

Hundreds gather to rally against Rita's racetrack plans at Burswood Park

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Hundreds of vocal residents packed into a community meeting on Sunday to fight Labor's plans to build a racetrack at Burswood Park.

It was standing room only for many, with about 250 people squeezing into a bowling club in

East Victoria Park for the rally organised by Save Burswood Park Alliance.

Labor says it has an election mandate for the \$217 million project, now known as the Perth Entertainment and Sporting Precinct, which includes plans for an amphitheatre and multi-use track. Alliance co-chair Robin

Harvey urged people to register to make submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority when a crucial seven-day window opens.

She also called for them to sign up with their availability to join protests at short notice.

"We haven't done many protests in the past, but we need bod-

ies," she said. There were cheers from the crowd when Dr Harvey questioned how so much money could be allocated to a "vanity project", when hospitals were in dire need of more funds.

The Liberals and cross-benchers in August set up a Parliamentary inquiry to scrutinise planning laws, which will also

examine plans to build the race circuit. WA Greens leader Brad Pettitt urged the crowd to "keep up the pressure" on the Cook Government.

He said he was aware of rumblings of dissent from within Labor ranks about the project, because it was "fundamentally flawed on so many levels".