50% of the project costs, excluding revegetation costs (\$1.3M).
  - The Cricket Club has outlined they have ~\$470k remaining of the federal government grant provided in 2022.
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## Officer Recommendation

That the Council requests the CEO to proceed with Option 2, as identified in the report, subject to:

1. Seeking and receiving a suitable amendment to the clearing permit timeframes in order to deliver the project;
  2. Negotiating with the Leeming Spartan Cricket Club and Federal Government to re-allocate the remaining grant (~\$470,000) to the City to complete the project, should external funding be received;
  3. Seek an amount of 50% (\$1,692,495.50) of estimated project costs (excluding revegetation cost) from the State Government that is in-line with the currently inactive Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund;
  4. Notes that should external funding be received and a suitable extension on the clearing permit time frame, the City will need to allocate an estimated \$2,522,495.50 to complete the project and undertake revegetation at Ken Hurst Park;
  5. Advise the lead petitioner of Item 12.1 of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 October 2025 the abovementioned resolutions.
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