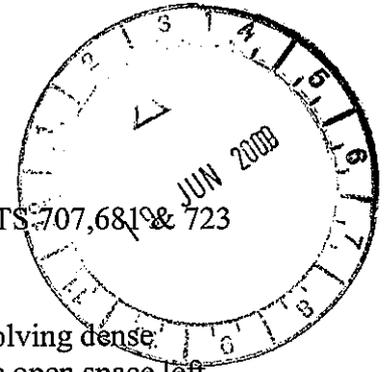


PUBLIC

SUBMISSION REGARDING PETITION NO 29

TO RETAIN BLAIR STREET AND KOOMBANA DRIVE – LOTS 707, 681 & 723
– AS PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVE



This land is currently being considered for major development involving dense commercial, residential, retail and hospitality space, with very little open space left for the public. This development, Eastside, is part of stage one of the overall Bunbury Waterfront Concept Plan. The plan is to privatise the majority of land involved in the above lots on Leschenault Inlet and part of Koombana Bay.

The land involved in the above rezoning is the last substantial piece of land that will be able to amply fulfil the role of the City of Bunbury's and the surrounding areas meeting place. The Greater Bunbury Region (GBR) has an expected population growth of approx 50,000 people by 2020, taking the total population to 130,000 people.

Currently annual events of various sizes happen in this area. For example:

- 1) The annual Australia Day Festivities and Fireworks Display which attracts close to 20,000 people from the Greater Bunbury Region to the waterfront.
- 2) The mid morning Anzac Day Service was moved this year from the site of the war memorial to Graham Bricknell Shell, which is across the road from these lots of land on the Leschenault Inlet foreshore. As the population of the GBR increases this popular parade will eventually flow over Blair Street onto Leschenault Inlet foreshore.

This land is seriously underutilised due the lack of amenities such as toilets, seating and eating areas. We support development and activation of this area in a manner that fits under the current zoning of 'Parks and Recreation Reserve'. Bunbury City Vision 2007 (P 54) states 'the community values its open space and water views, its access to foreshore areas and recreation options.' City Vision 2007 (P 58) also states, 'The foreshore areas currently attract a large range of sport and recreation activities such as rowing, model yachts, cycling, walking, swimming...bird watching, picnicking, fishing and jogging. The open space is highly valued and encourages many forms of active and passive recreation.' We envisage this area to be a vibrant and popular destination that is able to fulfil the needs of a growing city by being able to host many activities, formal (aforementioned) and informal, such as: outdoor movies, festivals, carnivals, markets etc...as well as being a space that enables families to be families and people to marvel at the beauty.

The notion that cities 'exist primarily for economic purposes' (International Making Cities Liveable (IMCL), 2009) is antiquated. This notion 'isolates and segregates' (IMCL, 2009) people who are mentally and/or physically disadvantaged, children, senior citizens and low income earners. Jan Gehl declares that due to modern day lifestyles people are making new demands for and on public space. Citizens want a city that enables them

- to contribute towards a more sustainable city, healthier lifestyles and be able to see reflected their 'renewed environmental consciousness' (Gehl 2009 P 11)
- to become involved in public activities and spaces that helps negate any feelings of isolation a citizen may feel

- to be outdoors all year round...(these are to name just a few...)

We strongly feel that commercial, residential, retail and hospitality space should be kept away from these land lots, which includes a small part of Koombana Bay and part of the Leschenault Inlet foreshore. This land needs to be kept as the peoples land and to have a discourse that citizens read as having a sense of high self esteem, that is a shared social space (IMCL, 2009) and that caters to the community's well-being. Highrise commercial, residential, retail and hospitality spaces do not belong on the last substantial parcel (21,094 SQM) of land that has the potential to bring the community together with pride. Bunbury will become a world class destination because the unbuilt environment has been enhanced and beautified.

Bunbury has an interactive local dolphin population and we hold grave concerns for their safety and health as the land that adjoins their marine environment is being overbuilt. The Bunbury Port on the other side of Koombana Bay is currently in the process of expanding exponentially and the remainder of the Waterfront Concept Plan imposes greatly on their environment. We feel it is important that this open space is kept to help lessen the impact on the environment, on the social sustainability of the city and of future developments on or near the Waterfront.

The White Mangroves in the Leschenault Inlet are estimated to be 20,000 years old. The WA Planning Dept suggests there is a high possibility that Acid Sulphate Soil exists in these lots of land. If Acid Sulphate Soil is disturbed and released into the water and the matter that assists in keeping the water at a certain temperature dies then the water temperature will rise and the Mangroves are highly likely to die. The University of WA (2009) declares, 'There is a strong link between human health and that of the surrounding ecosystem.'

It is important for this land to stay zoned as 'Parks and Recreation Reserve', and to be developed under the guidelines of that zoning. This will assist in Bunbury in becoming 'socially sustainable' (IMCL 2008), environmentally sustainable and, as Jan Gehl infers, enhance the natural beauty of the city so the leisure generation will come and enjoy the amenities. When there are amenities and beauty the people will come. The amenities need not be retail or commercial and nor does the space need to be privatised. 'Creating popular destinations doesn't mean relying on big projects.' (Where Waterfronts Go Wrong 2009).

We have not taken our complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

City Vision Strategy, 2007, Shaping the Future of Bunbury, September 2007, City of Bunbury, 4 Stephen St Bunbury

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