

# Friends of Kensington Bushland

To: Town of Victoria Park  
99 Shepperton Road, Victoria Park WA 6100  
Att.: The Mayor and all Councillors

TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

File No.  
X Ref No.

PAR/117-05

BLP   
CLP   
FLBLP   
FIN   
RAT

13 OCT 2019

RLP   
CEO   
14 October 2019  
NE

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EM  BLD   
DOC No.

Dear Mayor and all Councillors,

**RE: Petition to revegetate Kent Street Sandpit as part of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct**

The Town of Victoria Park (ToVP) is fortunate to have a large public open space of almost 20 hectares, the **Jirdarup Bushland Precinct**, within its boundaries. Following extensive public consultation the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct was purposely created by the ToVP in 2015 in order to protect and maintain this important natural asset as a whole.

By revegetating the 8 ha. large Kent Street Sandpit, our Jirdarup Bushland Precinct could become the **"Kings Park of the South"**, providing public access to 9.1 hectares of pristine and endangered banksia woodlands at its heart, and complementing the revegetated 2.7 ha of George Street Reserve.

The Sandpit revegetation project will be in line with decisions made by the State Government and ToVP Council throughout the past nineteen years. Key milestones include:

- **December 2000:** The State Government designated Kensington Bushland and parts of the Kent Street Sandpit (an area of 9.1 ha in total) as **'Bush Forever'** Site No. 48, thereby recognising the regional significance of the area.
- **11 July 2000:** ToVP Council resolved "that the Kent Street Sandpit site be reserved for **passive recreational and cultural purposes**" in line with its zoning as **'Parks and Recreation'** under both the Local Planning Scheme and the Metropolitan Regional Scheme.
- **March 2005:** ToVP's **"Kensington Bushland Protection Study"** reaffirms the Council resolution that the future uses of "the Kent Street Sandpit site be reserved for passive recreation and cultural purposes".
- **2013:** ToVP's **"Environmental Plan 2013-2018"** states that the Council wishes to convert Kent Street Sandpit to a **revegetated, passive public open space**, as per the recommendation of the "Kensington Bushland Protection Study" from 2005.
- **August 2015:** A Council resolution pronounces the **creation of the "Jirdarup Bushland Precinct"** (Place of Birds), that incorporates Kensington Bushland, George Street Reserve and the Kent Street Sandpit; in recognition that these areas don't function independently.
- **September 2016:** Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, such as Kensington Bushland, are recognised as an **'endangered ecological community'** by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, sections 189, 194N and 266B.
- **18 July 2017:** Kent Street Sandpit (site number 71752, Lot No. 705) is reclassified by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) from its 2003 status to a contaminated site that is **'Remediated for restricted use'**. Under this classification:
  - The ongoing land use of the site is restricted to **recreational open space**, with **passive recreational use** permitted provided the site is managed in accordance with

the 'Site Management Plan - Kensington Bushland, Kent Street, Victoria Park' (SERS, 3 July 2017),

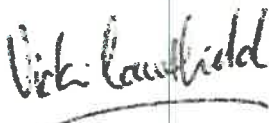
- The construction of buildings with enclosed spaces or large areas of impermeable surfaces (such as asphalt car parks or sporting courts) is not permitted without further assessment of landfill gas, while the abstraction of groundwater for any purpose is not permitted.
- **April 2018:** ToVP's "Kensington Bushland Management Plan" recommends the "progressive rehabilitation/revegetation of the Kent Street Sandpit site" as a key action to enhance the native-vegetated buffer for Kensington Bushland, mitigating edge effects and increasing linkages for Kensington Bushland.
- **September 2018:** ToVP's Council approves the Town's first **Urban Forest Strategy** which identifies the Kent Street Sandpit as a **priority revegetation and tree planting site** that would significantly contribute to the Town's 20% tree canopy target.

Our petition, therefore, requests that the Council - as a matter of priority and for the benefit of the community – resolves to:

- **Implement** Council's long-standing policies and decisions to revegetate the 8-hectare Kent Street Sandpit in the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as public open space for 'passive recreational and cultural purposes',
- **Collaborate** with community groups to immediately commence project planning and revegetation activities,
- **Allocate** the necessary resources to ensure the project is completed within reasonable time.

We have enclosed reference documents for the above key milestones and look forward to working with the Town and its community on the revegetation of the Kent Street Sandpit very soon.

Kind regards,  
Friends of Kensington Bushland (established 1999)



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Klaus Backheuer – Chair

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**Enclosures:**

- Extract from Kensington Bushland Management Plan, 16 April 2018
- Determination by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA) under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, 18 July 2017
- Extract Item 12.3, Proposed Creation and naming of Jirdarup Bushland Precinct, Ordinary Council Meeting, 11 August 2015
- Extract Item 2.5, Kent Street Sandpit Usage, Ordinary Council Meeting, 11 July 2000

## 4 Reserve management

### 4.1 Overview of current management initiatives

An overview of the implementation status of various management activities undertaken at the Reserve is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Status of previously recommended management actions for Kensington Bushland Reserve and surrounds**

Previous Management Plan recommendation / other initiatives	Status (ongoing, complete or incomplete)
Protect and revegetate the remnant vegetation on the Police and Citizens Youth Club, George Street Reserve and Kensington Secondary School sites	Commenced 2010; Ongoing (in Stage 3 of a five stage project)
Reclaim the remnant vegetation on the Kensington Secondary School site into council land by purchase or land swap	Feasibility yet to be investigated
Incorporate the remnant bushland surrounding the Kensington Bushland into a buffer between any future development and the bushland to ensure its long-term protection	Complete
If possible, expand the boundary of the Kensington Bushland Bush Forever boundary to include the remnant vegetation on the Police and Citizens Youth Club, George Street Reserve and Kensington Secondary School sites	To be investigated
Close Baron-Hay Court to vehicles beyond the Kensington Bushland car park and develop a shared path in place of the road. As part of developing the shared path expand the buffer between the shared path and the Kensington Bushland	Limited ability to close road given current access to DAFWA site.
Infill plant the area between Harold Rossiter Park and the Kensington Bushland	Commenced 2009; Ongoing expansion of buffer
Revegetate the buffer between Kent St and the Kent St Sand Pit	Commenced 2009; Ongoing
Revegetate the Kent St Sand Pit site with local native species that can be utilised as a seed production area for revegetation programs within the Town. Ensure that any revegetation is undertaken in a manner that does not preclude the future use of the area for an education / cultural centre	Commenced 2009; Surrounds ongoing, rest of site, to be confirmed
Ensure that the area of public open space within the study area is maintained so that pressure is not put on the Kensington Bushland Reserve for activities such as dog walking and bike riding	Ongoing
Restrict the number of trails through remnant vegetation areas by rehabilitating minor trails and providing set shared path for access between Kent St and George St	Commenced 2016; Complete (though constantly reviewed)

### 4.3 Future land development and surrounding land use management

The Town has a number of documents that provide for local biodiversity conservation and are considered throughout the planning process (e.g. scheme amendments, structure plans, and subdivision or development applications), including the Environmental Plan and Strategic Community Plan. There are a range of avenues for protection of the Kensington Bushland Reserve in the context of surrounding land uses and any potential future development, in addition to this Management Plan, including:

- acquisition and management by the Town
- amending zoning to one that is more sympathetic to protection (e.g. Public Open Space; this could be undertaken at the time of land zoning changes or assessment of structure plans, subdivision or development applications)
- conservation covenants/covenants on titles
- development control provisions within Local Planning Scheme
- conditions on planning applications (e.g. requirement for vegetated buffer strips along lot boundaries adjoining the Reserve, in structure plans or subdivision applications).

In addition to the local planning processes, there are a range of other legislative and planning policy documents that can protect and manage potential impacts to Kensington Bushland Reserve. Some of these include:

- Part IV and V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (assessment of significant proposals and clearing)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
  - State Planning Strategy
  - State Planning Policies
  - Sub-regional planning framework
  - Planning Bulletins
  - Guidelines (e.g. Better Urban Water Management Guidelines)
- Federal Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

For the land surrounding the Reserve that is within the Town's control and management, maintaining a native-vegetated buffer to mitigate edge effects and increase linkages, is the key action that can be undertaken. Progressive rehabilitation/revegetation of the Kent St Sand Pit site would enhance this buffer. It is recommended that these activities initially be focused on areas that are immediately adjacent to the Reserve to provide the maximum buffer, however, relocation of fencing to accommodate these new rehabilitation areas will also limit costs associated with the work.



## Contaminated Sites Act 2003 Basic Summary of Records Search Response

Report generated at 06:13:05PM, 22/05/2019

Receipt No:

ID No: 71752

### Search Results

This response relates to a search request received for:

63 Kent St  
Kensington, WA, 6151

Lot 705 on Deposited Plan 230206 as shown as Subject M on Deposited Plan 410474 on certificate of title LR3139/186, known as 63 Kent Street, Kensington WA 6151

This parcel belongs to a site that contains 1 parcel(s).

According to Department of Water and Environmental Regulation records, this land has been reported as a known or suspected contaminated site.

### Address

63 Kent St  
Kensington, WA, 6151  
Lot 705 on Deposited Plan 230206 as shown as Subject M on Deposited Plan 410474 on certificate

### Parcel Status

**Classification:** 18/07/2017 - Remediated for restricted use

#### Nature and Extent of Contamination:

Metals (such as lead, copper and zinc), hydrocarbons (such as from diesel or oil) and pesticides are present within landfill wastes beneath the site at depths up to 6.5 metres below ground level.

Hydrocarbons (such as from petrol), nutrients, iron, manganese and chloride are present in groundwater beneath the site.

Landfill gas (carbon dioxide) is being generated by degrading landfill wastes present beneath the site.

#### Restrictions on Use:

The land use of the site is restricted to recreational open space which excludes sensitive uses with accessible soil such as childcare centres, kindergartens, pre-schools and primary schools. The site should not be developed for a more sensitive use such as residential use or childcare centres without further contamination assessment and/or remediation.

Due to the nature and extent of groundwater contamination identified to date, the abstraction of groundwater for any purpose is not permitted.

Due to the presence of buried waste beneath the site generating landfill gas (such as carbon dioxide) the construction of buildings with enclosed spaces or large areas of impermeable surfaces (such as asphalt car parks or sporting courts) is not permitted without further assessment of landfill gas.

The ongoing use of the site for passive recreational land use is permitted provided the site is managed in accordance with the 'Site Management Plan - Kensington Bushland, Kent Street, Victoria Park' (SERS, 3 July 2017), which is available from the Town of Victoria Park. The site management plan details the restrictions outlined above and includes provisions for:

- maintaining appropriate cover over areas of waste fill;

### Disclaimer

This Summary of Records has been prepared by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as a requirement of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003. DWER makes every effort to ensure the accuracy, currency and reliability of this information at the time it was prepared, however advises that due to the ability of contamination to potentially change in nature and extent over time, circumstances may have changed since the information was originally provided. Users must exercise their own skill and care when interpreting the information contained within this Summary of Records and, where applicable, obtain independent professional advice appropriate to their circumstances. In no event will DWER, its agents or employees be held responsible for any loss or damage arising from any use of or reliance on this information. Additionally, the Summary of Records must not be reproduced or supplied to third parties except in full and unbridged form.



## Contaminated Sites Act 2003 Basic Summary of Records Search Response

Report generated at 06:13:05PM, 22/05/2019

- managing risks to human health during soil disturbing works; and
- periodic site inspections to ensure cover over waste fill and recover any visible fragments of asbestos-containing material.

### Reason for Classification:

This site was reported to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as per reporting obligations under section 11 of the 'Contaminated Sites Act 2003' (the Act), which commenced on 1 December 2006.

The site was first classified under section 13 of the Act based on information submitted to DWER by January 2007. The site has been classified again under section 13 of the Act to reflect additional technical information submitted to DWER by July 2017.

The site consists of the southern portion of Lot 705 on Plan 230206, as shown as subject M on deposited plan 410474.

The site was reported in 2007 due to its historical use for sand mining and landfilling between the mid-1960s and 1992. Between 1992 and 2006 the site was used for the storage and disposal of inert waste, including street sweepings, and the storage and washing of heavy vehicles. Landfilling and waste disposal are land uses that have the potential to cause contamination, as specified in the guideline 'Assessment and management of contaminated sites' (Department of Environment Regulation [DER], 2014)

A preliminary site investigation was carried out in December 2004 that confirmed the historical uses of the site and identified stockpiles of construction and road sweeping wastes, two stormwater compensation basins, a number of areas of soil staining from vehicle cleaning activities and areas of inert landfill material (such as building or construction waste).

Detailed site investigations were undertaken in phases between 2009 and 2014. These investigations confirmed the presence of fill material at shallow depths extending to 1.5 to 6.5 metres below ground level. The fill material observed was indicative of inert building and construction waste, with an area of suspected municipal waste in the south and west of the site.

Soil investigations in 2009 and 2011 found that metals (lead, copper and zinc), hydrocarbons (such as from petrol or diesel) and pesticides (dieldrin) were present in the waste material at concentrations exceeding Ecological Investigation Levels and/or exceeding Health-based Investigation Levels for parks and recreational areas, as published in 'Assessment Levels for Soil, Sediment and Water' (Department of Environment and Conservation [DEC], 2010), which were relevant criteria at the time of the investigation. The soil impacts were present at depths greater than 1.5 metres below ground level and therefore unlikely to pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment under the proposed passive recreational land use.

Shallow soil investigations were undertaken in 2014 which did not identify any contaminants of concern in shallow soils at concentrations exceeding Health Investigation Levels (HILs) for recreational land, as specified in the 'National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999' (the NEPM). It is noted that Lead was identified in one shallow sample at a concentration exceeding the relevant HIL for residential land use.

Occasional fragments of asbestos containing material (ACM) were identified on the soil surface of the site during early site investigations. However, ACM was not observed at depth within the waste material. A detailed asbestos survey was undertaken in 2014 which identified (and removed) a small

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## **Contaminated Sites Act 2003**

### **Basic Summary of Records Search Response**

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quantity of ACM fragments in the north-west portion of the site corresponding to the former location of waste stockpiles containing ACM which were observed in 2009. The quantity of ACM identified at the site is considered to be below criteria specified in 'Guidelines for the Assessment, Remediation and Management of Asbestos-Contaminated Sites in Western Australia' (Department of Health, May 2009).

Groundwater investigations in 2011 identified benzene (such as from petrol) in groundwater at one location at a concentration marginally exceeding the assessment level for non-potable use of groundwater, as specified in the 'Assessment and management of contaminated sites' (DER 2014). Further monitoring in 2014 did not identify benzene in groundwater beneath the site.

Investigations also identified nutrients (such as ammonia and nitrate) and metals (such as copper and nickel) at concentrations exceeding criteria relevant to the protection of surface water environments. However, given the absence of sensitive surface water receiving bodies in proximity to the site, nutrients impacts to groundwater are unlikely to pose an unacceptable risk to the environment. The concentrations of ammonia in groundwater beneath the site also exceeded the aesthetic assessment level of non-potable use of groundwater, indicating that groundwater beneath the site may not be suitable for garden reticulation or irrigation of playing fields.

Landfill gas is being generated by areas of historical domestic landfill beneath the site. During sampling events in 2011, 2012 and 2014 carbon dioxide was present at 1.5 metres below ground level at concentrations exceeding the action criterion published in 'CIRIA C665: Assessing risks posed by hazardous ground gases to buildings' (Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), 2007). Concentrations of methane recorded in soil gas at the site did not exceed the action criterion as specified in CIRIA 2007.

Based on the absence of buildings or large areas of impermeable surfaces (such as car parks) the generation of landfill gas beneath the site is unlikely to pose an acute risk to human health under a passive recreation landuse.

A site management plan has been prepared to facilitate the ongoing use of the site for passive recreation and outlines management measures to ensure that identified contamination at the site does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health, the environment or any environmental value.

The site is contaminated and has been remediated such that it is suitable for passive recreational use, subject to implementation of the site management plan. Therefore, the site is classified as 'remediated for restricted use'.

DWER, in consultation with the Department of Health, has classified this site based on the information available to DWER at the time of classification. It is acknowledged that the contamination status of the site may have changed since the information was collated and/or submitted to DWER, and as such, the usefulness of this information may be limited.

#### **Other Relevant Information:**

Where the land is part of a transaction - sale, mortgagee or lease agreement, the land owners **MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN DISCLOSURE** (on the prescribed Form 6) of the site's status to any potential owner, mortgagee (e.g financial institutions) or lessee at least 14 days before the completion of the transaction. A copy of the disclosure must also be forwarded to DWER.

#### **Action Required:**

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## Contaminated Sites Act 2003 Basic Summary of Records Search Response

Report generated at 06:13:05PM, 22/05/2019

<b>Certificate of Title Memorial</b>
<b>Current Regulatory Notice Issued</b>
<b>General</b>

The site is required to be managed in accordance with 'Site Management Plan - Kensington Bushland, Kent Street, Victoria Park' (SERS, 3 July 2017).

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, this site has been classified as "remediated for restricted use". For further information on the contamination status of this site, please contact Contaminated Sites at the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

**Type of Regulatory Notice:** Nil

**Date Issued:** Nil

No other information relating to this parcel.

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### 12.3 Proposed Creation and naming of Jirdarup Bushland Precinct

<b>File Reference:</b>	PR3
<b>Appendices:</b>	No

<b>Date:</b>	17 August 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	G. Wilson
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	W. Bow
<b>Voting Requirement:</b>	Simple Majority

**Executive Summary:**

**Recommendation – That Council endorses the creation of a single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve, not including the Harold Rossiter Reserve and the Kensington Police Community Youth Centre (PCYC) complex, and that the bush precinct so created be called the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.**

- Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG) has made a recommendation to create a bushland precinct.
- Council supported the creation of a bushland precinct, and recommended a community engagement process be undertaken, prior to Council's ultimate decision on the creation of the "Jirdarup Bushland Precinct".
- The results of the community consultation process showed support for the creation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.

**TABLED ITEMS:**

Nil

**BACKGROUND:**

At the August 2013 meeting of the Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG), it was proposed that the areas of George Street Reserve, Kensington Bushland and Kent Street Sand Pit be amalgamated into one area to become a "bushland precinct". The reason for this was to afford protection of the parcel of lands as a whole in light of the (then) pending Local Government amalgamations.

This proposal was referred to the Culture and Local History Working Group for consideration of naming the precinct, with reference to the flora and fauna of the area, including suggestions for an Aboriginal name.

The Culture and Local History Working Group engaged Mr Trevor Walley, EcoEducation Aboriginal Officer, Perth Hills Centre, to provide input on the cultural significance of the area and discuss suggestions for the naming of the bushland precinct.

**DETAILS:**

The primary objectives of the Council-endorsed George Street Reserve 11 Year Revegetation Plan include the provision of habitat to the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoos and the provision of a protective buffer to the Kensington Bushland.

(To be confirmed 8 September 2015)

When the matter was referred to the Culture and Local History Working Group, a 'generic term' Jirdarup – "Place of Birds" – was recommended as the name of the proposed bush precinct. This preferred name for the precinct was presented to and endorsed by the CEWG.

At the August 2013 meeting, the CEWG recommended:

1. *The creation of a single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve (not including the Harold Rossiter Reserve and the PCYC complex).*
2. *The bush precinct so created be called the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.*

The matter was referred to Council for consideration and at its 14 April 2015 meeting, it resolved as the following:

1. *That Council propose the creation of a single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve (not including the Harold Rossiter Reserve and the Kensington Police Community Youth Centre complex), and undertake a community consultation process with the result to be referred back to Council for consideration.*
2. *The consultation process to be undertaken will involve sending the relevant information and feedback forms to the owners and residents of properties immediately surrounding Kensington Bushland, George Street Reserve and the Kent Street Sand Pit, also through the provision of the same information and feedback forms on the Town's web page, social media and include an advertisement in the Community Newspaper.*

In June 2015 the Town undertook a four-week community consultation process which comprised feedback forms to the owners and residents of properties immediately surrounding Kensington Bushland, George Street Reserve and the Kent Street Sand Pit. There was also a survey tool made available to the community on the Town's web page and various media.

The results of the community consultation were as follows:

1. Should the Town of Victoria Park create a single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve?
 

Yes	68
No	3
2. If "yes", do you support the proposed name of the precinct of "Jirdarup Bushland Precinct"?
 

Yes	69
No	2

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(To be confirmed 8 September 2015)

The results show that a significant number of respondents voted in favour of the creation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.

**Legal Compliance:**

Nil

**Policy Implications:**

The Town's *GEN6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY* provides a process for community engagement within the Town. This includes guidance on engagement techniques appropriate to the level of consultation desired.

Consultation regarding the creation of the Jirdarup Bush Precinct was undertaken in accordance with the GEN6 policy.

**Strategic Plan Implications:**

The Town's *Strategic Community Plan* sets the strategic direction for the Town, including key projects and services regarding parks:

*Provision of high standard parks and natural areas that are safe, clean and attractive.*

***Town Greening Plan***

*Including the Foreshore Access and Management Plan, McCallum Park Master Plan including Taylor St Café/Restaurant, GO Edwards Park Concept Plan*".

**Financial Implications:**

Internal Budget:

It is anticipated that the only cost to the Town will be in the design and installation of signage referring to the naming of the precinct as a whole.

Total Asset Management:

Nil

**Sustainability Assessment:**

External Economic Implications:

Nil

Social Issues:

The creation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct will demonstrate to the community the Town's commitment to maintaining valuable open and recreational space which benefits both the community and the environment.

Cultural Issues:

Consideration of single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve will serve to provide a local and regional recreational space (e.g. for tourism, social and cultural activities).

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(To be confirmed 8 September 2015)

**Environmental Issues:**

The creation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct recognises not only the importance of the Kensington Bushland and the protection this valued bush remnant warrants, but also that the surrounding parcels of George Street Reserve and Kent Street Sand Pit do not function independently from the Kensington Bushland. They are linked and, with revegetation, will continue to provide valuable corridors for fauna and offer protection through buffering. Thus, it is critical that they be collectively considered as a precinct.

**COMMENT:**

Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG), members of the public and relevant staff at the Town support the creation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.

With the support of surrounding residents, this will assist in ensuring that the community has custodianship of the area.

**CONCLUSION:**

The creation of the Jirdarup Bush Precinct recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing the holistic current and future environmental and recreational value of the Kensington Bushland, George Street Reserve and Kent Street Sand Pit.

**RESOLVED:**

Moved: Cr Potter

Seconded: Cr Anderson

**That Council endorses the creation of a single bush precinct incorporating the Kent Street Sand Pit, the Kensington Bushland and George Street Reserve, not including the Harold Rossiter Reserve and the Kensington Police Community Youth Centre (PCYC) complex, and that the bush precinct so created be called the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.**

The Motion was Put and

**CARRIED (9-0)**

**In favour of the Motion: Mayor Vaughan; Cr Anderson; Cr Bissett; Cr Hayes; Cr Maxwell; Cr Nairn; Cr Oliver; Cr Potter and Cr Windram**

## 2.5 Kent Street Sandpit Usage

File Ref:	RES0022
Appendices:	N/A
BA/DA ref:	N/A
Date:	6 July 2000
Reporting Officer/s:	A Sheridan
Responsible Officer:	A Sheridan

### In Brief

- Clarification of Recreational usage for Kent Street Sandpit.

### BACKGROUND:

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 April 1998, it was resolved, in part, that a proposal from the RSPCA for use of the Kent Street Sandpit "was inconsistent with:

- (I) *The reservation of the land under the Town Planning Scheme for recreational purposes;*
- (II) *Council's previously identified range of uses for the Kent Street Sandpit site"*

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 May 1999, regarding a proposed development by Xavier Park Hockey Club, it was resolved:

*"That the Victoria Park Xavier Hockey Club be advised that the Council is unable to support its proposal to develop an artificial playing surface at the Kent Street sandpit and four grass hockey fields at Harold Rossiter reserve given its decision to support the Victoria park Cricket Club's turf wicket installation on Harold Rossiter Reserve and the preliminary plans discussed at the Councillors Workshop on March 30 1999 regarding the development of the Kent Street sand pit for predominantly passive recreational and cultural use."*

The uses identified previously by the Kent Street Sandpit Project Team and Council were:

- a. *Cultural Centre*
- b. *Sporting venue/headquarters for major (Olympic type sport) in partnership with State of Federal governments*
- c. *Aboriginal museum in partnership with State or Federal governments*
- d. *Botanic garden*
- e. *Fodder farm for the Perth Zoo animals*
- f. *Urban bushland*
- g. *"Ivy Watson" style playground"*

At the Elected Members Briefing Session of 4 July 2000, the Friends of Kensington Bushland presented their thoughts and a sketch plan/concept of a proposed development at the Sandpit.

### DETAILS:

Over the years various proposals have been presented to Council for use of the Kent Street sandpit, including those outlined above.

The Sandpit is adjacent to the Perth Bushplan site No 48 - Kensington Bushland and generally has increased in value for being strategically placed for recreational purposes.

At the Councillors' Workshop on 30 March 1999, preliminary plans were discussed regarding the development of the Sandpit for predominantly passive recreational and cultural use.

**Legal Compliance:**

Kent Street Sandpit is part of the Municipal Endowment Lands of Victoria Park. The lands were vested in the Municipality of Victoria Park in 1912 for 999 years. The Sandpit has an area of approximately 8 Ha and the land is reserved for "Parks and Recreation" purposes under the Town Planning Scheme. The land is subject to Native Title claim.

**Financial Implications:**

Funds would need to be allocated in the future for a study/concept plan for the Sandpit.

**COMMENT:**

Both Kensington Bushland and the Kent Street Sandpit have been described as one of the 'islands in a sea of urban development' and, as such provides an opportunity to conserve and develop the area for passive and cultural purposes, given that active sports are well catered for in the vicinity at Curtin University, the Collier Park recreational complex and the adjacent Harold Rossiter Park.

**ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. That the Kent Street Sandpit site be reserved for passive recreational and cultural purposes.
- B. That \$40,000 be listed for consideration in the 2001/2002 Draft Budget for a study/concept plan for Kent Street Sandpit.

Councillor Skinner suggested that the words 'minor works' be added to part B of the recommendation.

**RESOLVED OCM 283/00**

**Councillor Bissett moved Councillor Stevenson seconded**

- A. That the Kent Street Sandpit site be reserved for passive recreational and cultural purposes.
- B. That \$40,000 be listed for consideration in the 2001/2002 Draft Budget for a study, concept plan and improvements to Kent Street Sandpit.

**CARRIED (9-0)**

## Kensington Bushland

Kensington Bushland is one of the few remaining banksia woodland sites in the central suburbs of Perth. It is recognised as vitally important to the environment and the community. Here is why:



A Firewood banksia flower and Western Spinebill found only in WA. – Photo by Robert Audcent.

- Banksia Woodlands are only found around the Swan Coastal Plain of WA, within the global biodiversity hotspot of southwest Western Australia. They have been declared a threatened ecological community (TEC) under section 184 of the EPBC Act and categorised as “endangered”.
- Banksia Woodland flora include banksia, eucalyptus, and casuarina trees, a rich undergrowth of shrubs and grasses, and many wildflowers unique to the southwest.
- Kensington Bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor, rich in habitat for many reptiles, insects and native birds – including the

## Kent Street Sandpit Petition - What is it about?

The *Friends of Kensington Bushland* are calling on the Town of Victoria Park to:

- **Implement** long-standing Council policies and decisions (2000, 2005, 2012, 2015, 2018) to revegetate the 8 hectares Kent Street Sandpit in the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct as public open space for ‘passive recreational and cultural purposes’,
- **Collaborate** with community groups to immediately commence project planning and revegetation activities,
- **Allocate** the necessary resources to ensure the project is completed within reasonable time.

### Our vision – Kent Street Sandpit 2025:



- endangered Carnaby’s and vulnerable Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.
- The Bushland precinct with its flora contributes to community health and wellbeing and helps absorb carbon pollution.



Female Red-tailed Black Cockatoo at Kensington Bushland, cleaning her offspring. – Photo by Robert Audcent.

## Kent Street Sandpit



*The Kent Street Sandpit today is dominated by sand and weeds. Imagine what it could look like in the future after revegetation.*

The Sandpit is ca. 8 hectares of contaminated land on the south side of the Kensington Bushland. It was previously a sand quarry and later used as a rubbish tip. Over the past 2 decades the Town has committed to revegetate this area:

- In **2000**, Victoria Park Council resolution set aside the Sandpit for 'passive recreation and cultural purposes'.
- In **2012**, the Town's Environmental Plan lists the Kent Street Sandpit for revegetation.
- In **2015**, the Town pronounces the "Jirdarup Bushland Precinct", merging Kensington Bushland and the surrounding areas *George Street Reserve* and the *Kent Street Sandpit*, recognising their importance and the fact that

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these areas do not function independently, but are linked to provide a valuable natural asset.

- In **2017**, the site was classified by the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER) as 'remediated for restricted use'. The on-going use of the Kent Street Sandpit for **passive recreation** is permitted, provided the site is managed in line with the 'Site Management Plan – Kensington Bushland, Kent Street, Victoria Park' (SERS, 3 July 2017); to ensure identified contamination does not pose any unacceptable risks to public health or the environment.
- In **2018** the Town's Kensington Bushland Management Plan and the Urban Forest Strategy, as well as its Strategic Community Plan and Environmental Plan, all include the Kent Street Sandpit as being earmarked for revegetation.



*For almost 2 decades the Kent Street Sandpit has been neglected and fenced off from the public.*

Our vision is to have the Kent Street Sandpit revegetated within 5 years to make it a public open space that will be used by the community for passive recreational and cultural purposes.

## Why is this important?

Once revegetated, the Kent Street Sandpit will almost double the size of the Kensington Bushland, creating a wondrous environmental and community asset for future generations.



The actual revegetation project for the Sandpit will be based on expert advice on how to best revegetate the area in order to maximise, extend and enhance the endangered Banksia woodland of Kensington Bushland.

### Jirdarup Bushland Precinct

Our Jirdarup Bushland Precinct could become the "Kings Park of the South", providing public access to 9.1 hectares of pristine banksia woodlands of Kensington Bushland at its heart, expanding into George Street Reserve's 2.7 ha. and the revegetated Kent Street Sandpit of 8 ha.

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