

Controversial \$217 million Perth Park approved despite pushback

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The controversial Burswood racetrack is a step closer, after being approved by the WA Planning Commission despite hundreds of protests and opposition from the Victoria Park council.

The board's decision was unanimous, after a two-hour hearing on Thursday.

WAPC chair Emma Cole said the site for Perth Park was "unsuitable" for residential housing and that the \$217.5 million plan for a racetrack and amphitheatre was consistent with proper planning. "The stadium precinct has been identified as a sporting zone," she said.

"This area has long been recognised as a regional destination

for sporting, recreation and entertainment activities in what is a heavily engineered and human-made environment."

The application approval was only for the part of the Perth Park project on Lot 2001 — closer to Optus Stadium than Crown Casino — including construction of part of the racetrack, landscaping and roadworks.

Out of 281 submissions received, the WAPC confirmed 84 per cent was against the Cook Government's plan.

But Ms Cole said she had "great confidence" that Venues West could manage noise concerns and that there has been extensive consultation about the environmental impact.

"We are seeing that uplift in

(tree) canopy across the site," she said.

"While that doesn't meet the desire of many of the submitters, moving from 4 to 12 per cent will be a substantial improvement".

The Save Burswood Park Alliance described the decision as disappointing but not surprising.

