
The June 2022 Council report identified that a letter of authority would be required from the City for the application to proceed, extract of 21 June 2022 OMC minutes attached.

Following the Council's resolution in June 2022, a Clearing Permit Application was submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) by the Leeming Spartans Cricket Club Inc. (the Club) and was accepted by DWER on 14 August 2023.

DWER advertised the proposal on 15 August 2023 to 4 September 2023.

At the 17 February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting the Council resolved to prepare a Master Plan for John Connell Reserve, with the Council awarding a tender to engage a consultant to prepare the Master Plan at the 16 August 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

As a result, work commenced on the Draft John Connell Reserve Master Plan in September 2022 and significant community engagement has been undertaken to shape the current Draft Master Plan, which has been placed on hold subject to:

- the outcomes of the clearing permit,
- a Council decision to proceed with the John Connell oval extension; and
- a more thorough understanding of the remediation requirements for the contaminated areas of the site to meet the vision of the Master Plan.

As part of the 2025-26 Annual Budget process, an amount of \$100,000 was allocated on the basis an outcome of the clearing permit application was expected in the upcoming financial year. This would allow the City to work with the Club on a detailed proposal, in line with the June 2022 Council resolution and any likely clearing conditions, for consideration by the Council at a later date.

As part of the June 2022 Council resolution to support the Leeming Spartans Cricket Club's application for the clearing permit, the City engaged a consultant to prepare the Ken Hurst Revegetation Management Plan (February 2025).

On 30 June 2025, the Club (as the applicant) and the City were advised by DWER that the clearing permit application was approved subject to a 21-day appeal process.

Subsequently, there were no appeals in the 21-day period, and the official permit was granted on 21 July 2025, however it appears the Club was not advised until 27 August 2025. Copy of Clearing Permit attached.

However, at this stage no clearing work can be undertaken prior to Council considering this matter and making a decision as to whether to proceed or not with the sports field extension project and the associated clearing permit conditions.

The Reserve land is under the care and control of the City of Melville and therefore, the Leeming Spartan Cricket Club cannot commence any clearing, nor any other proposed development, without the required Council and City approvals being obtained.

One of the key clearing permit conditions which Council will need to consider, requires the rehabilitation of 7.32 hectares of native vegetation, including revegetation (planting) and management based on a total of 1.63 hectares at Ken Hurst Park.

This condition would require an expected 65,200 plants to be planted in the first year, with a total of approximately 50,000 plants to be planted over years 2, 3 and 4.

