

I am here tonight representing the Save Burswood Park Alliance, a group formed early this year to oppose the racetrack component of the Perth Entertainment and Sporting Precinct. We now have a membership of over 1,000 and have presented a petition to the WA Parliament requesting a full enquiry as to how this project came about. A change.org petition received almost 9,000 signatures and a Parliamentary petition 7,000 signatures. It is a measure of the anger out in the community.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Councillors in potentially making this issue one of the Advocacy Priorities for the Town. This racetrack was announced with a massive amount of chutzpa by Premier Cook on 12 January. "Imagine the noise, atmosphere and crowds as V8s fly around a new and specially designed racetrack in Burswood Park, just a stone's throw from the city. It'll be incredible," said Deputy Premier Saffioti. With noise the most environmentally damaging feature of this project, the trite explanation from the project team that it will 'just dissipate' just does not hold water. It will in fact bounce off the concave surface of Crown Towers, which acts as a giant loudspeaker.

As the Mayor has already pointed out to the media, Camfield Drive as part of this circuit has already acted as a beacon to the hoon element of society. The tragic instance of the poor young girl who was thrown meters into the air by car recorded at over 90 k.p.h. We can only expect more of this behaviour if this street circuit goes ahead.

This precinct trashes the Burswood Park Masterplan which was developed after countless hours of public consultation and with the prospect of an urban forest gone with it. By way of contrast the PESP held four public consultation sessions all at Optus Stadium which morphed into Drop-In sessions after it was glaringly obvious that the racetrack was unloved. A count of their Post-It notes revealed 92% opposition.

The popularity of Motorsports events is massively overstated by the Industry PR machine. Spectator numbers and TV viewers are often increased by as much as 400%. It does not provide the massive boost to tourism that is claimed. Once the truth comes out the whole circus moves on to another venue and the ratepayers are left to maintain this piece of over engineered infrastructure.

This is a racetrack that is Unwanted, Unnecessary and Un-costed. Please make stopping this one of your advocacy priorities.