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Save Burswood Park Alliance - Update

The community across local suburbs and more widely in greater Perth and the regions continue to protest loudly and strongly about the plans for a permanent, 12 metre wide supercar racing track in Burswood Park. This rare and valuable inner green space continues to be targeted for car racing with the government rebranding their \$217.5 million dollar supercar proposal the "Perth entertainment and sporting precinct" with never a mention of a supercar track included in their latest publicity.

The Save Burswood Park Alliance has grown to more than 1000 people and we have more joining our group every day.

Despite this we remain disappointed that we still meet many people who live locally and in suburbs close by that have never heard of the proposal.

Since our last update a number of activities have been undertaken.

Parliamentary Rally

We had a great rally at Parliament House attended on a weekday by over 200 people to support the tabling of our parliamentary petition containing almost 4000 signatures asking for an inquiry by the select committee for the Environment and Public Affairs in the Legislative Council.

We hope the focus of the inquiry will look at the whole proposal for the supercar track including initial consultation between the government, Supercars Australia and other big Business stakeholders (Crown Casino for one), the fact that the government was up to its 15th iteration of a supercar track before any community consultation was undertaken, plus issues around a lack of a business case, no cost benefit analysis and no environmental studies, not to mention the fact that it has been pushed through as a key election promise when there was no mention of it in either Hannah Beazley (local member for Vic Park) or John Carey's pre-election material. We were lucky to have both Basil Zempilas, Leader of the State Liberal Party and Dr Bradley Pettit, Leader of the State Greens, speaking at our rally. Our petition has the full support of all members of the opposition in the Legislative Council and we are hopeful that we will get the inquiry we are asking for. It is now in the process of being considered by the Select Committee.

Community Feedback Sessions

A very significant number of people have participated in the purported community feedback (note this was renamed to feedback from consultation) both in the online forum run by Main Roads and the face-to-face meetings held at Optus Stadium. We view this consultation as a whitewash as the face-to-face meetings were held primarily with people from Main Roads with the primary answer to all our questions appearing to be 'we don't know that yet' The government presented a cartoon image of the race track minimizing its size and maximizing the green space around it. Other outcomes were:

- Confirmation that the permanent supercar racing track is a non-negotiable. If that doesn't go ahead then nothing will be built.
- Confirmation that they had not yet completed a business case, despite the funding of \$217.5 million being allocated and the tender process underway.
- Confirmation that they did not believe they could or would mitigate the noise across the river into East Perth for the supercar racing or for the many large music events that are proposed for the music bowl.
- Confirmation that the land the proposed track is to be built on is not stable and has a toxic substrate which will require significant remediation and engineering – just think Waterbank – which has not been costed at this time.
- Confirmation that they will be filling in current ponds and 'relocating the animals' – do we believe them? No! The Environmental Officer, who was at the consultation, responded to questions about the fauna on the Peninsula by querying whether there were any ducks in the ponds and had not considered the impact of the noise on the Swan River Dolphins.

Analysis of the community responses highlighted the following:

Online feedback: It is noted that this was initially moderated feedback and simple "no racetrack" comments were taken off the site for the first week or so. Despite this

- 85% of respondents indicated that they did not want a racetrack to be built in Burswood Park;
- 15% of respondents were in favour of the racetrack.

Face to face community feedback sessions (unmoderated)

- 98% of respondents indicated they did not want the permanent racetrack to proceed;

- 2% of respondents supported it.

Despite this significant community opposition during the feedback sessions the Labor Government continues to push ahead with Rita refusing to answer questions about the project in parliament.

Ongoing activity

1. The Save Burswood Park Alliance has been working with members of the opposition, senior Labor Party luminaries and many other people with significant knowledge about the area to gain momentum for our opposition. We are now getting coverage both online, in the West Australian and in the television news. We are hoping this can continue.
2. We are currently planning a Town Hall meeting in the next few weeks to provide further information to the community about this appalling project and will be publicizing it across East Perth as well as in other local suburbs. We hope you will attend.
3. We are currently liaising with the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation who have not been consulted on the project yet are the designated indigenous owners of the land.
4. We continue to lobby State Government, other stakeholders and work with Opposition MPs to make the government accountable for this wasteful spend. This is highlighted by recent newspaper articles where Reece Whitby (Labor Minister) defended the government's road safety record stating that they had spent \$30 million on two buses to assist with safety on regional roads and \$21 million allocated to regional hospitals. The priorities are all wrong.
5. We have established a website that provides a significant amount of background information about supercar events across Australia and the false claims of Supercar Australia. The website link is www.saveburswoodpark.org

Thanks for your attention. If you would like more information, please have a look at our website and join our Facebook Community – Save Burswood Park Alliance.