



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kim Giddens
MEMBER FOR BATEMAN

Mayor Katy Mair
City of Melville
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BOORAGOON WA 6154

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7 May 2024

Dear Mayor

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE - THE ESPANADE, MOUNT PLEASANT

Thank you for your vote in support of the adopted Council resolution 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 13 The Esplanade and 64 Kishorn Road, Mount Pleasant (City of Melville Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council, 18 and 19 April 2023).

Public open space (POS) provides significant benefits for local amenity, physical and mental wellbeing, reduces urban heat islands, and supports biodiversity and habitat for local flora and fauna. Access to quality, safe and usable POS is even more important in areas of increased density and urban infill, such as the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan (CBACP) area.

Density and urban infill can enhance public open space and improve local amenity, however, this must be planned for and prioritised. The City of Melville’s Council endorsed review and submission on the CBACP identifies the provision of two new parks at The Esplanade and at Moreau Mews. The Western Australian Planning Commission will assess the new CBACP with the understanding, provided by The City, there will be public open space at these locations. A failure by Council to deliver on this has the potential to undermine the community’s confidence in the City of Melville in relation to not only Canning Bridge but also other activity centre plans.

I am proud of my record in standing with our community to protect and enhance our public open space and urban tree canopy. This includes protecting 13 State owned parks and reserves across the City of Melville through rezoning to from ‘Residential’ to ‘Public Open Space’, and acting to protect verge trees on Kintail, Forbes and Sleat roads.



I believe there is wide support across the community for the public open space at The Esplanade to progress forthwith. This includes support from residents who do not live directly near to The Esplanade, indicating a broad commitment across the community for ratepayer funds to be allocated to create additional public open space, irrespective of the park's locality.

I ask that you and the City of Melville Council back your decision made last year to create a park at The Esplanade, and approve the funding for this project in the upcoming 2024-25 City of Melville Budget.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Giddens MLA
Member for Bateman