

## PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION (Elected Members)

Name: Cr June Barton

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2020

Meeting of the: Ordinary Meeting of Council

Subject: Naming of Park in Murray Road, Bicton

*Disclaimer: Where administration has provided any assistance with the framing and/or wording of any motion/amendment to the Elected Member who has advised their intention to move it, the assistance has been provided on an impartial basis. The principle and intention expressed in any motion/amendment is solely that of the intended mover and not that of the officer/officers providing the assistance. Under no circumstance is it to be expressed to any party that administration or any officer holds a view on this motion other than that expressed in an official written or verbal report by administration to the Committee or Council meeting considering the motion.*

### PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION: CITY OF MELVILLE

**That the CEO be requested to act immediately to expedite the process for naming the Park at 58-60 Murray Road, Bicton, the site purchased in 2012 from Western Power, according to the current policy CP-096 and using from the current schedule of names either John Duffield Park or Barbara Kernot Park.**

### REASONS:

1. Although Council resolved recently to review CP-096, Naming of Roads, Parks, Buildings and Infrastructure, the process of community consultation is likely to be time consuming and after the long struggle by the residents of Bicton first for the City of Melville to obtain this park and then to have it appropriately named, they deserve this final stage of the process to be accomplished urgently.
2. Over nine years ago, on 7 October 2010 after a long campaign by a large number of residents in Bicton (not limited to those in the immediate vicinity of the site) a Special Meeting of Electors unanimously passed the motion

*That the Council provide endorsement and active advocacy to secure "Bicton Park" as property of the City of Melville, and to be kept as public open space in perpetuity.*

3. On 21 June 2011 the Bicton Park Community Action group submitted the following questions at the Meeting of Council:

#### *Question 1.*

*At the Special Meeting of Electors held on 7th October 2010 6 Motions relating to Western Power's expansion in the City of Melville were passed and carried unanimously. In this respect please advise what active advocacy the City of Melville has undertaken with Western Power re a land swap or acquisition of the Bicton site?*

#### *Question 2.*

*What progress is being made by the City of Melville with Western Power and who is the City of Melville representative dealing with this matter?*

*Question 3.*

*Should Western Power be willing to sell this land, does the City of Melville have first option to purchase and would the City of Melville consider pursuing this option?*

4. On 23 August 2011 then-CEO Dr Shayne Silcox wrote to the "Save Bicton Park" group as follows.

*To date this has not resulted in the City being able to acquire the properties in question, however this is due to Western Power not being able to determine its long term needs for this site and the issues around power provision in this area of Bicton at the time.*

*This has not dissuaded the Council from its position however and at its most recent Ordinary Meeting the City of Melville Council resolved;*

*That the Council:*

- 1. Formally approach Western Power with respect to 58-60 Murray Road Bicton, Certificate of Title 38/238A registering the City's interest in acquiring this property in the event that Western Power resolve to dispose of said property.*
- 2. Seek to establish a preferred buyer status with Western Power so that the City is provided with the first option to purchase the said property in the event that Western Power resolve to dispose of the property.*
- 3. Advise Western Power that this property is generally accepted by the community to be an open space reserve and whilst the property may be owned in freehold title by Western Power, in the event that the City should acquire the said property, its acquisition would be for the express purpose of the property being set aside as Local Open Space.*

5. In September 2012 after a continued sustained campaign by the residents, the City of Melville was able to announce the purchase of this land from Western Power for \$2.2 million, making a strong statement on the preservation of public open space.

6. Two years later, in December 2014, CEO Silcox wrote to the community group which had expressed concern about the effect of the proposed transfer of Bicton to the City of Fremantle during local government reform.

*It is not the way we manage Melville in stopping processes to loyal residents from suburbs that may transition (unfortunately) to another Local Government - we will continue to represent our people right up to 1st July 2015 and on if necessary. With this said a report has been tabled at my*

*Executive Management Team (EMT) in late 2014 proposing naming of Bicton Park. The EMT sought a review of the process used in naming roads, parks, etc to ensure it met the needs of the Community and Council. That task is near completion and a report on the naming of Bicton Park will be brought forward early in 2015 for finalisation (all going well) before reform legal day one.*

7. More than 4 years after this, on 1 March 2019, I wrote to CEO Marten Tieleman as follows.

*I am regularly receiving enquiries from Bicton residents about the delay in the naming of the park unofficially described locally as "Bicton Park" and on the City of Melville website (<https://www.melvillecity.com.au/things-to-do/find-venues-parks-and-reserves/bicton-substation>)*

*as "Bicton Substation", where it is described as "a small pocket park that is suitable for small family gatherings".*



8. Nearly a year ago, on 20 May 2019, in response to my query about the naming of the Park, the then Governance and Compliance Coordinator Jeff Clark wrote to me:

*I have commenced the process and will inform you as it progresses. The City has a Council Policy CP-096 that advises the process that will be undertaken.*

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_