

## **Bandon Tce Reserve Upgrade**

*Hi, I'm Sally Liddy & this is Mary Raymond*

*Thank you for the opportunity to address Council about our concerns regarding the Bandon Tce Upgrade.*

*The South Eastern area of Bandon Tce Reserve as shown in the photo is the gateway to Marino Beach & has massive appeal.*

*We are here tonight to object to Marion Council's plan to remove all of the lawn area at the South Eastern end of the Park and conduct a trial to replace it with Native Grasses.*

*The lawn area is a space that is well used, very much loved, enjoyed & highly valued by the Community.*

*It is a focal point for our Community & provides an alternative space apart from the Playground zone.*

*This area provides a significant open play space for all ages, is a pleasant area to exercise our dogs, and provides a soft landing when playing vigorous & active games.*

*The Council's proposed plan does not provide anywhere to sit in the shade under a tree due to garden beds & under plantings for all trees in the park.*

*When we were conducting our Petition many residents made comments about the cooling effect of the lawn during the heat of summer & the positive, calming effect on the mental health of people in the Community.*

*Our park has enormous visual appeal & is a valuable asset which has been an incentive for many residents to buy in this area*

*We are concerned that the removal of the lawn area will affect the value of our homes*

*This is a photo of native grasses adjacent the Marino Community Garden in Newland Avenue. It shows that during summer the stand of native grasses hay off and become semi dormant resulting in a dry and unusable space. This is what we can expect next summer in place of the green, useable space that we currently have.*

*The Rytidosperma species (Wallaby grass) proposed for planting in the trial are clumping perennial plants. Seedling vigour is poor and germination is slow in winter so weed control will be required.*

*This would most likely mean boom spraying herbicide which the community is not keen on. Boom spraying would also most likely be required post germination if plant density is low as Wallaby grass could easily be outcompeted by annual and broadleaf weeds. This is something that has not been required in our park in recent years as the stand of kikuyu is thick and outcompeting of most weeds.*

*A stand of dried native grasses in summer in place of the green and healthy kikuyu we currently have will not provide the same cooling effect as the kikuyu, nor will the amenity value be what it is currently for the Community.*

*For a stand of native grasses to remain healthy, seed and recruit seedlings for competition with weeds, and offer a cooling effect, it will need to be irrigated during summer, much the same as kikuyu.*

*Our Community recommends that if council wishes to trial the use of native grasses in large scale landscaping that it does so in an area where there is no reduction for the community in green space and current amenity.*

*The north western end of Bandon Tce Reserve could be an alternative location to conduct a native grass trial as this area is sadly neglected, bare and under utilised.*

*We are also requesting more information from council and an opportunity for Community involvement in the planning of any native grass trial that may proceed in Bandon Tce Reserve.*

*Specifically, how long will the trial period be, how will it be monitored and what will be considered a successful trial.*

*If it is unsuccessful, we also seek a commitment from council that it will be reinstated.*

*Of 151 Residents that we spoke to, 145 did not understand the South Eastern lawn area was being replaced with Native grasses.*

*Our Community has a sense of pride in our park & passion to retain the South Eastern lawn.*

*We request that the Council DO NOT remove the lawn at the South Eastern end of Bandon Tce Reserve as this is a very important area to us.*