

Save Burswood Park Alliance

Agenda Item 12.11



Save Burswood Park Alliance committee and members welcome the Motion on Notice to oppose all iterations of Burswood Park that include a V8 Supercars and motorsports racetrack.

We assume that the very fact of the Notice of Motion means that you are already familiar with the many concerning issues imbedded in this project, including:

- the lack of transparency or objective oversight
- the lack of planning
- the cancellation of the State Labor Government endorsed 2023 Burswood Park Plan
- the absence of any meaningful consultation or communication
- the environmental impacts on riverside communities, flora and fauna
- the broad economic impacts now and in the future, and
- the well-established social infrastructure and cost of living pressures and priorities across our WA community

We appreciate and accept that it is unusual for Councils to weigh in on issues that are not within the boundaries of your jurisdiction. However, we suggest that in accordance with your 2025 Advocacy Strategy, joining with the City of Victoria Park and Perth City Council in opposing the destruction of Burswood Park places you in good company, creating lasting alliances and strategic relationships with your neighbours, and strongly representing your community.

We'd like to focus upon a few of the issues that we see as most impactful for the City of South Perth community.

We all take the stewardship responsibility for our Swan River foreshore and conservation category wetlands very seriously, for ourselves and all future generations. This project creates a strong precedent that reverses the significant efforts and dilutes the rights of local Councils, Indigenous and Community groups who have care of the parklands adjacent to the Swan River, and who have championed open green space, increased tree canopy and native vegetation.

The State claims that this project is ok because it will be built on a reclaimed rubbish tip, the water and surrounds are contaminated, and the space is not fully utilised. This rhetoric and spin ignores 30+ years of rehabilitation and reuse, taking us back to the 1940s when it was deemed okay to put a rubbish tip there in the first place, because it was only meaningful to the local Whadjuk people that were born there and lived on or visited the area.

Now we know that Burswood Park is part of an important riverside wetland eco system that extends to South Perth and beyond and needs sensible and appropriate development for the ongoing health of the river and the 71+ recorded species of fauna in that space. Despite almost 1000 detailed submissions, No Public Environmental Assessment will be conducted by the EPA. Qualified and knowledgeable individuals and environmental groups tell us that additional strain will be placed on animal populations, including in South Perth and the water quality of the river will suffer. But our regulatory organisation believes the spin when the State says they will remove and rehome all existing fauna and manage all other impactsas the project gets built.

The Park is a well-used inner-city sanctuary which provides much needed amenity for locals and tourists. 360,000 tourist visits to the Park were formerly recorded in 2024/2025 financial year and significant numbers of local people from South Perth, Vic Park, Burswood and East Perth depend on it daily for their physical and mental health, given many live in small lots or apartments with little private green space. We also note that Whadjuk people still regularly visit the area to honour their ancestors who were born and lived there and to celebrate their culture.

The State Government is misusing its power to cancel the local Burswood Park 20 year vision, that has informed a wide range of planning strategies at the local level. We have a housing crisis across WA. Yet all housing development on the Peninsula has already halted as a result of the proposed motorsports racetrack and buyers given their money back. This puts more pressure on housing stock in South Perth and other local areas and undermines the Vic Park Strategic Planning Framework which envisages 40,000 people housed in the area.

Wetlands have already been filled in beside Belmont Park horseracing track and 4,500 residences are currently being built.

Where will these people go to recreate? The State says that the asphalt and concrete covered Burswood Park will be open to the public at least 90% of the time and the racetrack will only have one 3-day Supercars Championship per year. But the stated intention to the EPA and in the government's initial press release on January 12 2025 is for continuous motor racing events. Regular closed criterion cycling club races will also be held on the track. All these events require fencing, significant additional infrastructure and set up/pull down time, therefore closing much of the area to the public over the course of a year.

Lack of appropriate recreational green space in such a high-density population area will place additional pressure and loss of amenity in parklands in South Perth, East Perth, and Vic Park.

This unhealthy precedent, of the State riding roughshod over local government and established planning frameworks is already being repeated across numerous local government jurisdictions across WA. This was raised by the Alliance in our written submission and recent appearance before the Upper House Select Committee on

Planning. We also note that the proposed State Development Act will give the State further powers to ignore the community, if it passes.

There is no doubt that the South Perth community will be impacted by additional traffic congestion to and from Burswood with the significant increase in events. However, the noise from all forms of motor racing will impact more obviously on residents and local businesses. The acoustic study provided to the EPA by Government relied on the noise readings provided by Supercars Australia for the cursory analysis. It didn't look at independent research on noise levels or the impact of noise bouncing off the surrounding structures in Burswood Park, nor include analysis of impact anywhere across, or down the Swan river.

The noise generated at Supercar and similar events well exceeds WorkSafe guidelines and is proven to be damaging to human health and hearing, and to wildlife. Outdoor premises within 6 – 10 kms will also suffer, as these will sit within the audible range which is recognized as a 'region of annoyance' depending on wind direction. That's clearly many businesses and residents in South Perth that will be affected. We hear from the State that they will conduct further noise testing at the initial races to determine noise impact on the community. This would be highly unlikely to include South Perth and is way too late. But the EPA obviously thought that was ok.

We also note the Council concerns with hooning in your area.

Published research done a while back investigating crash statistics before and after the Adelaide Grand Prix identified around 20% increase in casualty road crashes.

The hoon effect.

Given what we know about speeding and racing on roads across a number of council areas, and we have already had a fatality during unofficial racing on Camfield Drive earlier this year, we should expect more of the same when Supercars come into the inner city and inner-city motor racing is actively promoted by the State.

To sum up our deputation. We are heartened see that no matter how many times the State Government attempts to reinvent, re-brand, colourise and re-illustrate their motor sports racetrack, the opposition within the community grows.

We applaud those local Councils that stand together and represent the majority views of their constituents and community, setting aside concerns that there may be adverse consequences for those that fall out of favour with the current State government. And we have all seen and some of us have been subjected to their appalling behaviour from the bully pulpit. But we won't stop until they do.

You have come into your position as a community representative and we hope you will also set aside those concerns and cast your vote to oppose this ill-conceived and seriously dodgy project.