

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

**HELD IN THE**

**CONFERENCE ROOM, MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE**

**AT 6.30PM ON**

**17 DECEMBER 2013**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM MELVILLE CIVIC CENTRE, 10 ALMONDBURY ROAD, BOORAGOON, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013.**

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**1. PRESENT**

His Worship the Mayor, Russell Aubrey

**COUNCILLORS**

**WARD**

Cr Reynolds (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr N Foxtton  
Cr D Macphail, Cr R Aubrey  
Cr R Willis, Cr C Robartson  
Cr C Schuster, Cr N Pazolli  
Cr S Taylor-Rees, Cr J Barton  
Cr R Hill, Cr P Phelan

University  
University  
City  
Bull Creek/Leeming  
Applecross/Mount Pleasant  
Bicton/Attadale  
Palmyra/Melville/Willagee

**2. IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr J Christie  
Mr M Tieleman  
Ms L Hartill  
Mr L Hitchcock  
Mr J Clark

Mr N Fimmano

A/Chief Executive Officer  
Director Corporate Services  
A/Director Community Development  
Executive Manager Legal Services  
Governance & Compliance Program  
Manager  
Governance & Property Officer

At the commencement of the meeting there were 58 Electors of the City of Melville and no members of the press in attendance.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Dr S Silcox, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr S Cope, Director Urban Planning

**4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil.

**5. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, introduced individual Elected Members and Senior Staff to the meeting.

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****6.1 FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

Nil.

**6.2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST THAT MAY CAUSE A CONFLICT**

Nil.

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **7.1 NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

The following Notice of Meeting was advertised in the West Australian Newspaper on Saturday, 30 November 2013 and the Melville Times Community Newspaper on Tuesday, 10 December 2013, in addition to being displayed on public notice boards at all the City of Melville libraries and the Civic Centre. The notice read:

### **“Special Meeting of Electors**

**Tuesday, 17 December 2013**

A Special Meeting of Electors of the City of Melville will be held in the Main Hall of the Civic Centre, 10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon commencing at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 December 2013 to consider a request signed by 256 electors to discuss -

The proposed Attadale Reserve Footpath Construction - Burke Drive between Page Street and Roberts Road be deferred.

The details of the matters to be discussed at the special meeting are:

- Design and approvals for shorefront footpath and foreshore restoration in the immediate and adjacent areas.
- Foreshore pathway restoration/realignment in situ.
- Strategy for further restoration and investigation of erosion and die back in the area.
- Funding sources and costs.

Should you require further information, please contact Corporate Support on 9364 0607.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Council Meeting Schedule, Agendas and Minutes of all meetings are available at [www.melvillecity.com.au](http://www.melvillecity.com.au)

**Dr Shayne Silcox  
Chief Executive Officer”**

His Worship the Mayor read the Manner of Conduct of the Meeting.

## **7.2 MANNER OF CONDUCT OF THE MEETING**

1. It is a requirement to advise that in the event of an emergency, everyone should take direction from officers who will guide you to the exit points of the building.
2. Toilets are located immediately before the entry to the Council Chambers.
3. All present are required to sign the attendance register at the entry to the Conference Room.
4. Speakers must be Electors of the City of Melville.
5. The proceedings are being taped for the purpose of production of the minutes and speakers are requested to use the microphones each time they speak.

The Minutes will include a summary of any questions asked and a summary of the response provided.

6. No other audio or visual recording is to be undertaken without the permission of the Presiding Member.
7. Speakers are asked to clearly give their name and address each time they speak.
8. Upon a motion being proposed, each speaker is to address the Chair.
9. All addresses are to be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Extension of time is permissible only with the agreement of a simple majority of Members present (9.6 of Standing Orders).
10. No persons are to use offensive or objectionable expressions in reference to any Member, employee of the Council, or any other person (8.3 of Standing Orders).
11. All Elected Members and Directors attend this meeting to observe the proceedings and hear comments from Electors. All questions and comments should be directed to the Mayor who may invite a response from the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Members of Committees, Directors or Elected Members.

## **8. PRESENTATION BY ELECTORS ON PROPOSED ATTADALE RESERVE FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION**

### **Director Technical Services - Presentation Attadale Foreshore**

The A/Chief Executive Officer, Mr J Christie presented a PowerPoint presentation providing a background on the process and history of the decisions leading to the replacement of the pathway.

- Some of the information has been presented previously at the Special Electors Meeting on 2 September 2013.
- The footpath erosion started approximately two years ago.
- The City has been in discussion with the Swan River Trust and the Department of Parks and Wildlife during the two year period on possible solutions to the erosion on the Attadale foreshore.
- The City actioned some temporary repairs which were not effective.
- The City held an onsite meeting in November 2012 with the Swan River Trust and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to consider what options the City could progress with regard to the erosion.
- At the meeting there was a unanimous decision by all three authorities that the most appropriate action to take would be a managed retreat from the foreshore area.
- As a result the design work commenced on the relocation of the shared path within the City's Technical Services area.
- Funding for the relocation of the path was allocated as part of the 2013/2014 Annual Budget process.
- An update was provided to the Elected Members at a Budget Briefing ahead of that budget process where a presentation was given on the extent of the erosion and the intention to realign the path.
- The Council then formally adopted the budget and the Technical Services Capital Works Program in June of that year.
- As a result of the adoption of the budget the full detailed design was completed for the Path and the City sent out correspondence to the local residents (420 residents within the surrounding area) on 18 June 2013 of the intention to realign the footpath on the foreshore.
- On 12 July 2013 the City received a petition bearing 591 signatures. The petition read that *"the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Melville reconsider and defer subject to further investigation the Proposed Attadale Reserve Foreshore Footpath Construction Concept Burke Drive between Page and Roberts Road as described in the Circular with Concept Plan attached dated 18 June 2013. This subject has been referred to Mr Dean Nalder MLA Member for Alfred Cove who is making enquiries to the relevant statutory authorities as to alternative options to reinstate the existing washed out path or a similar outcome."*
- The lead petitioner was advised in writing on 1 August 2013 that the realignment would proceed as planned
- On 30 July 2013 the City received a Request for a Special Meeting of Electors from Ms Dawn Davies and the details to be discussed at that meeting were the closure of the historic footpath along a small section of the Attadale foreshore to be replaced by a boardwalk.
- A Special Meeting of Electors held on 2 September 2013.
- At the meeting there were representatives from the Swan River Trust and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

- A motion was moved at the Special Meeting of Electors on 2 September 2013. The motion was –  
***“In view of the very short time ratepayers were given to find alternative solutions and perhaps funding that all works should cease until a more equitable outcome could be found where both the public and the environment in this recreation area will benefit. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”***
- The motion was presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 September 2013 and the Officer Recommendation was as follows –

**“That the Council:**

- 1. Note the resolution of the Special Meeting of Electors held on 2 September, 2013.**
- 2. Resolves to endorse the realignment of the shared used pathway on the Attadale Foreshore.**
- 3. Advises, in writing, Ms Dawn Davies who lodged the request for a Special Meeting of Electors of points 1 and 2 above.”**

At that Council meeting the Officer Recommendation was not endorsed and a Reject and Replace motion was tabled by Cr Barton, seconded by Cr Taylor-Rees.

**“That the Council reject point 2 and 3 of the Officer Recommendation and defer consideration of the item until after the item T13/3425 Attadale Foreshore Path Realignment, has been presented to an Elected Member Information Session for discussion.”**

**CARRIED 8/3**

- The item was presented to an Elected Member Information Session on 29 October 2013 for discussion as per the Council resolution. The Friends of Attadale Foreshore were invited to present at that same meeting.
- The Director Technical Services met with the Friends of Attadale Foreshore and two Ward Councillors on 6 November 2013 and gave an overview of the Directors presentation that was given to the Elected Members on that night.
- On 13 November 2013 the City received a request for a further Special Meeting of Electors submitted by Dr Graham Mahony. There were 256 signatures of Electors.
- The Director Technical Services met on 18 November 2013 with Mr Leaver and Mr Reid and gave the same presentation that was presented to the Friends of Attadale Foreshore and the Elected Members.
- As a result of the presentation and discussion that took place at the Information Session an item was presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 November 2013. The Officer Recommendation was –

**“That the Council resolves to endorse the realignment of the shared used pathway on the Attadale Foreshore as contained within the 2013/2014 Technical Services capital works program.**

However an alternative motion was moved by Cr Barton and seconded by Cr Taylor-Rees –

**That the Item T13/3445 - Attadale Foreshore Path Realignment be adjourned to be considered at the first meeting of the Council after the Special Meeting of Electors for the purpose of “The Proposed Attadale Reserve Footpath Construction – Burke Drive”, has been held.**

The motion was LOST 2/10”

Subsequently the Officer Recommendation was moved by Cr Reynolds and seconded by Cr Macphail –

However an amendment was then moved by Cr Taylor-Rees and seconded by Cr Barton –

**“That after the words “...Technical Services capital works program.”, the words “and to instigate rehabilitation measures to the eroded area (from 10m east to 50m west of the fenced dieback area) with the intention of providing future access to pedestrians.” be inserted.**

The motion was LOST 3/9”

A further amendment was then moved by Cr Reynolds, seconded by Cr Macphail –

- “1 That the Council resolves to endorse the realignment of the shared used pathway on the Attadale Foreshore as contained within the 2013/2014 Technical Services capital works program.**
- 2 That the costing and feasibility of foreshore rehabilitation be considered on the eroded area and adjacent areas of the foreshore in association with the Swan River Trust, Department of Parks and Wildlife and Friends of Attadale foreshore.**

**CARRIED 10/2”**

- Works commenced on site on Tuesday 26 November 2013 in accordance with the Council resolution. Preliminary discussions have begun with the Swan River Trust to best progress point 2 of the resolution which was to involve Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Friends of Attadale Foreshore on the rehabilitation. Early discussions have taken place but need to be progressed further.
- The Request for the Special Meeting of Electors was approved by the Mayor and arranged for tonight and the details to be discussed include -
  - Design and approvals for shorefront footpath and foreshore restoration in the immediate and adjacent areas.
  - Foreshore pathway restoration/realignment in situ.
  - Strategy for further restoration and investigation of erosion and die back in the area.
  - Funding sources and costs.



## **9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Mr D Olsson from MP Rogers and Mr C Mather from the Swan River Trust were present to discuss the environmental matters and Government policy on the Attadale foreshore.**

Mr D Olsson, Coastal Engineer of MP Rogers and Associates presented the following information to the meeting:

- For the last seven years MP Rogers and Associates have been providing specialist advice to the Swan River Trust on engineering and erosion matters on the Swan River. The Attadale site was examined when erosion first occurred in 2011.
- Mr Olsson gave the history of the site and the actual shoreline to give an understanding of why the erosion is occurring on the site.
- The shoreline is not actually the original shoreline from the Swan River.
- A lot of the foreshore from Point Walter through to Alfred Cove was reclaimed by a large project undertaken by the Public Works Department from 1900s to the mid 1970s and early 1980s.
- The project dredged offshore with spoil pumped onto swampy land. The project provided recreation areas at Troy park and the current dog walking areas while dealing with a mosquito problem.
- Mr Olsson displayed maps that the Public Works Department produced showing areas of dredging and reclamation areas on the Swan River from 1892 to 1978.
- The land from Point Walter to Alfred Cove has been dredged and reclaimed and is not the original shoreline of the river.
- Mr Olsson explained that the erosion that can be seen on the foreshore at the moment is an artificial shoreline trying to go back to its original location.
- Aerial photos show that dredging started between early 1960s and carried on until the mid 1970s offshore from the Attadale path, with the spoil being pumped onto the shoreline.
- Dredging through the mid 1960s created the Point Walter area as we know it today. Further dredging in the mid 1970s increased the area further.
- Mr Olsson advised that MP Rogers and Associates looked at all the shoreline movements for the City of Melville along the Point Walter foreshore and analysed aerial photography every five or so years and mapped the shoreline.  
Mr Olsson advised that the original Point Walter shoreline in the 1950s was near Burke Drive. The location of the shoreline was at least ten metres or further back from the current location of the path.
- An aerial photo from November 2013 showed the dredging scars from when the area was originally dredged and pumped onto the shoreline. The Attadale area is a divergent point for sediment movement due to current, water motion and wave action. In the location where the erosion touches the path, there is very little buffer between the path and the waters edge.
- The sediment is moving away in both directions and the location of the path is a pinch point location. Because the shoreline was dredged and reclaimed it is out of equilibrium from what it should be. Reclaimed shorelines are prone to higher levels of erosion. Due to a combination of the right wind direction and a high water level a larger erosion event will occur.

- Because it is not a natural shoreline, this is exacerbated compared to a natural shoreline. In normal conditions the water and wave action occur on the main beach face and there is no real erosion. Erosion is affected by storm or cyclone events elsewhere and made worse when a high water level combined with strong winds causing wave action occurs. The shoreline is prone to erosion as it is out of equilibrium and will form a new profile that will then become the new shoreline profile.
- The Attadale site has wind directions that cause problems. Strong North Easterly winds or strong North Westerly winds cause erosion along the whole Attadale foreshore. An estimate of erosion at the Attadale site is at least five metres recession from its current location. That is as a result of the high water and high strong wind and wave conditions at the site.
- If the path had not been there the shoreline would have eroded whatever vegetation was there and would have created a new sandy shoreline. The erosion is happening along the whole shoreline not just in the location of the path.
- The trees along the stretch are being undercut and undermined. An option must eventually be applied along a longer stretch rather than just a small stretch of shoreline, where the current path erosion is occurring.
- In our assessment that we undertook with the Swan River Trust the options are:
  - 1 Protect the path in its current location which given that it is a long sandy beach stretch is quite difficult because there is nothing to tie the hard structures into. This is not effective as the erosion extends out either side of the structure and eventually over time there will be hard structures along the majority of the shoreline the sandy beach will be lost. The result is a riverwall or a rock structure and quite deep water in front of it. There is little or minimal access along the front of the structure.
  - 2 Sand nourish, but given the erosion is along the whole stretch of the Attadale foreshore, the sand nourishment has to be undertaken on a very large scale. Putting a small amount of sand in front of the actual path that is being eroded at the moment is a short term solution.
  - 3 The preferred option is to allow the shoreline to stabilise and relocate the path. This allows the sandy shoreline to recreate itself in the position in equilibrium and future erosion issues are minimised. Given the current location of the path, this option would involve relocating the path.
- MP Rogers and Associates' advice has not changed since our initial investigation in 2011 for the City and the Trust. We believe the City and the Trust have explored further options for relocating the path have come up with the current alignment.
- Mr Mather from Swan River Trust provided the following information to the meeting –
- The Swan River Trust has a joint responsibility for shorelines throughout the Swan Canning River Park.
- In 2007 the Trust undertook a prioritisation and assessment of all the foreshores within the Swan Canning River Park that resulted in "The Swan and Canning Rivers Foreshore Assessment and Management Strategy" document being available on the Swan River Trust Website.

<http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/docs/river-management/foreshore-assessment-management-strategy.pdf>

- This was undertaken to ensure that the Trust strategically invested in shoreline restoration and renourishment given the limited funding available to do those works.
- The area in question here is deemed as a priority three site. It is recommended that re-vegetation and a managed retreat policy be implemented. However with any specific projects the Trust's process is to work with the land manager and seek expert advice hence we engaged MP Rogers. They are on our panel contract as experts in estuarine processes. The Trust obtained that advice and shared that with the City of Melville which indicates that the managed retreat approach with some protection of existing trees be undertaken.
- The complication in this area is that the water's edge in that area is vested as a marine reserve with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. It is to be managed under the Swan Estuary Marine Parks Management Plan which emphasises that the values to be protected there are for the environment and for nesting water birds in that area.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife did advise that they do not support large hard structures such as walls and rock revetments in this area for a number of reasons. These are environmental, limiting access and restricting birds roosting in and around those areas. Hard structures exacerbates the issue and will potentially create a spilled rock revetment over 200 to 400 metres, possibly longer.
- The Swan River Trust are still working with the City of Melville and the Department of Parks and Wildlife on investigating rehabilitation options for that area along the lines of that managed retreat approach protecting existing trees and intensive planting in that area.

## **9.2 Dr G Mahony to present the position of the Friends of Attadale Foreshore.**

Dr Mahony introduced himself and advised he has been a resident of Attadale for 30 years. Dr Mahony presented the position of the Friends of Attadale Foreshore.

- The community wants and has always wanted the reinstatement of the 50 metres of damaged pathway at the foreshore.
- Placing this in context the City features 18.1 kilometres of foreshore of which 50 metres represents 0.28% of the foreshore.
- The Community is angry at the Council's decision to install a pathway around Burke Drive without sufficient community consultation in the process. The 50 metres of damaged pathway resides within the Attadale Marine Park.
- The pathway has existed on this alignment for over 30 years during which time it has undergone repairs and upgrades. The river water does wash into this area under certain circumstances. This section of pathway and its adjoining shorefront has been left for several years to deteriorate unimpeded. The longer it is left the greater the cost to reinstate.

- Dr Mahony noted other reclamation of the Swan River in particular for the Freeway development around Perth City and that the City of Melville had budgeted \$200,000 to install the realigned pathway.
- The pathway design was approved in January 2013 and engaged with the Swan River Trust and Department of Parks and Wildlife on the proposal. A letter was sent to 420 residents in the immediate area advising the proposal. This letter was not considered to be sufficient consultation.
- The community is interested in foreshore access and not technical arguments on erosion. The preservation of river foreshore is important for all involved. Dr Mahony estimated that the cost of repairing the damaged pathway to be \$70,000 against a cost of \$200,000 for the new pathway. The reinstatement of the damaged pathway and foreshore is the community's wish.
- Dr Mahony advised that the Swan River Trust and the Department of Parks and Wildlife will only accept a submission from the City. The Council resolution to establish a working group with the Swan River Trust, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Friends of Attadale Foreshore is supported. The community focus is to have the 50 metres of damaged pathway and foreshore reinstated.

### **9.3 Mr M Nichol - Chairman of Friends of Attadale Foreshore.**

Mr Nichol thanked the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer, City of Melville officers and the representatives from the Swan River Trust and MP Rogers for the opportunity to present the address on the foreshore pathway. In particular he thanked Councillors and residents advising that there were more Electors in attendance tonight than there were at the Annual General Meeting of Electors last week.

Mr Nichol advised the meeting that he has been a resident of Attadale for almost 50 years.

He advised:

- Friends of Attadale Foreshore, of which Mr Nichol is Chairman, at the request of ratepayers, is coordinating the intent to reinstate the eroded pathway.
- The group was similarly involved in the successful campaign for underground power to Attadale.
- Friends of Attadale Foreshore have been actively volunteering on the foreshore between Alfred Cove and Point Walter for the 14 years since their incorporation, providing from grants and their own funds more than \$400,000 in rehabilitation work and almost 5,000 volunteer hours.
- Recently the group collected over 200 bin bags of rubbish and weeds from between Point Walter and Alfred Cove.
- The group sponsored 50 high school students at Point Walter to study water birds, river invertebrates, the ecology of Point Walter Blackwall Reach Reserve and erosion control completed by the Bicton Environmental Action Group.

- Major achievements include the planting of 20,000 sedges or reeds as they are generally known, along the foreshore completely rehabilitating the Attadale conservation reserve and providing the funding for the fence to protect bird life.

Mr Nichol commented:

- The community wanted to know what can be done to reinstate the pathway.
- The information provided to the Friends of Attadale Foreshore from their experienced advisor is similar to that presented by others this evening. He had proposed additional measures for erosion control.
- That lateral thinking to achieve a positive solution was a desired outcome.
- The pathway be reinstated at a higher level than the existing path and with rehabilitation between the pathway and fence.
- Our concept is for 1.8 metre wide pedestrian access which allows a minimum width of 4.5 metres from the chain mesh fence for erosion protection.
- At the intersections of the new dual use and existing paths, a pedestrian access only gates be installed.
- Nesting birds have not been observed in the Attadale area but do inhabit Alfred Cove and recently on the Point Walter bank.
- The use of Casuarinas for erosion protection has a consequence of their pine needles damaging the soil preventing sedges from establishing.

The Mayor thanked Mr Nichol for his presentation and recognised the hard work and passion that had gone into the foreshore by the Friends of Attadale Foreshore. The Mayor referred to the display in the National Museum in Canberra that recognises the work done by the Friends group.

#### **9.4 Other questions or presentations on the topic of the meeting.**

**Mr C Walkley, Bicton**

##### Question 1

Mr Walkley asked if there was enough consideration given to drainage in the area in the winter months as distinct from water from the river? Mr Walkley advised this was a very subterranean area that needed to be built up.

##### Response

The A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- This area was originally a wetland area subject to natural inundation.
- The area is subject to inundation through the Dieback and Sheoak areas.
- Mr Olsson has mentioned any renourishment in this area will need to be extensive and would be something that would need to be ongoing.
- High tides and storm events and the length of fetch from the North East and North West would cause a significant erosion of this area that would continue. Then we would see that renourishment sand being sucked back out into the river area.

Although it may seem like an option the City believes that would be a short term option in the context of the erosion seen in this area.

### Question 2

Mr Walkley advised this was on Page Street not inundation from the River. This was an additional problem.

### Response

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

It is not the only area around the river where we see that phenomenon. It is the interaction between the river and the ground water. There is an increase in the ground water during winter. In summer that ground water would normally flow into the river. In winter there are higher river levels and the ground water can't go anywhere so it backs up into the shallow areas and creates that swampy effect.

### Question 3

In the Burke Drive area, the only areas where there is water log water is that area around where the path is. The rest of Burke Drive down to Alfred Cove is marvellous.

### Response

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

A topographic map of the area will show that it is the lowest point along the entire foreshore. That is the reason it is swampy.

## **T Leaver, Mt Pleasant**

### Question 1

Mr Leaver advised that he is a ratepayer of almost 50 years. His main concern with this area is erosion. Mr Leaver advised that he was with the Public Works Department for 41 years and was associated with the work. Mr Leaver provided the following information on the site –

Some of the reclamation was put there to put up a bank for the rubbish tip which is underneath the grassed area now.

There used to be a nice big large beach at Point Walter. A lot of that over the years was eroded progressively and the Government made a decision to replace some of that sand.

Mr Leaver gave a indication of water levels relating to this particular area.

Mr Leaver commented:

- There have been extensive erosion protection works carried out at Point Walter.
- Due to erosion, several large trees were undermined and removed.
- A water depth sounding comparison between Point Walter and the Attadale fence line shows a similar depth 60 metres from Point Walter foreshore compared to 120 metres from Attadale foreshore.
- Heavy engineering works have been undertaken at Point Walter and Melville Beach Parade but they are not supported at Attadale to hold erosion.

#### Response

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

- That area has been dredged significantly.
- Other options such as walling and rock revetment were considered but it wouldn't just extend that 50 metres of path.
- There would be a total loss of the beach as it will be at the bottom of a wall. Como foreshore along the Freeway is an example.
- At Attadale foreshore, a hard engineering structure for a 50 metre path will require ongoing support and is expected to require additional wall or rock revetment for 200 to 400 metres. This would require removal of vegetation to reinstate the path.
- The works undertaken at Point Walter were supported by the Swan River Trust for the purposes of a high use community area.
- Alfred Cove Marine Park and nature reserve is not deemed high use recreation and is set aside for conservation values.

#### **A Harwood, Attadale**

##### Question 1

Are you going to let the river recede back to its original foreshore line? If it has been 40 years since it was dredged could we do some more dredging say 10% of the original works to replace the sand that has been eroded over that 40 years which would obviously mean it would need to be done every 40 years?

##### Response

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

- The Swan River Trust will support sedge planting and protection of existing and additional trees to not allow the River to resume the past foreshore position.
- The effect of El Nino and increased storm events will affect the foreshore position.
- The Swan River Trust has commenced a feasibility study of dredging the River for renourishment of certain areas. This is currently at Como and in Fremantle. Preliminary advice on the environmental approval process has been obtained together with technical feasibility advice.

- If this feasibility is successful, and Como foreshore is successful, other sites would be considered in consultation with the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the City of Melville.

### Response

Mr Nichol responded.

- The Friends of Attadale Foreshore undertook engineering studies on restoring a section of that sandbank such that it would inhibit the action that is going on now.
- Estimates costed out at a little less than \$2million.
- The Member for Alfred Cove will be approached to request funding for this project.

### **B Collins, Attadale**

#### Question 1

Mr Collins commented:

- The matter of erosion and wildlife should be put after the interests of people.
- A solution of using decking has been used in far North Queensland.
- The decking used is a composite material.

Mr Collins questions:

1. Has anyone considered that, has anyone considered speaking to other Councils who have had similar problems because I have today?
2. I have spoken with Belmont Council for example. They have a lot higher ground but they have invested and they have had similar problems. If there hasn't been any discussion with other Councils why not?

### Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- The options that we did consider form part of a Council report that was presented in July 2013.
- An analysis of options concluded that an extension of a boardwalk would be required over time at a cost of \$500,000.
- The consideration of the realignment was done in association with the Swan River Trust and MP Rogers.
- The realignment of the path is costing \$201,000 of which \$100,000 is coming in a grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation net of that the City's cost to realign this path is \$101,000.
- Mr Christie advised he was a former employee of the City of Belmont immediately prior to commencing with the City of Melville and aware of the foreshore issues in particular associated with Garvey Park and Ascot Waters Estate.



**R Springer, Attadale**Question 1

Mr Springer commented:

- He has lived in Attadale for 50 years.
- The foreshore was a swamp area.
- The existing path is approximately two metres while the new pathway is at least six metres wide.
- The City has planted growth close to Burke Drive that requires removal for the pathway to be laid.

Mr Springer's questions;

- 1 If the experts had been employed indicate that they feel that the river may well impact to an area of five metres from where the fence line is at the moment then why would the path not be moved simply five metres away from there?
- 2 Why does it have to be taken all the way to Burke Drive?

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- The new path that is being installed would not be three times the width of the path that was presented on the screen, this path is at least 1.8 if not 2.4 metres in width. The path that is being installed around the back of the bushland area on Burke Drive will be three metres in width.
- That is the standard now for dual use paths and I think it is important to note that this section was and still is part of the Perth Bicycle Network. The need to provide that continuity which has been missing for some two years now is the reason why the path is being realigned to ensure the connectivity of the Perth Bicycle Network and it will be three metres wide.
- With regard to the foreshore being five metres back from what you was shown on the screen as mentioned by Mr Mather, the City can't guarantee that it is going to be five metres unless there is some rehabilitation of this area. It could be more or with climate change and **El Niño** and storm events that could extend further back.
- The other issue is to the right of that washed out path area shown on the screen there is Dieback in the area. There are three different strains and the concern is trying to contain Dieback and not seeing it extend throughout the Swan River Park.

Question 2

I just wonder why in the rush to push the path through that the Council omitted to notice the significant tree that has ended up in the middle of the new pathway?

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- Part of the consideration with realignment was to protect as much vegetation as we can and limit any removal.
- The path will deviate either side of that tree to retain the tree in situ.
- Some Grevillea and Zamia palms will need to be relocated.
- In discussion with Mrs Nichol, a slight realignment has occurred to limit any removal of Zamia palms. Any removal or pruning will be kept to a minimum.

**C Walkley, Bicton**Question 1

Why are you so concerned about the Path and cyclists? There are not that many cyclists there. It is only leisurely cyclists that use the path that went along the front and are going to use the new path. 95% of cyclists going down Burke Drive go along the main road and they go in their hundreds at various times but the ones along the path by the foreshore are what I call recreational cyclists as distinct from semi professional. Have you taken that into consideration?

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- Commuter cyclists are the ones that use Burke Drive and travel at significant speeds and generally in pelotons.
- Despite that we are aware that recreational cyclists will still use the Perth Bicycle Network and the City has an obligation to try and ensure road safety, cyclist safety and pedestrian safety in these areas. Hence the path needs to be some three metres wide.
- It is part of the Perth Bicycle Network and we need to ensure that we consider all aspects of safety when reinstating the path.

**G Bowman, Attadale**Question 1

My question was regarding the comment about Dieback. Mr Christie mentioned that the Dieback was an issue around realigning the path five metres. My understanding is that Dieback is possibly spread by water so if you are allowing a managed retreat with the river going towards the Dieback infested area is that not an issue?

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- The issue here is trying to limit the effect of the Dieback and in doing so obviously trying to protect the integrity of the foreshore further along.
- The City would not consider the realignment of the path through there and allow pedestrian access through the Dieback area.
- The boardwalk installed by the City runs through the Friends of Attadale Foreshore area as a result of the Dieback to try and limit that spread. Foot washing stations have been provided to limit spread of Dieback.
- Shifting the path through that area without any barrier or protection could allow the disease to spread throughout the marine park.

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

I am reasonably confident that salt water does not actually transport the Dieback.

Question 2

Mr Bowman referred to a fact sheet published by the City of Melville concerning Dieback being spread by water rather than a hard path surface.

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- Relocating the path some five metres back is one action. Continuing to protect that path would be another.
- The issue is to determine what form of protection would be suitable to protect any footpath into the future and long term without further erosion happening.
- Mr Mather said the issue is about a managed retreat and any rehabilitation of this area. The City would certainly be looking to limit the spread of Dieback and the inundation of sea water beyond what was shown on the screen.
- Managing it is difficult but certainly the City will do whatever it can to try and limit the spread of that disease.

**O Mueller, Murdoch**Question 1

Why are those trees in the background grey? Are they affected by Dieback? Are they affected by any other salt water intrusion? Are they a species which can't stand that particular type of water of which we are now discovering in our Swan River and indeed as far as Dieback is concerned? Dieback spurs are swept through the soil profile when that soil profile is wet enough in spring or in winter if you have dry soil it should not produce any more Dieback in the vicinity from the spot where it started.

Response

A/Chief Executive Officer responded.

- I can confirm that the trees that you see on the screen in the background which are grey are dead and they are Casuarinas.
- It is a combination of Dieback and erosion that is happening. The tree is obviously struggling and the City is beginning to see more and more of this happening further to the East. It is only a matter of time before we see further trees die and fall into this river as a result of the erosion.

Mr Mather, Swan River Trust responded.

- The Trust understands that that area is inundated in the winter and it has Dieback in this area that is a transport risk.
- There is fresh water coming into that area and any path that would be considered in that area would need to be effectively managed and fence off the affected area to ensure that people don't enter into wet areas and transport Dieback. It would require significant management.

**9.5 Mr M Nichol to speak and present a motion.**

Mr Nichol spoke prior to presenting the motion –

- Commented about Casuarinas poisoning the ground beneath their root base.
- The Casuarinas have been falling over for about three or four years particularly East of this location.
- Mr Nichol commented on Forrest Highway being made through a Dieback area.
- A fenced Dieback area permits people to move through the area without spreading Dieback.
- The path will require raising if it goes through the Dieback area.
- Mr Nichol asked the Swan River Trust to commence shoreline work now.
- The new dual use cycle path provides a pathway around the river.
- The community desires the re-establishment of the full foreshore path for pedestrian use which will require erosion control that is not necessarily limited to the washed out area.
- What could be resolved for erosion control may have universal application to the Swan River Foreshore and in particular Melville Waters.
- Should this motion be resolved in the affirmative and the City of Melville adopts and proceeds with the intent, Friends of Attadale Foreshore will provide an amount of their own money as well as applying for a number of grants to reinstate the damaged pathway.
- Additionally we would apply for grants to undertake erosion control to affected areas around the foreshore parallel to the Attadale conservation reserve and Burke Drive.
- We believe that having had one proposal costed that we can restore the path including adjoining erosion control in the order of \$100,000. Dr Mahony mentioned \$70,000 earlier that was just for the pathway and the estimate did not include the erosion control.

- There is an approval provided by Aboriginal Heritage for this strategy without the need for their further involvement.

At 8.24pm Mr M Nichol of Attadale moved, seconded Mr C Walkley of Bicton –

**That the City of Melville form a working party to evaluate all options for reinstatement of the closed Attadale Foreshore Pathway, including erosion control and implement the preferred option:**

- 1. The evaluation process shall include representatives from the Swan River Trust, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Friends of Attadale Foreshore (Inc.) and have the ability to co-opt other community groups and specialist as required.**
- 2. The initial meeting shall be convened on a Thursday in February, following Council's Ordinary Meeting in February 2014 and continuing fortnightly thereafter.**

At 8.25pm the Mayor submitted the motion, which was declared

**CARRIED**

#### **M Nichol**

Mr Mayor, Councillors and Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your support in attending this evening and look forward to some convivial meetings where we can resolve this.

#### **C Walkley, Bicton**

Mr Walkley commented:

- Two Councillors have supported the issues discussed tonight.
- There are more electors attending tonight than at the Annual General Meeting of Electors as this is an important issue for the City of Melville.

His Worship the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and looked forward to a resolution of this situation.

Cr Taylor-Rees acknowledged the work of the Friends of Attadale Foreshore and electors who attended this meeting.

The Mayor recognised the attendance of all the Councillors this evening and Mr Mather from Swan River Trust and Mr Olsson from MP Rogers and thanked them for their attendance at the meeting.

**9. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, His Worship the Mayor, R Aubrey, declared the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.