
City of Perth votes against Government's \$217m Burswood racetrack

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The City of Perth council has voted unanimously to oppose the proposed \$217 million Perth Entertainment and Sporting Precinct at Burswood Park after heated debate at Tuesday's council meeting.

The council voted to support an urgent motion from Cr Ste-

ven Wellard calling for the city to oppose the project despite claims the motion was being used as a "political stunt".

Cr Catherine Lezer, who is running for lord mayor in the upcoming elections, said the late motion was "highly unusual".

"It is the very definition of a political stunt, driven by expediency rather than sound gover-

nance," she said. "The secretive meeting between the deputy Lord Mayor and the State Government, followed by the deputy denying this meeting took place, this undermines the accountability we owe to our ratepayers."

"Despite the procedural failures, I will be voting in support of the community's opposition."

Deputy Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds asked Cr Lezer to clarify what she meant.

"It was not a secret meeting, I was there to listen to a briefing," he said. "In my view, it is the responsibility of the City to provide that briefing formally and it has since occurred."

"Elected members are entitled under the Local Government

Act 1995 to represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents and that is exactly what I did."

Cr Wellard said the motion had come from "observing increased broad-based community concern", as well as already having made "several requests for more detail on the plans".

