



Marino Residents Association

Incorporating Kingston Park

Helping to build a better Community

21 May 2018

**City of Holdfast Bay
PO Box 19
BRIGHTON SA 5048**

Attn: Mr Just Lynch CEO

Dear Justin

Re: Kingston Park Reserve Public Forum: Holdfast Bay Council Update

The Marino Residents Association's public forum held on 15 May, 2018 at the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club attracted approximately 150 local residents. Its primary objective was to provide residents of Marino, Kingston Park and Seacliff with an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the status and progress of plans associated with the Kingston Park Reserve and to provide their responses to those plans. The forum was highly engaging and successful.

The Association was pleased to be able to bring together local residents and Council representatives to have a long overdue discussion on the Kingston Park foreshore reserve. Our local residents, in general, agree with a number of the points and positions raised by the Council but there are also a number of issues that remain unresolved.

We would like to commend your staff, Ms Pam Jackson, Mr Rajiv Mouveri and Mr Warwick Deller Coombs for their contributions to this forum. Their presentations were insightful and professional. Their input provided important information with clarity and purpose and their responses to questions raised were proficiently dealt with. Please extend our appreciation to them.

We also appreciated the attendance of Acting Mayor Amanda Wilson and Acting Deputy Mayor Annette Bradshaw and thank them for their support.

We believe that the key messages resulting from the forum, about which there is generally concurrence and agreement between the Council and local residents, are:

- There is a shared appreciation by both the Council and the community that the Kingston Park Reserve and its environs is a very important, unique and culturally and environmentally sensitive site. This needs to be protected and respected. The community does not want any major changes to this environment. The site and its environs should, in keeping with the Kaurua community's wishes and expectations, be considered a place of contemplation, healing and reflection. Commercial and tourist development should be kept to a minimum. Anything that increases traffic flow into the area should be minimised as the scope for increased parking places to accommodate more vehicles is clearly limited.

- There is shared support for a quality kiosk. This again should be of an informal type appropriate to the setting as per the 2015 masterplan; that does not increase traffic to the area or exert any more pressure on the limited parking currently available. Some residents questioned the final location of the kiosk in terms of environmental impact and suggested locating the kiosk closer to the old one. As per our understanding of the Masterplan, the kiosk was intended to have interpretive elements within and around it; recognising the history and cultural significance of the area. It was never intended to be a large interpretive centre in the traditional sense. Council have articulated that the majority of the interpretation should be experiential and external; enhancing the already existing trail.
- The fact that the area is recognised as a high value biodiversity area. Residents also requested that this and the marine biodiversity be part of any interpretive strategy and that they should both be conserved and protected as much as possible.
- Given the delay in implementation of the Masterplan, we are pleased that Council have an interim plan to revegetate and rejuvenate the Reserve, restore damage to the area following the coast path works, and improve parking. We are keen to view those plans and share them with the community.
- Recognition that the traffic and transport pressures in the area need to be addressed. There is limited parking in the area and the loss of the overflow parking space has only amplified this problem. We agree that the concept of Council putting a parking time restriction in the existing carpark has merit as it would help to discourage overflow from caravan park visitors and staff, and as a consequence, free up parks for locals and visitors. A comprehensive city-wide traffic strategy, we understand, is to be commissioned by the Council. We would appreciate being advised of its results and findings. Will that be able to include a comprehensive traffic management and access strategy for Kingston Park Reserve?
- There is no appetite by the community for a large regional playground to replace what is there now. The current playground with updated equipment and remediated surrounds is the preferred position by locals. Many want to see the natural environment enhanced and protected. It is already a great place for kids to play and explore in a natural setting. We already enjoy the best "nature play" space currently and there is therefore no need to formalise it and exclude other uses of the spaces. The use of the term "play space," in Council's presentation rather than "regional adventure playground," which implies a smaller formalised play area with less impact, was appreciated. There is also a large new playground currently being constructed at the nearby Angus Neill Reserve at Seacliff with ample parking provisions which will attract local residents and visitors. There is no need for costly duplication.

However, there was no resolution or agreement by Council and community emanating from the forum on the following matters, that require action and follow up:

- The Council was unable to provide expected time frames or implementation programs and budget allocations for the Masterplan. The community appreciates the 'special conditions' and challenges associated with this Reserve and its environs, but is keen to see a properly costed implementation plan, including the issues raised in the forum. What is the proposed program for the delivery of the Masterplan? What is the funding strategy for the next stages of the Masterplan? This aspect was covered in the Masterplan report in some detail. Has it been updated recently?

- The Council was unable to guarantee that further community consultation would take place. We trust that the City of Holdfast Bay will take the residents' concerns and comments on board and report on progress and potential changes to the Masterplan through the Association as well as Council media.
- Concerns were also expressed about the absence of lighting to the path in the Reserve in particular, however acknowledging that the right balance needs to be achieved between lighting the walkway and maintaining this space as a natural area with a beautiful night time view along the coast.
- Further concerns were expressed about the need for better monitoring of some unsavoury activities in the current toilets and upgrading of the public toilets to prevent that in future.

Clearly the current important negotiations with the Kaurua Community and the associated new process will delay the finalisation of the Masterplan. Our community residents at the forum learnt a lot more about the sensitive and complex issues around the successful delivery of the Kingston Park Foreshore Masterplan. Council have also heard from the community about what their concerns and priorities are. We will continue to liaise with Council and advocate for a sensitive and respectful *less is more* approach. We are hopeful that given the time lapse since the master plan was approved and the potential changes that will come as a result of your review of this forum; that the community will have an opportunity to comment on those changes before they are implemented.

We look forward to meeting with Pam and Rajiv to frame a detailed response on the issues above, to our Association members.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bagshaw', written on a light blue background.

David Bagshaw – *President*

Marino Residents Association *Incorporating Kingston Park*

Cc: Acting Mayor, Amanda Wilson
Acting Deputy Mayor, Annette Bradshaw
Mr David Speirs, MP, Member for Black
Ms Nicole Flint, MP, Member for Boothby