

Hon Matt Swinbourne MLC
Chair, Environment and Public Affairs Committee
By email – env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair,



Re: Petition 182 – Percy Doyle Reserve

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the Percy Doyle Reserve.

Concerns have been raised with me regarding the investigations the City of Joondalup (the City) has been undertaking with regards to acquiring State-owned land in the northern part of the reserve (Lot 14077) and leasing it to one or two commercial interests.

The minutes of the Major Projects and Finance Committee of the City across multiple months clearly show that substantial consideration to a proposal initially brought to the City by commercial operators has and is being undertaken.

With the lack of publication of Committee agendas, it is unknown as to who these commercial operators might be, what project they might wish to undertake and how that fits in with the city's existing Master Plan for this area.

The community has brought the petition to Parliament as the dissonance between the public statements of the City's elected officials and the meeting minutes of the Major Projects and Finance Committee are inducing distrust.

The minutes clearly point to some activity with and on behalf of "two major commercial operators". Broad statements from the City that no such activity is taking place that offer no explanation of these minutes have led to a community that feels gas-lit and lied-to.

I am in no position to judge the worthiness and the value to the community of whatever proposal the commercial operators and the City of Joondalup are working on. The proposals might enhance the public open space, or equally they might sell out the residents and simply give away public land for private profit. The community doesn't know what is happening, only that something is being done and that it is being done quietly and behind closed doors.

The Department of Lands has previously withheld land transfers where Local Government Authorities have required the use of this land to hand over to a private operator (similar issues about Crown land and private commercial operators arose at Alfred Cove reserve with the City of Melville). The petitioners are requesting that the same thing happen in this case, to ensure that their valued community spaces remain so.

I ask the Committee to encourage City of Joondalup to engage openly with the community about this issue and provide more information to their residents and ratepayers about what commercial operators have previously proposed for this site, why the City is actively following them up and why the City believes that commercial activity is the best way forward for this site.

There is clearly activity occurring and the lack of transparency is causing substantial concern in the community.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Alison Xamon MLC
Member for North Metropolitan

4 December 2020