

Submission regarding the proposed upgrade of McConnell Reserve East and the proposed revocation of McConnell Reserve West

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am a resident of Seacliff and a member of the 5049 Coastal Community Association. I am a senior practising engineer and I was the National President of Engineers Australia in 2015.

I am a strong believer that decisions regarding infrastructure and open space, at the local, state and national levels, should always consider the stated needs and desires of the relevant communities and users, and have a regard to both the current and the future needs of these stakeholders.

I have participated in a Zoom consultation meeting with members of Marion Council staff, and appreciate their time in listening to me and answering my questions regarding the proposed actions on McConnell Reserve.

Having visited the Reserve several times, I can see the potential value of the reserve as an open space asset for not only the local residents, but the wider community. But clearly the Reserve, both East and West, is in dire need of major upgrades.

With the planned developments in the area, and the growing population in the area, it is extremely short-sighted to consider selling off any current open space community assets; **and I strongly oppose the sale of the Western portion,**

Instead, I make the following recommendations to Marion Council:

- Raise the classification of McConnell Reserve to a Neighbourhood Level open space.
- Consult with the Friends of McConnell Reserve, the 5049 Coastal Community Association, and the wider community on what upgrades are desirable for the combined Reserve, including integration and road closure.
- Through this process determine a preferred upgrade solution for the integrated Reserve.
- With the assistance of the community, seek external funding to assist in the preferred upgrade solution, noting that Marion Council has already committed \$217,000 to an upgrade of the Eastern Reserve.

Yours truly,

Dr David Cruickshanks-Boyd
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5049