

BRIERLY RESERVE MASTER PLAN - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT – January 2012

Community consultation was undertaken to assist in the identification of key issues and opportunities and to understand community expectations regarding the future use of the Brierly Recreation Reserve. A series of consultation methods were used to gather information from key stakeholders and local residents. These included:

Project Working Group Meetings	A series of meetings were held with the Project Working Group throughout the project involving the Manager, City Planning & Strategy, Manager Recreation & Culture, Manager Community Planning & Policy, Co-ordinator -Recreation and Youth Services, Open Space Planner and Director, City Infrastructure.
Stakeholder Meetings	Face-to-face meetings were held with representatives from Warrnambool City Council including Councillors, Brierly Christ Church Cricket Club, Modern Dog Training Inc, Triton Woodworkers and MPower.
Submissions	Six written submissions were received for consideration as part of the master planning project.
Community Forum	A community forum was held on Thursday 24 th November which involved 36 attendees.
Promotional Material	A promotional flyer and media release were prepared for distribution and publication, which aimed to inform the community about the project and invite participation. The Warrnambool Standard published an article about the project on 23 November 2011.

Consultation Summary

A broad range of issues and opportunities were identified as part of this consultation process. These issues are summarised below under five key themes.

Theme	Issues
Sporting Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no supportive infrastructure on the Western Ground, other than the machinery shed, which reportedly is insufficient for cricket players and spectators. The cricket club would like shade / shelter for spectators, a change / bag area, storage space and a scorers' area. ▪ Poor / lack of drainage. Grounds are very wet over the winter months and mostly unuseable. ▪ Old tennis courts are reportedly used informally, despite their poor / unsafe condition. Courts should be upgraded for safe, public use. ▪ Practice nets could be relocated if required. Cricket club was part way through construction of turf practice nets but now planning to complete the project with two more synthetic nets. ▪ Reserve is currently underutilised.
Buildings and Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buildings / facilities are old and run-down.

Theme	Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social rooms and change facilities are in poor condition and need to be upgraded. OH&S concerns are evident for the building, in particular the kitchen. ▪ The distance from the storage shed to the grounds is an issue for the Modern Dog Training Inc. ▪ More shelter and shade is needed to protect people from the elements. ▪ Old equestrian sheds are unattractive and should be removed.
Informal Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A public BBQ would complement the existing playground and picnic facilities. ▪ The playground is very wet / boggy in wet weather. ▪ Consideration could be given to an enclosed dog park (near the old golf course area). ▪ There is a lack of recreation opportunities / facilities for young people i.e. skate / BMX park. ▪ Poor connectivity of pathways within the reserve (i.e. linking facilities / attractions) and access from neighbouring areas.
Management and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perception that Reserve is poorly maintained (grounds and surrounds). ▪ Regular users (Cricket and Dog Clubs) have a good relationship and work well together.
Supportive Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More rubbish bins are needed around the Reserve to reduce the amount of litter. ▪ Dog bag dispensers would encourage more people to pick-up after their dogs, and reduce the need for tenant clubs to do so. ▪ Access roads can become very boggy and slippery over the winter months. ▪ Improved signage is needed at the entrance to inform the public about reserve users / activities and that it is a no-through road. ▪ Drinking fountains and taps are needed at key locations (for people and dogs) ▪ Seating is needed along the path network (especially for the elderly).
Landscape and Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cypress trees are reportedly dangerous even though the 'avenue' style is very pleasant. ▪ Preference for native trees / species. ▪ Overall need to increase the amount of native vegetation.
Community Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of organisations have expressed an interest in relocating to / establishing facilities at Brierly Reserve. A summary of these discussions / proposals is contained in Section 5 (Analysis of Key Issues) and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Triton Woodworkers Group ○ Mpower ○ Warrnambool Community House

Theme

Issues

- Potential future kindergarten / early childhood services.

Community Forum

A Community Forum was held at 7:00pm on Thursday 24th November at the Gateway Plaza and involved a total of 36 attendees. The following organisations / stakeholders were represented at this forum.

- Warrnambool City Council
- Brierly Christ Church Cricket Club
- Modern Dog Training Inc.
- Warrnambool and District Cricket Association
- Warrnambool Rangers Soccer Club
- Anchor Point Village
- Warrnambool Neighbourhood and Community Centre
- Warrnambool Cycling Club / Road Safety Committee
- Local Residents



Attendees discussed the history of Brierly Reserve including previous uses, facilities and perceptions about the site. The 1996 decommissioning of the Brierly Hospital was used as a milestone for this discussion, as outlined below.

Prior to 1996	1996 to 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golf - 9 hole golf course. ▪ Cricket – Mini Colts, Colts. ▪ Junior Football – St Johns ▪ Tennis (1977). ▪ Ovals and cricket nets. ▪ Walking / running. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Horse show jumping facilities / equestrian school. ▪ Cricket – junior and senior. ▪ Dog training, puppy school. ▪ Pathways for walking and bike riding. ▪ Playground and toilet / shelter, ▪ Tennis facilities were used for a ‘social hit’, until they were deemed unusable. ▪ Informal golf practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New / usable facilities. ▪ Well maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Run down facilities. ▪ Minor improvements only. ▪ Underutilised. ▪ Poorly maintained. Dumping place. ▪ Poor security.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No residents on north side of Moore St. ▪ Hospital. “Big red building on the hill.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing development. ▪ Retirement Village.

Attendees of the Community Forum were asked to list the good and bad things about the Brierly Reserve. The responses are listed below.

Good things:	Bad things:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location. ▪ Community connection (potential). ▪ “Growth Area”. ▪ Playground (x2) . ▪ Ovals. ▪ Walking space / tracks (x2). ▪ Access for locals. ▪ Toilets. ▪ Tranquil open space (x2). ▪ High community use. ▪ Sporting facilities available (x2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equestrian Sheds. ▪ Poor / lack of drainage (x4). Unavailable in winter (x2). ▪ Poor connecting paths (x2). ▪ Wasted space. ▪ Cypress trees (dangerous). ▪ Facilities are too old / run down (x3). ▪ Poor maintenance of grounds and surrounds (x3). Rubbish, structures, vegetation, tennis courts. ▪ Limited facilities.

Attendees were asked what they wished for Brierly Reserve in 20 years time for their children and grandchildren. This question was aimed to help inform the guiding principles for the reserve master plan. The following responses were noted.

- Reserve to be left as it is. Just maintained.
- Retention of open space.
- Finish off / improve existing facilities and spaces.
- Open space with sports ovals (to be improved sooner rather than later).
- “The next Pertobe Lake”.
- Pathways to link facilities. Cycle / walk around perimeter and link to Garden Street.
- More conventional tree scape. Trees to be natives.
- “To have the master plan in place and not in a drawer”.
- Highly valued for open space / recreational use for surrounding communities.
- Safe area for family use. Family friendly.
- Sporting / recreational / multi-use / leisure.
- Improved drainage for year-round use.
- Safe and secure facilities.
- Links to Racecourse.
- Future Uses / Users:
 - New families.
 - Dogs off-lead.
 - Sport.
 - Hobbies (e.g. model aeroplane).
 - Passive recreation.
 - Gathering place.
 - Aged care.
- Future Facilities:
 - Tennis courts.

- Larger playground.
- Updated and more convenient toilets.
- BBQ / picnic facilities.
- Soccer to be accommodated within multi-use sports grounds.
- New cricket clubrooms. Community access.
- Community meeting place including BBQ, meeting rooms, additional playgrounds, change rooms, seating / benches.
- Improved sporting facilities including BMX, cricket, soccer, tennis.
- Community Facilities:
 - Community Hub incorporated.
 - Many community users, meetings spaces and varied sporting groups.
 - Meeting space. Relate to play space. Community House space. Multi-use / social use.
 - Community buildings with associated sports grounds and meeting rooms.
 - Recognise the role of BCC (memorabilia).
 - Multipurpose hub. Sport, recreation, playgroup, community hub.

Following the above-mentioned visionary exercise, attendees participated in a master planning activity using aerial photos to plot potential future improvements / facilities at Brierly Reserve. The outcomes of this exercise are summarised below under seven key themes.

Theme	Proposal
Sporting Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated soccer pitch to be located over near playground and toilet. ▪ Soccer pitch on turf wicket between April and September. ▪ Resurface or relocate tennis courts (potential location north-east corner of Reserve). ▪ Potential future facilities for soccer, bowls, and hockey. ▪ Tennis / basketball / cricket area (extending from existing court location). ▪ Improved sporting facilities (including tennis courts). ▪ Potential to use existing racecourse land (i.e. for soccer / hockey pitch). ▪ Install Australian Rules football goals on oval to allow for informal use (i.e. kids / parents to have a kick)
Informal Recreation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skate / BMX facility (suggested locations include south-west corner or north-west corner of western sports ground or near children's playground). ▪ Larger children's playground. Expand in existing location. ▪ Playground, BBQ and toilets to southern entrance. BBQ facilities to be located with playground. ▪ Enclosed off-leash dog area with nearby storage facility to house equipment (north-east corner of Reserve), with shade trees, access to water and play tunnels etc. ▪ Outdoor gym facilities (to be located near playground).

Theme	Proposal
Buildings and Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community centre / change rooms as an expansion of existing clubrooms. ▪ Multipurpose community centre / hub and garden to be centrally located. ▪ Shared clubrooms between proposed dedicated soccer pitch and eastern oval / hard wicket. ▪ Pavilion and maintenance shed to service western sports ground (located south of oval). ▪ Second clubroom to service turf wicket / western sports ground. ▪ Removal of old sheds.
Pedestrian and Bicycle Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bike access from the south and west. ▪ Continuation of walking tracks (east-west and north-south). ▪ Bike track around perimeter. (Sealed.) ▪ Footpath to Garden Street. ▪ All areas linked by paths. ▪ New walking path to link with playground to allow parents with prams and kids on bikes to gain access. ▪ Interlink paths to allow people to walk / ride a circuit. ▪ Access to Brierly Reserve from Reid Oval, Gateway and Anchor Point (using footpaths, tracks and crossings). ▪ Footpath along Moore Street. Bike lane for access to connect to Reid Oval and to Gateway.
Vehicular Access and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car parking to service both sports grounds. ▪ Second vehicular entry and access road from Alberline Road. ▪ Address traffic issues at Mitchell Street and Alberline Road.
Supporting Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety fencing along eastern boundary / Alberline Road. ▪ Park benches to be provided around the Reserve. ▪ Doggie bag receptacles and bins all year round. ▪ Security lighting (i.e. along the Avenue).
Landscape and Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove cypress trees. ▪ Replace pines along Avenue with natives.



Submissions

A number of written submissions were received for consideration as part of the master planning project. These submissions are summarised below.

Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group

A representative from the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group expressed a need for the western end of the reserve to be maintained / developed into a healthy habitat of local native trees, understory plants and grasses / herbs for native wildlife.

Potential for the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group to help facilitate the formation of a 'Friends of Brierly Reserve Group'.

Suggest the staged removal of cypresses lining the main drive and replacement with indigenous native trees.

Other opportunities around the reserve for increasing native plants will improve the habitat for native insects, birds, lizards, animals etc.

Community Member

Priorities for Brierly Reserve include 1) a pond or similar to Botanic Gardens to attract water birds and reptiles; 2) skate park for young people (similar to the one at Lady Bay); 3) community hall for all ages; 4) native gardens with BBQ facilities; 5) indoor roller blade and ice skating facility to cater for future growth.

Modern Dog Training Inc.

A number of ideas were submitted by Modern Dog Training Inc. for consideration. These included improved drainage, shed (closer to grounds), public BBQ area, upgraded tennis courts, rubbish bins, dog bag dispensers, improvements to existing roads, dog enclosure, improved signage, water taps, undercover area and seating.

Triton Woodworkers

The Triton Woodworkers Group have expressed a need to establish facilities with a preference for Brierly Reserve, including a large shed (15m x 33m x 4m) that is accessible for transport and loading pallets of timber, and which includes a meeting room and kitchen. The group is currently based at 'Fletcher Jones Gardens' but are uncertain about their long-term future at this site.

Capital cost estimates and quotations have been obtained for the development of facilities at Brierly Reserve which have an estimated total cost of \$150,000.

Brierly Christ Church Cricket Club

The Brierly Christ Church Cricket Club prepared a submission a few years ago outlining their planning proposal for facilities and future developments at Brierly Reserve. This proposal was based on the club providing the best cricket playing and training facilities in Warrnambool and incorporates the needs of both local and regional cricket. Improvements are proposed to existing hard and turf wicket ovals, practice net facilities, club rooms / pavilion and the parkland.

Mpower (excerpt from feasibility submission)

An excerpt from Mpower's feasibility study funding application has been reviewed as part of the master planning process. This application identifies Brierly Reserve as the preferred location for the potential future development of a purpose built facility for their organisation.