



## McConnell Avenue Reserve Marino | Proposed Revocation and Disposal of Land & Eastern improvements

### Consultation Submission

The Association is opposed to the disposal of the Western portion of McConnell Reserve and whilst we welcome improvements to the Eastern half of the reserve, the modest concept **has not** been developed in consultation with the community as promised in 2017 and does not go far enough and does not reflect the wishes of the community

*We are working hard with The Friends of McConnell Reserve and the community to broker a better outcome on this matter and ask Council to endorse a more rigorous engagement with the wider community on the future the whole of this important reserve, beyond a local asset. It is imperative that Council retain the Western side as community land and follow through on their promise and back their policy of consultation to the full extent.*

This is as much about the process as it is about the issue!

#### Process

The Council agreed in 2017 to undertake consultation on the designs for the Eastern Side and implement those improvements and monitor the usage of the upgraded eastern side of the reserve, prior to considering the future of the western side. This was considered a reasonable compromise at the time. Despite many attempts via administration and elected members the community and this Association to engage with Council on the future of the reserve and to ensure that the consultation process followed all of the Council's consultation policy

1. Inform
2. Consult
3. Involve
4. Collaborate
5. Empower

Council has certainly done No1 and No2 in a relatively short space of time but 3-5 are nowhere to be seen! Despite the evidence provided by the community to be more than willing and capable of those last three stages.

The questionnaire style of on line consultation is very limiting when trying to capture the true needs of the community. The budget and implementation program has been set without any consultation with the community, again not a very democratic or collaborative process, certainly not aligned with Council's consultation policy and open space strategy of engagement



**5049 communicator**  
*Stronger together*

and partnering with a community that has demonstrated excellent capacity and skills to assist Council in delivering exemplary community facilities.

So how council can believe that at the end of this process they will have fulfilled their obligation in terms of consultation is hard to fathom as is the simple fact that they are asking the same question as they did in 2017 and expecting a different answer without any engagement in the last 3 years to shape the concept!!

### **The Issues**

Our position on the issues is very clear as per our website ([here](#)) We feel that by any measure the disposal of valuable accessible community land is extremely short sighted. Our research and that of others covering the local community, councils and state government policies support our approach to ensure Council seriously reconsiders its proposal:

- This is a suburb wide issue
- No notice of this process
- Consultation Closing close to Christmas with limited opportunity for dialogue
- Lack of investment over last 25 years, no wonder it looks redundant it is so out of step with trends.
- This is not just a local reserve Marino is under supplied with level accessible public open space
- This is a unique level location with views
- This should be a destination reserve
- Its potential for multi-purpose use by all should be unlocked
- It should be linked via a network to other open spaces
- Let's keep this land for future generations as our population increases and demographics change
- The local community is overwhelmingly in support of retaining the west and upgrading the whole reserve; and are willing to share its bounty.
- Refer to the paper petition and online petition.
- Open Space policy does not appear to make allowances for the future increased density, population and demographic shifts so how is the western side redundant

### **Conclusion**

Council should endorse the following

- 1 Retain the western portion of the reserve as community land



## 5049 communicator

*Stronger together*

- 2 Take account of the potential impacts of the increased population and demographic changes brought about by the Seacliff Park development and the new Planning & Design Code.
- 3 Reclassify the combined eastern and western reserves to a Neighbourhood Level open space category
- 4 Commence a more detailed consultation process about the future of the whole reserve engaging with the key stakeholders on the preferred methodology in line with Councils own consultation policy employing up to all 5 methods.
- 5 Ensure that there is adequate community wide consultation and engagement within a reasonable time frame.
- 6 With the support of the community seek funding support from both State and Federal Govt to upgrade the facilities consistent with a Neighbourhood Level open space classification.

DRAFT