

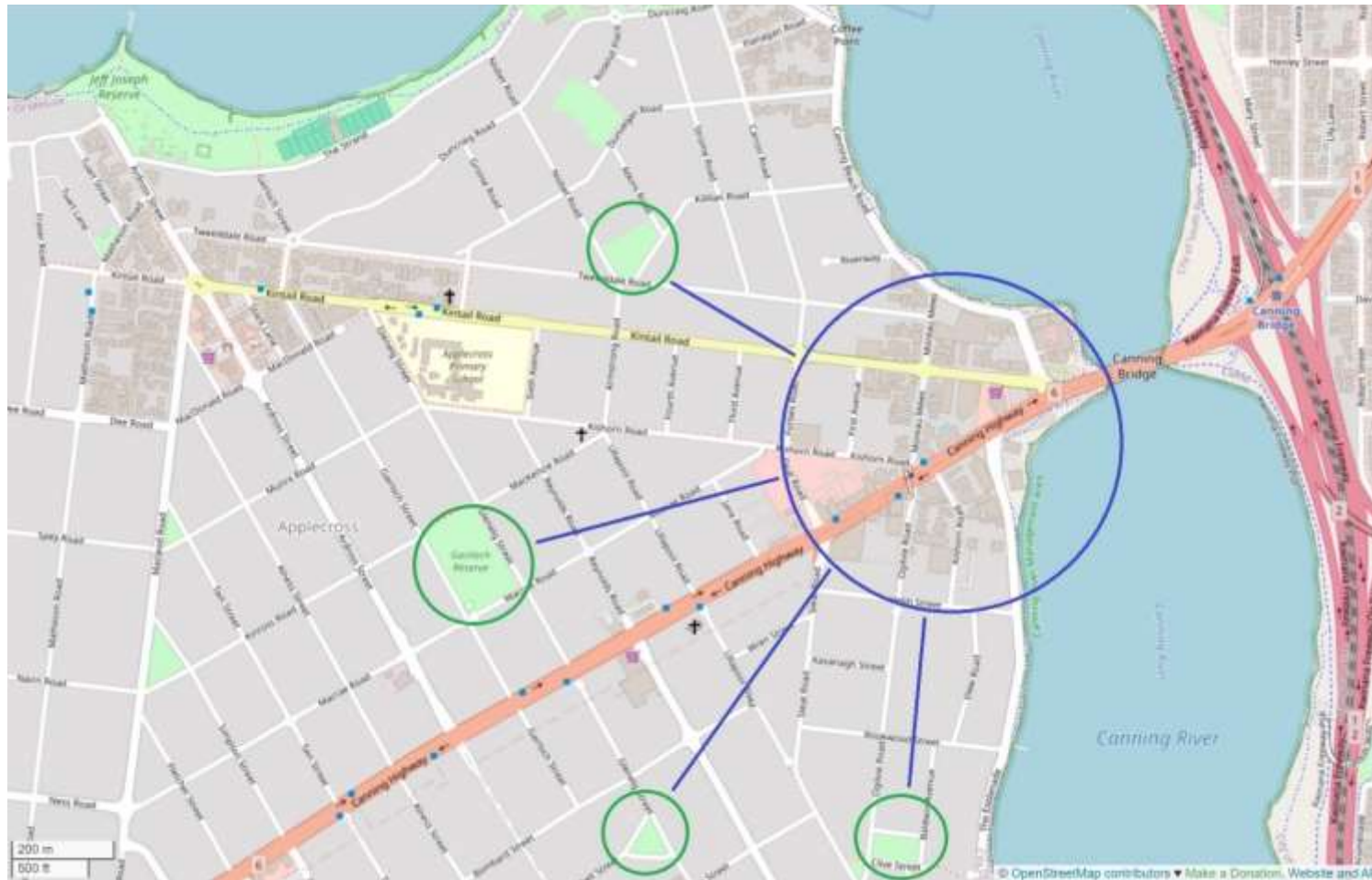
City of Melville Special Meeting of Electors

Monday 25th March 2024

Presentations by the Speakers

“The blue circle marks the area where most of the high-rise development is taking place. With new high-rise apartment blocks, there are thousands of people moving into the area. However, what has been noticed by many residents, no new green open spaces are being developed within a 400m radius of these buildings.”

Dr Agata Cabanek, researcher, lecturer and supervisor in landscape architecture and sustainable urbanism at UWA and Curtin University.



First Speaker: Ian Peacock, Chairperson for Melville City Climate Action Network.

My name is Ian Peacock, I am the Chairperson for Melville City Climate Action Network. We have brought you all here today, to show our elected members that there is overwhelming support for public open space in the Canning Bridge Area.

I and my colleagues, speaking this evening, will try to inform the community why we have brought you here today. We have initiated this meeting, because there are serious concerns regarding the attempt made by some councillors to rescind the decisions to convert the city owned land at 13 The Esplanade, Mount Pleasant and Moreau Mews, Applecross to Public Open Space.

Despite the construction of hundreds of dwellings in the Canning Bridge Area Precinct there is currently NO public open space. There is a real urgency for local green open space. We are extremely concerned that the decision for funding of the park at 13 The Esplanade was deferred until May. The provision of Public Open Space in the area is so urgent the conversion of this site to a park should be happening right now.

Looking at a brief timeline of events that lead to this evening.

In 2011 The Original Canning Bridge Precinct Vision was released.

On 17 March 2015 and without consultation, the council resolved to demolish the Melville Senior Citizens centre at 13 The Esplanade/64 Kishorn Road.

Numerous consultants have been engaged to provide reports on the Canning Bridge Precinct, of which many refer to the need for Public open space. 2016 GHD Consultants were contracted to prepare the Canning Bridge Master Plan.

2018 Colliers International were contracted to prepare a proposal for the sale or lease and redevelopment of the site.

Canning Bridge Original Vision from 2011



13 The Esplanade/64 Kishorn Road Mt Pleasant Empty since Senior Citizens Centre demolition in 2015



2019, 2020, the city engaged Element Consultants. They concluded there needed to be 2 urban piazzas, to act as central spaces for events, for social activities, and informal gatherings, 1 North & 1 South Canning Highway.

Sept 2020 to April 2022. The council chose to consider a long-term ground lease of the site with the aged care provider ORYX, who proposed the building of a 10-story aged care home. After 19 months of failed negotiations over the lease, Council voted 11 to 2, not to proceed.

At the Annual General Meeting of Electors in February 2022, Motions moved by members of the public to convert both sites to POS, were carried.

In June 2022 the council was presented with an open letter and petition, with some 1,300 signatures, seeking the conversion of the sites to POS.

In February 2023 Hatch Roberts Day consultants completed the CBACP review.

After extensive investigation by City officers, no alternative sites for POS were found. Consequently, in April 2023 after rejecting the officers various other proposed development options. Council voted 10/2 in favour of converting 100% of both sites to POS.

Finally in April 2023 a council resolution was passed to proceed with a park at 13 The Esplanade. This resolution to convert both spaces to POS was submitted to the WAPC

Feb 2022 Annual General Meeting of Electors

MOTION 5 – MR BARRY JONES, MOUNT PLEASANT

At 7:08pm Mr B Jones of Mount Pleasant seconded Mr Meshkin of Applecross –

That:

1. The City of Melville immediately terminate all lease negotiations with the proposed lessee of 13 The Esplanade & 64 Kishorn Rd, Mt Pleasant for commercial development of this site.
2. The City of Melville take the opportunity to restore the former Mt Pleasant Senior Citizens site at 13 The Esplanade & 64 Kishorn Rd, Mt Pleasant for community use as a predominantly public open green space with intensive tree plantings.

At 7:28pm the Presiding Member declared the motion

CARRIED (29/3)

April 2023 OMC Voted to convert both sites to POS Council voted 10/2 in favour to convert both sites to POS.

City of Melville Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council
18 and 19 April 2023

UP23/4033 – CANNING BRIDGE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OPTION ANALYSIS REPORT (REC)
(ATTACHMENT)

Amendment

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At 7:42pm Cr Sandford moved, seconded Cr Barber –

2. Deleting point 5 and replacing with the following point 5:

"5. with regard to the City owned land at 50-52 Kishorn Road and 23, 29 and 31 Moreau Mews, Applecross, resolves to forthwith progress conversion of 100% of the site to public open space, to include extensive tree planting, a children's playground, and seating."

At 8:28pm the Mayor declared the motion:

CARRIED (10/3)

For	10	Mayor G Dear, Cr T Fitzgerald, Cr G Barber, Cr J Edinger, Cr R Ross, Cr C Ross, Cr M Sandford, Cr J Spensbrink, Cr K Wheatland, Cr M Woodall, Cr N Woodall
Against	3	Cr D Macgregor, Cr N Roberts, Cr N Pazzoli

This resolution to convert both spaces to POS was submitted to the WAPC

Point 14 – Identify Prospective POS

Update Figure 1, 2, 2A & 3 as follows:

3. Depict 27, 29 and 31 Moreau Mews, and 50 Kishorn Street as POS
4. Depict 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road as POS
5. Use a green asterisk to depict "General location of public open space" at the corner of Canning Beach Road and Kintail Road, and North-West corner of Kishorn Road and Forbes Road.
6. Depict "Linking Pathway" along Canning Highway West of Canning Bridge

At 9:32pm, the Mayor declared the motion

CARRIED (10/2)

For	10	Mayor G Dear, Cr T Fitzgerald, Cr G Barber, Cr J Edinger, Cr C Ross, Cr M Sandford, Cr J Spensbrink, Cr K Wheatland, Cr M Woodall, Cr N Woodall
Against	2	Cr D Macgregor, Cr N Roberts

And in Sept 2023 a design for a new park was put out to public consultation.

Proposed design of new park at 13 The Esplanade/64 Kishorn Road, put out to public consultation.



- Public Consultation relating to park design had 71.74% community support
- 72.28% supported the inspirational images
- 67.93% supported the location of zones
- Most frequently use of the park was as a walk through, a place to relax
- and for active recreation
- To walk the dog and a place to have lunch was not identified as an important need
- Key themes identified included parking, green space, playground, seating/shade and amenities.
- 28.98% inform us they have children in the area



Rescission Motion

Despite considerable expenditure by council, extensive consultation, and the overwhelming support of the community, newly elected council members led by Councillor Scott Green decided they could do better for the community. He raised a last-minute rescission motion signed by 4 councillors and the mayor. This motion was an attempt to cancel the proposed Public Open Space at both sites. Thankfully due to public uproar, this rescission motion was withdrawn before the 20 Feb OMC.

At the 20 Feb 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, when the final budget for the Public Open Space at 13 The Esplanade, was to be approved, a new motion was moved by Councillor Wheatland, to further delay the final budget approval vote until the May 24 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

These recent actions by council members show a total disregard for the views of this community and a complete failure to understand the urgent need for Public Open Space in the Canning Bridge area

We have all just struggled through the hottest summer on record and the driest years in 148 years. There is no doubt, we are in a climate emergency. Melville council has put in place policies to act on climate change, yet some councillors choose to completely ignore what the council have set out to achieve for the community.

Despite the council having a tree canopy policy. Tree canopy in the Canning Bridge area (and around the city) is being decimated by infill. The thousands more people living in the area need access to green open space – and YET they still have no park.

MCCAN called this special meeting so the community can show the Councillors the overwhelming support for the parks. We have also now raised a petition with more than 1600 signatures. This is increasing every day, because this community wants these parks, and wants them to proceed without further delay.

We could have had a park by December this year, if they had voted to approve the budget that night.

Type of Motion:
Rescission Motion

Date of meeting where original Council resolution made:

OMC 18 and 19 April 2023
UP23/4033 – Canning Bridge Public Open Space Option Analysis Report
That the Council:

- notes the additional information regarding open space in the Canning Bridge Activity Centre prepared in response to the Council resolution of 18 October 2022;
- acknowledges that the additional information regarding open space in the Canning Bridge Activity Centre will inform Council deliberations on the review of the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan;
- with regards to the City owned land at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant, resolves to forthwith progress conversion of 100% of the site to public open space, to include extensive tree planning, a children's playground, and seating;
- resolves that the lead petitioners for the petition and the multi-signature letter received relating to the future use of 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant be advised of (3) above;
- with regard to the City owned land at 50-52 Kishorn Road and 23, 29 and 31 Morea Mews, Applecross, resolves to forthwith progress conversion of 100% of the site to public open space, to include extensive tree planting, and seating.

OMC 18 July 2023
E23/11 Public Open Space – The Esplanade Mt Pleasant and Moreau Mews Applecross
That the Council resolves to:

- Adopt the following consultation, development and completion timeline for the site at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant. Public consultation, concept plans, report and recommendation to be presented to Council at the February 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council and to provide funding for the construction to commence immediately on approval with a proposed completion date by December 2024.
- Not include any parking spaces on the site at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant.
- Adopt the following consultation, development and completion timeline for the site at 50-52 Kishorn Road and 23, 29, 31 Moreau Mews Applecross. Public consultation, concept plans, report and recommendation to be presented to the October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council and to provide funding for construction to commence immediately on approval with a proposed completion date by 30 June 2026.
- Exercise the redevelopment clauses for 50-52 Kishorn Road and 31 Moreau Mews and give notice on or before October 2023 to obtain vacant possession by 30 November 2024.
- Supports funding to em Page 1 / 3 - Manage City's construction projects in the Canning financial year.

Vote to defer budget decision for park to May 2024 OMC

Procedural Motion

COUNCIL RESOLUTION (E24/29)

At 7:36pm Cr K Wheatland moved, seconded Cr N Robins

That the item E24/29 Public Open Space - The Esplanade Mt Pleasant be deferred to May 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

At 7:40pm the Presiding Member declared the motion.

CARRIED (7/5)

Yes (7): Mayor Katy Mair, Crs Nicole Robins, Jennifer Spanbroek, Karen Wheatland, Matthew Woodall, Soo Hong and Scott Green

No (5): Crs Tomas Fitzgerald, Glynis Barber, Jane Edinger, Clive Ross and Daniel Lim

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

- (A) **The February 2024 Rescission Motion** signed by the mayor and 4 other Councillors to rescind Council's April and July 2023 decisions to convert 100% of the City-owned land at 13-15 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant; and 50-52 Kishorn Rd and 23, 29 and 31 Moreau Mews, Applecross ("Sites") into public open space.
- (B) **Whether the Mayor and Councillors** who signed the said Rescission Motion lodged by Cr Scott Green for decision at the 20 February 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council, and subsequently withdrawn, **acted with due care and diligence to ensure that the reasons cited in the Rescission Motion were true and accurate, and would not bring the City into disrepute**; and whether the Mayor considered that **the late publication of the Rescission Motion** in the Agenda late on Friday 16 February 2024 would **prejudice the wider community** in being able to engage with the City as to their views.
- (C) **Whether to conversion of the Sites to parks are an integral part of the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan ("CBCAP") and Vision; a vital component of the Review of the CBACP submitted to the WACP in 2023; and would contribute towards to the goal of providing walkable public open space within 400 metres or 5 minute walk of every dwelling; and provide green linkages for the community to mitigate against the urban heat island effect of high rise development; and numerous other social, health and economic benefits."**

Reasons for the Rescission Motion:

- Since 2013, many years of strategic planning and \$9M of ratepayers' money have been put towards the purchase and retention of prime land at The Esplanade, Kishorn Road and Moreau Mews locations. The combined value of this land (both purchased and retained) should now be greater than \$20M. As such, these sites are significantly valuable assets that should be delivering significantly more community benefit than the current Council Resolutions allow for.
- After many years of Council support, including a resolution at the September 2020 OMC (Carried 10/2) to prepare a Ground Lease agreement at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Rd, a significant reversal took place at the April 2023 OMC, requesting that all lease negotiations be terminated. This decision appears to have been made in response to community feedback in the form of a Petition (presented at the June 2022 OMC), which called for "Rezoning of 13 Esplanade 64 Kishorn Rd to Public Open Space". This feedback has now been contradicted by further community consultation conducted by City officers, as presented at the 28/11/23 EMES. This process revealed that 70% of those surveyed do not want a playground or exercise equipment. It also revealed that the biggest concern of all those surveyed was a loss of parking options in the area.
- As they stand, the Council resolutions are too prescriptive and restrictive. The specifics outlined in the current resolutions do not allow sufficient flexibility for other desired options to be considered on the sites (eg car parking spaces).
- As made clear by Governance in the 28/11/23 EMES, any deviation from the site uses proposed in the current Council resolutions would require a rescission motion. Many other ideas were put forward by Elected Members at the 28/11/23 EMES, therefore a rescission is necessary to allow other options to be considered.
- It would be beneficial for these matters to be referred to an EMES or a similar forum to review the history of the site and for strategic discussion on future options for the sites, as soon as practicable, that take into consideration the outcome of community consultation processes associated with these sites.

**Reason 1:
Misleading**

**Reason 2:
Incorrect
Reason 3:
Misleading
Reason 4:
Untrue**

Second Speaker: Rosemary Waldron-Hartfield. Member of Council Reference Group.

Good evening, Madam Mayor, Councillors and Members of the Community. I am a member of the Council Reference Group which is the community group that put forward a report regarding the current review of the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan which I will refer to simply as the current Plan.

Tonight, I'm talking about how the provision of the parks is intertwined with the almost finished and much awaited review of the current plan and is also consistent with the evolving vision for the precinct.

The **Canning Bridge Precinct Vision** of 2011, described as key elements the creation of a town square and central community hub; and increasing the size of the foreshore recreation areas in the Precinct. However, no town square and no central community hub has eventuated, and it is just not feasible to increase the size of the foreshore – so these elements of the vision remain unfulfilled.

A short-term initiative of the 2011 Vision, was to provide playgrounds within the Precinct – yet not one playground has been provided.

The **Canning Bridge Masterplan of 2016** had a whole section dedicated to public open spaces. It commenced by stating that the area lacked large expanses of green open space, and identified opportunities for public open space including a market square and community hub – these haven't eventuated. It also said that to contribute to the undersupply of open space, private developers should be encouraged to provide open spaces for the public within their own developments - well we haven't seen much of that.

So, despite the progress made in the delivery of the high-rise developments foreshadowed in the Masterplan there has been no progress whatsoever in the provision of open space.

The 2016 Masterplan also contained a section dedicated to vegetation and trees. This section stated the City's Vision to be '*to proactively*

Importance to Current review of CBACP

- Green open space has always been an integral part of the Canning Bridge Precinct Vision – but has been overlooked until the decisions of Council in April and July 2023
- Remains a critical unfulfilled element within the Precinct
- Should have been provided concurrently with the commencement of high -rise development - but wasn't
- Has been referred to in the reports forwarded to the WAPC
- Decisions re the POS at The Esplanade and Moreau Mews have been referred to in discussions with the Minister
- Review is now in its final stage of consideration by the WAPC – important to maintain the POS decisions of 2023

manage, protect and replenish our tree stock in ways that meet the needs of our present and future generations and to increase the overall number of trees/canopy cover across the City.' This has also not occurred – the tree canopy in the area has diminished at an alarming rate.

In summary, it was well recognised in 2016 that the increase in population density would require a concurrent increase in open space – yet while the population density has increased significantly, no public open space has been provided. Somehow, the integral role of open space in the Masterplan just got overlooked.

The current Plan, itself includes as an objective '*to Plan development around quality public spaces*'. The problem is, there are no quality public spaces around which to plan development.

The bottom line is the failure to provide green open space is a glaring omission in the implementation of the Plan, and it is very hard to fathom how it has been overlooked.

The Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan Review

In 2020, the Council resolved to undertake a review of the current Plan and appointed independent consultants, Hatch Roberts Day to assist. I'll refer to them as HRD. HRD provided an initial draft plan which was advertised for comment. The Council also resolved to advertise a separate report prepared by the Council Reference Group.

The HRD and CRG reports both referred to the absence of public open space. They noted that, other than the foreshore, there is no recreational space within the precinct – none at all.

HRD identified as missing (and I am quoting from their report): '*soft organic spaces and green spaces with trees and shade*'; and HRD referred to, as a stated goal, '*extending the natural environment with high quality spaces that feel natural and green*'.

The CRG report noted that since the inception of the current Plan in 2016, environmental and social conditions have changed at an accelerated rate, including climate emergencies and that there is now an even greater need for open space, tree canopies and the avoidance of heat islands. The CRG recommended that Council commit to developing the land the City owns at The Esplanade and at Moreau Mews for public open space as soon as possible.

Both the HRD and CRG reports were advertised for public comment. A total of 588 submissions were received in response, and 84% of those specifically raised as an issue the lack of public open space. 80% also specifically referenced support for the approach outlined by the CRG which specifically recommended these two public open spaces. Accordingly, the public overwhelmingly endorsed the need for public open space in the Precinct and the use of the land owned by the City for this purpose.

It is noteworthy that after stakeholder meetings following the community consultation, HRD also endorsed using the City owned land for open space.

At meetings in April 2023, the Council considered and decided what recommendations it would make to the Western Australian Planning Commission for the purposes of the review. The Council resolved in effect to endorse the recommendations of the CRG report to the extent that they

differed from those of HRD and otherwise to endorse the HRD recommendations.

It is relevant that at the same meetings in April the Council also resolved to forthwith progress with the conversion of 100% of the land at 13 The Esplanade and at Moreau Mews to public open space.

The reports of both HRD and the CRG were forwarded to the Commission.

The Commission is therefore finalising the review on the basis of information indicating that there will be public open space provided at these two sites. If this is not the case, then the information currently available to the Commission is not an accurate reflection of what is occurring.

The Commission requested some further information, and a further report was prepared by HRD responding. In this report, in the context of community benefits, HRD again identified a need to extend the natural environment and the need for quality open spaces. The report referred to the most notable gaps being in neighbourhood and local open space.

To now renege on a decision to provide some desperately needed public open space will not only be a profoundly serious breach of community trust, but may also lead to further delays in the review. The information provided to the Commission should not now be altered nor contradicted by new Council decisions.

The community has waited years for this review to be completed. Any further delay in concluding and implementing this Review would be an appalling outcome.

The conversion of the city owned land to public open space is a very pragmatic way to deliver without delay, a vital element that is missing in the Precinct. The community knows this – that is why there are members of the public prepared to make the effort to attend this meeting tonight.

Decisions were made by Council to provide green public open space on these sites forthwith, and those decisions should be immediately honoured without any further obstruction. **The provision of green open space in the Precinct is an imperative and is long overdue.**

Third Speaker: Agata Cabanek, researcher, lecturer and supervisor in landscape architecture and sustainable urbanism at UWA and Curtin University.

Madame Mayor, Elected Councillors, Member of the public. My name is Agata Cabanek and I am a researcher, lecturer and supervisor in landscape architecture and sustainable urbanism at both UWA and Curtin University. I am going to speak about densifying urban form, the importance of public open spaces in achieving walkable cities which in fact are sustainable cities.

Let me start with this widely accepted (in Academia) statement: “Sustainable cities = medium density cities”. There is no urban sustainability without density.

So, what does it mean?

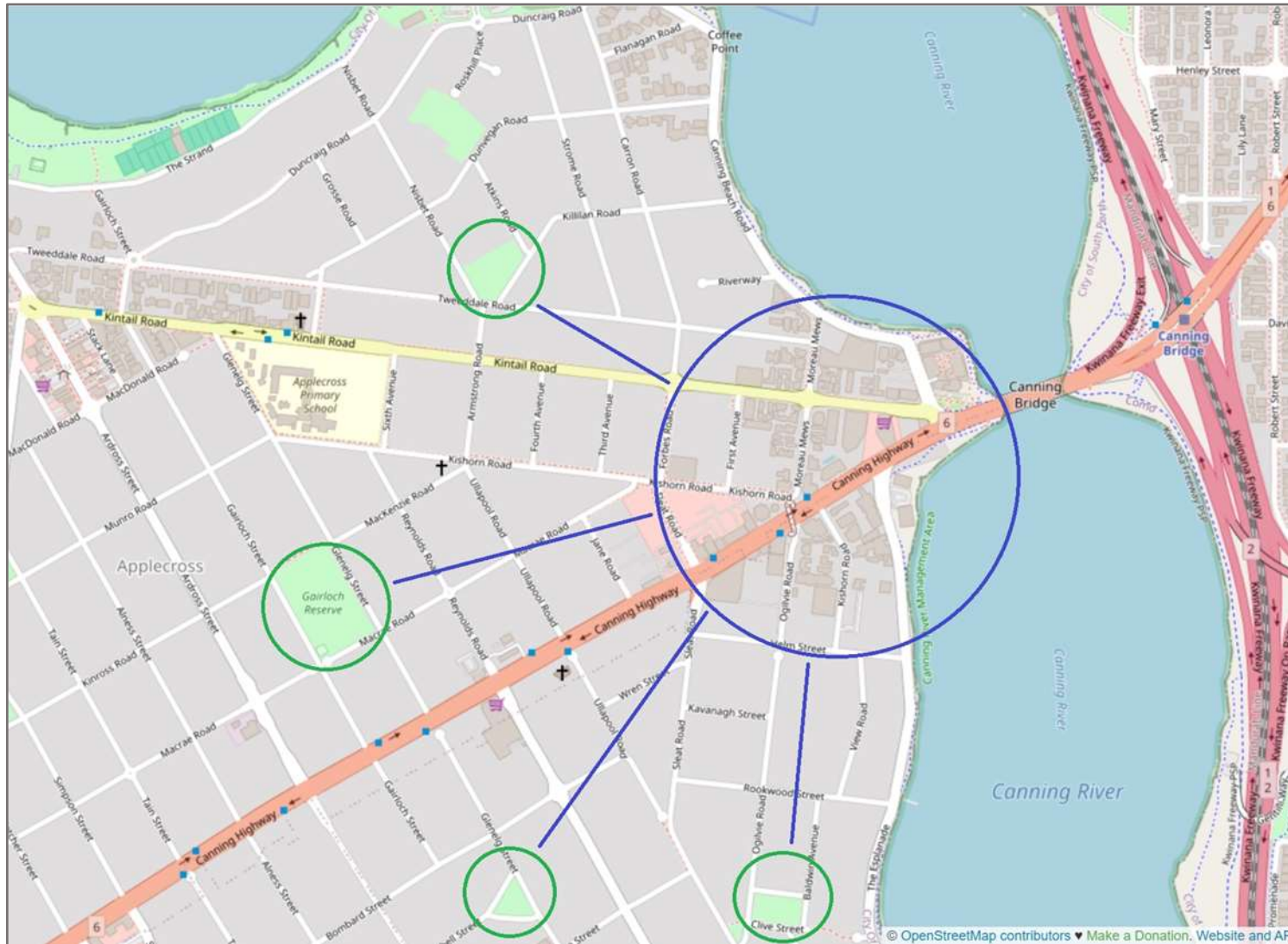
“Imagine a city where everything you need is just a short walk or a quick bus ride away. This is the idea behind medium-density cities – places that are not too crowded but lively enough to support public transport and local shops, local businesses. These cities make great use of space, so public open spaces, homes, and businesses fit together like pieces of a puzzle. By designing cities this way, we use fewer cars, save important green spaces and build new ones, and make our neighbourhoods more sustainable and healthier places to live.”

Increasing urban density to create liveable, sustainable and healthy urban environments for the communities to thrive.



This is an extract from Open Street maps. **The blue circle marks the area where most of the high-rise development is taking place.** With new high-rise apartment blocks, there are thousands of people moving into the area. However, what has been noticed by many residents, **no new green open spaces are being developed within a 400m radius of these buildings,**

forcing them to walk over 600m to reach the nearest green space. This lack of accessible green spaces falls short of the promised standards of sustainable living. Also, just having the river nearby doesn't make up for not having open green spaces close to home.



I included an extract from the City of Melville Local Planning Strategy Prepared in Conjunction with Local Planning Scheme No.6 . from February 2016

The city recognises that, citation: “In some of the older suburbs such as Mt Pleasant, Palmyra and Bicton local reserves are more than 400m walk from some residences. Although it is difficult to retrofit local open space in established areas in order to try and achieve a more equitable access to open space, the City has developed memorandums of understanding with schools that permit community access of schools sites for recreational

purposes”. **Our findings indicate that there are no schools within a 400m radius from the new residential towers in the Canning Bridge Precinct.**

Further we read: “A more strategic approach to land assets could allow for some parcels of land in areas with a surplus of recreational spaces to be disposed of to assist in the acquisition of other more appropriate spaces.” **As of now, no suitable plots of land have been identified or acquired to develop green open spaces within 400 meters of the new apartment blocks.**

**Extract from the City of Melville Local Planning Strategy
Prepared in Conjunction with Local Planning Scheme No.6 February 2016**

3.6 Existing and future local open space

The City is well serviced with a combination of regional and local open space in most areas. In some of the older suburbs such as Mount Pleasant, Palmyra and Bicton local reserves are more than 400 metres walk from some residences. Although it is difficult to retrofit local open space in established areas in order to try and achieve a more equitable access to open space, the City has developed memorandums of understanding with schools that permit community access of school sites for recreational purposes. A review of reserves and public spaces will explore more sustainable and effective options for managing reserves including contributions from developments and the strategic management of current assets.

A more strategic approach to land assets could allow for some parcels of land in areas with a surplus of recreational spaces to be disposed of to assist in the acquisition of other more appropriate spaces.

I would like to address the importance of public open spaces in achieving walkable cities:

Environmental Benefits:

Creating walkable cities is not just about getting from point A to B; it's about planning for a sustainable future. By championing green spaces, urban planners, designers, and decision-makers can transform our cities. These areas not only beautify our urban landscapes but also combat pollution and cool down our city. The result? Walking becomes not just a choice, but a pleasure.

Economic Advantages:

Imagine bustling streets where local businesses thrive, property values soar, and tourists flock to explore. According to the world-renowned Danish urban planner Jan Gehl, this is the potential of walkable cities. By prioritising well-designed public spaces – including parks - we invite prosperity, creating vibrant communities where people want to shop, visit, and live.

Improved Public Health:

Jan Gehl's insights reveal a simple truth: walkable cities promote health. By encouraging us to move more, walkable cities play a vital role in combating chronic diseases and elevating our well-being. And with welcoming, safe public spaces – including local parks - taking that extra step is easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

Accessibility and Inclusivity:

Let's think about a city where your neighbourhood park is never more than a quick walk away. Imagine having a spot of green 5 minute walk from your home, so you can enjoy nature anytime you want. This is how we make sure everyone gets to join in—kids running around, families walking the dog, elder residents taking a leisurely stroll, and anyone who finds moving around a bit tricky.

These green spots are like little sanctuaries right in our neighbourhood. They're perfect for a morning jog, an afternoon of play, or just sitting quietly, enjoying the peace.

Diversity and Interest:

Walkable cities offer more than just a route; they offer an experience. By infusing public spaces with variety—be it through seating, plants, art, or water features—every walk becomes a journey worth taking.

Social Interaction: The Heartbeat of Walkable Cities

Designing for social interaction doesn't just make cities more walkable; it makes them more human. Neighbourhood parks are perfect for community events, they provide opportunities for meeting and greeting, and they foster a sense of belonging. **Urban parks allow us to connect, not just with nature, but with each other.**

The importance of public open spaces in achieving walkable cities:

- 1. Environmental Benefits: Greenery combats pollution and cools down our cities**
- 2. Economic Advantages: Walking Boosts Business**
- 3. Improved Public Health: combating chronic diseases and elevating wellbeing**
- 4. Accessibility and Inclusivity: enjoy nature anytime you want**
- 5. Diversity and Interest: infusing public spaces with variety**
- 6. Social Interaction for People and Pets: The Heartbeat of Walkable Cities**

Fourth Speaker: Dr Jillian Horton, Clinical Psychologist, founding member of Melville City Climate Action Network

My name is Dr Jillian Horton, I am a Clinical Psychologist, founding member of the Melville City Climate Action Network, and was employed by Council for 16 months as the Climate Action Community Engagement Officer. I have lived in Kardinya for over 22yrs.

In my Psychology practice I have heard many young people feeling anxious and depressed about their futures under climate change. Many young people are even unsure if they will have children, because of concern about the future of the planet.

So, because of my own long-standing concerns, and hearing the apprehension of many others, I joined and helped establish Melville City Climate Action Network in 2020. Throughout 2020 Melville City Climate Action Network met with, and informed Councillors about the climate change science and the impending impacts of climate change.

In April 2021 Melville City CAN presented a petition to Council, signed by 1179 Melville residents, which asked Council to declare a Climate Emergency and take action on climate change.

I am proud to say that the Council unanimously voted to declare a climate emergency. And at the Council Meeting on 15th June 2021, Melville Council became the 103rd local council in Australia to declare a climate emergency, and committed to actions to help reduce emissions, these being:

- Reducing council emissions to Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Reducing community and business emissions to Net Zero by 2050
- Developing a Corporate and Community Climate Action Plan
- Advocating at State and Federal Government levels for policies consistent with a climate emergency response

This gave a great sense of hope to our community that our concerns were being heard and that actions would follow. It is also a substantial new Governance vision and direction adopted by Council.

Melville City Climate Action Network | Special Meeting of Electors 25 March 2024 Speeches



City of Melville Declares Climate Emergency



At the Council Meeting on 15th June 2021, Melville Council became the 103rd local council in Australia to declare a climate emergency, and committed to these actions to help reduce emissions:

- Reducing council emissions to Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Reducing community and business emissions to Net Zero by 2050
- Developing a Climate Action Plan (Corporate & Community)
- Advocating at State and Federal Government level for policies consistent with a climate emergency response

For further information:

Melville City Climate Action Network

Email: melvillecitycan@gmail.com

Facebook Group:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MelvilleCityCAN>

Under the Climate Emergency declaration, a dedicated Climate Change and Sustainability Team was employed within the council in 2022. As the Climate Change Community Engagement Officer, I was tasked to set up and run the community climate action reference group (known as CARG). This group consisted of 24 Melville representatives, who met once a month for 12 months. They have made many recommendations which will help inform the writing of the community climate action plan. This plan is currently being written and includes a focus on increasing tree canopy.

The Corporate Climate Action Plan has already been finalised, and was ratified by Council mid last year. To the credit of the City, a considerable amount of time, planning and action is already occurring within Council's own operations, to move it to carbon neutral by 2030

The parks planned for Mt Pleasant and Applecross help meet responsibilities under the Council's climate emergency declaration. This is because the parks will:

- increase tree canopy, which will help to reduce urban heat stress, while also drawing down carbon emissions, and

- provide an additional space and ecosystem for other species who are also struggling under rising temperatures and loss of habitat.

It is very concerning that the resolve of some Councillors to act responsibly under its own climate emergency declaration, has been shown to be lacking, as indicated by the previous rescission motion and then delay on decision-making. It appears that the idea of financial gain is trumping environmental needs and peoples' well-being, which is causing considerable community distress and lowering community trust in Councillors.

We are in a climate emergency - let me repeat - **it is a climate emergency**. And so, we need to respond appropriately, and not do "business as usual." It is the council's duty to make decisions and act in ways that do not make things worse. Elected members must assess every decision through the overarching lens of the climate change emergency they have enacted, and be clear on the Council's own policies related to this. I sincerely hope that the Elected members vote to accept the design concept for the parks and the associated budget at the May Ordinary meeting, and get the parks built as soon as possible.



Fifth Speaker: Margaret Sandford

I'm Margaret Sandford of Applecross, **Melville Councillor until October 2023, and CBACP Council Reference Group member since 2020.** I have practiced in leasing and commercial law for over 40 years. I will speak to part (B) of this Meeting's Discussion Points, which is in two parts:

Part 1: Whether the Mayor and 4 Councillors who signed the Rescission Motion acted with due care and diligence to ensure that the reasons cited were true and accurate, and would not bring the city into disrepute.

Under the City of Melville Code of Conduct for Elected Members (Code) a council member must

- act with personal integrity,
- reasonable care and diligence, and
- honesty;
- avoid damage to the reputation of the local government,
- act in accordance with the trust placed in council members; and
- not make improper use of his office to cause detriment to the local government or any other person.

Any such breach of the Code entitles the public to make a complaint to the Local Government Standards Panel.

Reasons for the Rescission Motion:

- Since 2013, many years of strategic planning and \$9M of ratepayers' money have been put towards the purchase and retention of prime land at The Esplanade, Kishorn Road and Moreau Mews locations. The combined value of this land (both purchased and retained) should now be greater than \$20M. As such, these sites are significantly valuable assets that should be delivering significantly more community benefit than the current Council resolutions allow for.
- After many years of Council support, including a resolution at the September 2020 OMC (Carried 10/2) to prepare a Ground Lease agreement at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Rd, a significant reversal took place at the April 2023 OMC, requesting that all lease negotiations be terminated. This decision appears to have been made in response to community feedback in the form of a Petition (presented at the June 2022 OMC), which called for "Rezoning of 13 Esplanade 64 Kishorn Rd to Public Open Space". This feedback has now been contradicted by further community consultation conducted by City officers, as presented at the 28/11/23 EMES. This process revealed that 70% of those surveyed do not want a playground or exercise equipment. It also revealed that the biggest concern of all those surveyed was a loss of parking options in the area.
- As they stand, the Council resolutions are too prescriptive and restrictive. The specifics outlined in the current resolutions do not allow sufficient flexibility for other desired options to be considered on the sites (eg car parking spaces).
- As made clear by Governance in the 28/11/23 EMES, any deviation from the site uses proposed in the current Council resolutions would require a rescission motion. Many other ideas were put forward by Elected Members at the 28/11/23 EMES, therefore a rescission is necessary to allow other options to be considered.
- It would be beneficial for these matters to be referred to an EMES or a similar forum to review the history of the site and for strategic discussion on future options for the sites, as soon as practicable, that take into consideration the outcome of community consultation processes associated with these sites.

**Reason 1:
Misleading**

**Reason 2:
Incorrect
Reason 3:
Misleading
Reason 4:
Untrue**

Do the reasons cited in the rescission motion meet the Code's standards?

Reason 1:

That: *"The combined value of this land should now be greater than \$20M. As these sites are significantly valuable assets, they should be delivering significantly more community benefit than the current Council resolutions allow for."*

Firstly, the alleged \$20 million land value is not expenditure from current funds, because The Esplanade site was purchased in about 1970 and used for the Canning Bridge Senior Citizens Centre until it was demolished without community consultation in 2015. The Moreau Mews site has also been fully funded by past ratepayers.

The nay-sayers claim that rate rises will result if these two sites are not developed for commercial use.

This is misleading. At great expense, the City's CBACP Review consultants, Hatch Roberts Day, advised the City that funding public open spaces in the CBACP is an "investment" for the City, because POS contributes to increased liveability, attracts better development, and promotes more demand and higher values for properties, resulting in greater revenue for the whole City.

A calculation of the rates revenue from the CBAC shows that, **for just 9 developments, comprising 844 dwellings, the rates have increased by a whopping 1,842%** from about \$102,000, to almost \$1,900,000, per annum!

About 3,000 more dwellings are due to be built in the CBAC to meet State's targets, **which will bring in extra rates revenue of \$6.2 million per annum, amounting to rates of about \$8 million per annum. So the value of the parks sites, including the budget needed to build the parks, will be easily recouped by the City in only 3.5 years.**

As all City-owned land has grown in value since 2013, using Councillor Green's argument, should we sell it all off for development to deliver "greater community benefit"?

Canning Bridge Activity Centre Public Open Space and increased revenue



The 9 new developments of 844 dwellings are an investment for the city bringing increased rates revenue of approximately \$1.8m per annum and over 700 new homes do not comply with state planning guidelines requiring POS within 400m of the dwelling.

The provision of these parks will bring significant financial benefit to all ratepayers in the City, without even factoring in the valuable health, social, environmental, and amenity benefits.

2. Reason 2:

That in relation to a 2020 Council decision to prepare a ground lease for a 10-storey nursing home at 13 The Esplanade, a significant reversal took place at the April 2023 OMC, requesting that all lease negotiations be terminated. I quote: "*This decision appears to have been made in response to community feedback in the form of a Petition (presented at the June 2022 OMC), which called for "Rezoning of 13 Esplanade / 64 Kishorn Rd to Public Open Space"*".

This is incorrect: firstly, because the decision to discontinue lease negotiations was made prior to the June 2022 petition, at the April 2022 OMC. Secondly, because the decision was made after **19** months of unsuccessful negotiations with the proposed lessee. **The Council, 3 of whom signed the rescission motion, resolved 11:2 at the April 2022 OMC to terminate lease discussions because the terms of the lease were commercially unfavourable to the City.** E.g., a generous rent-free period, followed by a **12**-year freeze on rent increases, and thereafter, rent rises capped at 2% per annum for the rest of the 99-year term.

The proposed \$650,000 per annum rent set in 2020 would never have kept up with CPI increases, let alone, market rent increases, over the proposed 99 lease term. According to Amortization.org's website, the average inflation rate for the 44 years from 1980 to 2024 was 3.2% per annum. Say this average rate of inflation continues for the next 99 years, the current value of the \$650,000 per annum rent by year 99 would inflate to over \$10 million dollars per annum. Is it the City's role to guarantee profits to developers at ratepayers' expense by agreeing to under-inflation rent increases?

A year after rejecting the lease terms, at the April 2023 OMC, Councillors voted to include the two parks in the CBACP Review, which was last year submitted to the WAPC. Then Cr Mair declared a conflict of interests in relation to the CBACP review, however she actually voted for the parks in April and July 2023, knowing the estimated budget as disclosed in the meeting Agendas. Coincidentally, she was running for mayor in last year's election.

The rescission motion asked that the CEO schedule an elected members' engagement session to present an overview of the history of, and to discuss various development options, for the sites.

Councillors should already be aware of the documented history of these sites, and the other development options, which have been previously examined and rejected. How many more years, and how much more money, do we want the City to waste going down this ill-fated road again. 13 years is already too long; and new generations of children in the precinct still have no walkable playgrounds, contrary to the 2011 CBACP Vision and numerous guidelines and survey results.

Reason 3:

That the further community consultation conducted by City Officers pursuant to the Council's July 2023 parks resolution "*...revealed that 70% of those surveyed do not want a playground or exercise equipment.*"

This statement is misleading and is not supported by the public consultation published in the Engagement Snapshot on the council website. These show that about 72% supported the look of the design; 72% supported the inspirational images; and 68% supported the location of the Zones.

As Rosemary has already confirmed, during the wider public consultation for the earlier review of the CBACP, 80% specifically supporting the CRG's recommended locations for these two parks.

Reason 4: The parks resolutions are too prescriptive and narrow, and do not allow sufficient flexibility.

The parks resolutions do not, and cannot, exclude commercial activity, which is permissible under the City's current POS policies. That is why there is currently a tender for a new café in Mt Henry Reserve, and a Dome café at Deep Water Point, etc.

All our parks evolve over time and, with proper community engagement, staged changes and improvements can be made in the future.

Part 2 of Discussion Point B asks: whether the Mayor duly considered that the publication of the Rescission Motion in the Agenda late on Friday 16 February 2024, would prejudice the community on its ability to engage with the City.

Given the City had already begun to implement the parks decisions since April 2023, **the Mayor and all councillors were provided with an impact statement by the CEO on the risks of proceeding with a rescission motion.**

So, they should have foreseen the negative impact and prejudice to the wider community caused by the last-minute publication of the rescission motion late on Friday 16 February.

The reckless resolve to move the flawed rescission motion, regardless of the obvious risks, has resulted in huge reputational damage to, and loss of trust by the community in, this Council.

We urge the Council to start to rebuild the community's trust in its engagement processes and decisions by approving the budget and concept plan for The Esplanade Park at the May 2024 OMC; and by proceeding with the Moreau Mews resolutions without further costly delay.



Sixth Speaker: Olivia Abrugiato – Personal Reflections

Hello Councillors

Thank you for your time this evening.

My name is Olivia Abrugiato and I live on View Road in Mount Pleasant with my partner and two young children.

I grew up in the area and have lived at my current address for the past 5 years. During this time, we have seen three apartment buildings completed in Mount Pleasant, with another three going up at the moment.

As already highlighted - *green* public open space in the precinct is lacking and is something the community has been crying out for over a number of years. When the site was advertised as becoming a park last year, we were so excited to finally be getting a playground within walking distance of home.

As a young family, this park has been long awaited. To us, it represents so much more than just a playground and a bit of grass. It is a place we can meet with our friends to enjoy a coffee and chat in peace while the kids run around and play. It is a place to connect with and better know our neighbours. A place to meet new families in the area. A place for us locals to relax and enjoy.

Regardless of your personal opinion on the park, I'm sure you can understand that I and many other local residents were disappointed and angry to find out that Council was now trying to overturn approval for the park. It felt like a betrayal.

Advertising for the site had stated “I’m becoming a park!”, which to the average person like myself, sounded like a commitment. The fact that public comment was sought on the concept design made it seem like the park was definitely coming. **By seeking to overturn approval for the park, you have broken our trust.**

The need for *green* public open space in our precinct has been stated time and time again. Whilst we understand the need for infill development, this rapid increase in density has not resulted in any substantial improvement to amenity and has come at a cost to our community.

Increased traffic, worsening congestion, overshadowing, a loss of privacy. Not to mention, certain apartment buildings have been allowed to go up without any apparent regard for good design, creating an eyesore we are now going to have to live with for decades.

While it is true we have the river foreshore on our doorstep, this isn't the same as a park. It's a bike path, busy with pedestrians and cyclists at all hours of the day. **It is not a safe place for children to run and play** - trying to keep my defiant toddler on the left side of the path isn't enjoyable for anyone.

Our closest playground is Deep Water Point, which is 1.2km, or about a 20-minute walk from our house. It's not practical to walk there and back with two young kids for various reasons – the path isn't fully shaded and it's a long distance for young kids to walk – especially on the way home after they are hot and tired from running around. Most of the time we just end up driving.

I have been involved in collecting signatures on the petition to save the park and have found that **residents across every ward within the City support and acknowledge the need for green public open space within our precinct.**

It is clear that some members of Council seek to monetise the site, however any money made would be at the expense of local residents, some of whom do not have easy access to any green space due to living in the apartments.

One of the parents I spoke to from our school lives in the Cirque apartments and mentioned he had been so looking forward to having an outdoor area for his kids to play as this is something they were currently lacking.

Councillors, a balance needs to be struck. I urge you to reconsider your position on this matter and take into consideration the social, recreational and environmental benefits that will be sacrificed if the site is allocated for yet another apartment or office building. We love the idea of this park and know that residents and visitors alike will enjoy it for many years to come.

Thank you

Motion 1

That the council approves the officer's recommendations for the budget and concept plan for the Public Open Space at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant at the May 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council

8.1 Motion 1 - Mr D Hart, Kardinya - Approve Officer Recommendation For POS

MEETING RESOLUTION

At 8:51pm, Mr D Hart, Kardinya moved, seconded Mr P Samson, Applecross

That the Council approves the officer's recommendations for the budget and concept plan for the Public Open Space at 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mt Pleasant at the May 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

At 9:00pm, the Presiding Member declared the motion.

CARRIED (79/2)

The vote result includes online votes from 22 participants.

Motion 2

That the council proceed to implement the April and July 2023 resolutions to convert the land at 23, 29 and 31 Moreau Mews and 50-52 Kishorn Road, Applecross into public open space

8.2 Motion 2 - Mr D Hart, Kardinya – April & July 2023 Resolutions

MEETING RESOLUTION

At 9:00pm, Mr D Hart, Kardinya moved, seconded Mr P Samson, Applecross

That the Council proceed to implement the April and July 2023 resolutions to convert the land at 23, 29 and 31 Moreau Mews and 50-52 Kishorn Road, Applecross into public open space.

At 9:05pm, the Presiding Member declared the motion.

CARRIED (84/3)

The vote result includes online votes from 24 participants.

Motion 3

That the Council note that the rescission motion has caused significant distress and confusion in the Melville community, leading to reduced community trust in the public engagement processes of the City and in the decisions of Council

8.3 Motion 3 - Ms E Hart, Kardinya - Rescission Motion & Community Trust

MEETING RESOLUTION

At 9:05pm, Ms E Hart, Kardinya moved, seconded Mr P Samson, Applecross

That the Council note that the rescission motion has caused significant distress and confusion in the Melville Community, leading to reduced community trust in the public engagement processes of the City and in the decisions of Council

At 9:15pm, the Presiding Member declared the motion.

CARRIED (84/7)

The vote result includes online votes from 23 participants.

Apex Reserve Flooding and Large Trailers

