

Hillview-Seacrest Reserve

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP REPORT



Table of Contents

Background	2
Historical Context.....	2
The Workshop Process.....	2
What is a Reserve	3
Workshop Objectives.....	3
Visioning.....	4
Mapping Works and Locations	4
Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
Participant Feedback	5
Next Steps	5
APPENDICES	6
Appendix 1: Vesting Order.....	6
APPENDIX 2: Previous Engagement.....	7
APPENDIX 3: Landgate Customer Advices for Reserve Actions.....	7
APPENDIX 4: Extract - Local Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Greater Geraldton	8
APPENDIX 5: Proposed Native Plant Species List	8
APPENDIX 6: Mapped Works Locations.....	9
APPENDIX 7: Sample Participant Feedback Form.....	10

Background

Over the last few years, Drummond Cove residents have raised a number of issues and concerns regarding the Hillview-Seacrest Reserve, which is designated by Landgate for Public Recreation, and for environmental conservation under the City's LPS No 1. Issues identified by the residents include:

- Fire risk
- Encroachment and clearing of vegetation
- Erosion and stability of the slope
- Weeds
- Protecting habitat for fauna
- Privacy

On Thursday 23 September 2021, the City held a community meeting on the reserve at the Hillview Drive access point. The objectives of the meeting were; to inform residents of the installation of a mulched fire break around the perimeter of the reserve to meet firebreak compliance; to inform residents of the staged removal of African Boxthorn and Black Wattle in the reserve; and to determine the level of interest of local residents to collaborate with the City to develop a site plan to rehabilitate the reserve. A report on the community meeting including objectives, information shared and consensus outcomes was shared with all residents who live adjacent to the reserve, and with Council.

At this meeting a high level of interest was expressed by residents to work with the City to co-create a site plan. This process began with a community workshop held on Monday 29 November 2021 at the John Batten Community Hall in Drummond Cove. This document is the report of that workshop.

Letters of invitation to the workshop were posted to residents who live adjacent to the reserve. Invitations were also emailed to residents who provided their email address. The workshop was attended by seven residents and one Councillor. It was facilitated by the City's Coordinator of Environment and Sustainability, Erin O'Connor.

Historical Context

In preparation for the November 29 Community Workshop, and in response to questions regarding the vesting of the land raised at the September meeting, City staff investigated the history of the reserve. The research uncovered the original vesting order dated July 1986 where Governor Gordon Reid directed Reserve No. 24738, which then encompassed the leasehold lots and bushland between Hillview Drive and Bayside, be vested with the Shire of Greenough for the purpose of 'private dwellings and recreation'. (See Appendix 1, page 6, Vesting Order)

Nine years later in 2005, the former Shire of Greenough engaged with residents and the broader community regarding a proposed rezoning a portion of Reserve 24738, which included the pocket of land currently known as the Hillview-Seacrest Reserve, to residential development. The majority of the feedback received from both leaseholders and non-leaseholders was for the Hillview-Seacrest Reserve to be kept as a public open space. (See Appendix 2, page 7, Previous Engagement)

The Workshop Process

Before the workshop began, the facilitator Acknowledged Country and clarified the vesting and zoning of the reserve and the various acts that govern how reserves are managed. This information was provided as a response to questions raised during the 23 September 2021 Community Meeting regarding how a recreational reserve is to be managed. The following information was given to participants.

What is a Reserve

A Reserve is a form of tenure of Crown Land. Reserve tenure is usually applied to land that:

Holds intrinsic community value or is of high conservation value that should be preserved and maintained for the benefit of future generations.

(Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Crown land reserves)

Land Administration Act 1997 governs Crown Land in the state of Western Australia. Section 267 describes Offences on Crown land and proceedings for them.

Local Government Act 1995 provides for a system of local government that best meets the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

The **Land Administration (Land Management) Regulations 2006**, regulations 12 and 13 prescribe penalties for interfering with regulated land.

Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996, regulations 5 and 17 prescribe penalties for interfering with, or taking from local government land, and private works on, over, or under public places respectively, and prescribe penalties for specified actions.

The **Management Order** for Reserve 52409 (Hillview-Seacrest Reserve), from the State of Western Australia to the City of Greater Geraldton, is for **Public Recreation**.

The **Local Planning Scheme No. 1** (Greater Geraldton), which was gazetted in December 2015, identifies the reserve to be managed for **Environmental Conservation**.

These are compatible, and are governed by the above legislation and regulations.

(See Appendix 3, page 7, Landgate Advices for Reserve Actions)

(See Appendix 4, page 8, Extract - Local Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Greater Geraldton)

Workshop Objectives

Once participants understood what the current vesting and zoning of the reserve entails, the following workshop objectives were presented. It was agreed that if all three objectives weren't achieved an additional workshop would be scheduled to ensure adequate time was taken deliberating each objective.

1. Consensus on a vision for the reserve
2. Develop a framework to guide the process for site plan creation
3. Identify roles and responsibilities

Visioning

The first activity in the workshop was a visioning exercise. Participants were asked to take a few minutes to imagine what the reserve could look like in an ideal world and write down each of their ideas on a sticky note. The sticky notes were collected and quickly grouped into common themes on butcher's paper attached to a wall. The ideas were then collectively reviewed by the group to determine consensus on each issue and their themed groupings. The following ten themes were identified:

- Weed removal
- Animal habitats
- Revegetation
- Return to original natural environment
- Stabilised dune
- Safety
- Rubbish removal
- Privacy
- Informal recreation only
- Public access

The following table lists the themed categories and the number of times it was mentioned.

THEMES	No. of MENTIONS
Weed removal (Agave, Black Wattle, Boxthorn, Couch grass, Crown Beard)	9
Animal habitats (create and maintain, feral animal control)	8
Revegetate with native plants (coastal/ low fire risk)	7
Return to original natural environment (remove lawns, undo encroachments)	7
Stabilise dune to reduce wind/water erosion/dust (more natural topography)	6
Safety (remove rubbish, minimal firebreak clearing, good fencing)	5
Privacy (use plants of varying heights/colours/textures)	4
Informal recreation only (no gazebos, lookout bench-for/against)	4
Public access (yes/no for informal walk path, restrict vehicle access)	4

In regard to revegetating the reserve, the following native plant species were identified as food and habitat for birds:

- Cockies Tongues
- Eremophila
- Atriplex
- Salt Bush

At the request of participants a comprehensive list of suitable plant species to revegetate the reserve was submitted the following day. (See Appendix 5, page 8, Proposed Native Plant Species List)

A discussion was then held regarding an extension of the works to cover the portion of the reserve on the north side of Tailer Street. It was agreed that should the residents who live adjacent to this portion of the reserve be interested in collaborating with the City, a similar process could be undertaken.

Mapping Works and Locations

The previous exercise created a unity of vision and common purpose. With that, participants were tasked with mapping actions to achieve it. A large aerial map of the reserve was placed on a table, participants gathered around and a group discussion was facilitated to identify how and where the following works should take place. This included the zoning of the reserve into ten manageable project sites. (See Appendix 6, page 9, Mapped Works Locations)

1. Weed removal
2. Revegetation with native plants including staged approach
3. Dune stabilisation to mitigate water and wind erosion
4. Staged removal of Black Wattle to ensure wildlife habitat isn't lost during the rehabilitation

5. Reinstatement of the natural slope to excavated areas
6. Reinstatement of natural slope in built up and grassed areas
7. Areas to be left alone as natural regrowth is occurring since Boxthorn was removed

Roles and Responsibilities

Once the mapping was completed, the group discussed roles and responsibilities, financial considerations and possible timeframes. The group agreed the City should do the 'heavy lifting', and the residents would undertake smaller scale tasks. There will also be a number of projects residents and the City would undertake together. It was also agreed that the works will need to be staged and undertaken at the most appropriate time of the year (i.e. planting seedlings) and as City Budget becomes available and/or grant funding is sourced.

City's Responsibilities:

- Fire break compliance (slashing mulching)
- Fire break maintenance
- Removal of large invasive species (i.e. Agave, Black Wattle)
- Removal of bulk rubbish
- Transport of green waste and rubbish to the tip
- Ripping of compacted ground in preparation for revegetation works
- Spraying of weeds prior to revegetation works

Resident's Role:

- Clean up day
- Small Boxthorn plant control following on site Boxthorn Blitz workshop
- Slope stabilisation (soft works i.e. placing of coir logs and matting)
- Small scale weed control (i.e. Golden Crown Beard, Walkaway Burr, Ice plant)
- Revegetation (seedling planting)
- Research/apply for grant funding

Participant Feedback

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to provide their feedback on the process. All participants said the workshop went well; the materials and discussions were useful; they understood the key issues; learned new information; heard from others with differing opinions; and were able to express their own views. They also said they were encouraged to participate, their knowledge and experience was considered and felt their contribution was valued. (See Appendix 7, page 10, Sample Participant Feedback Form)

Next Steps

The group agreed to the following next steps:

1. A workshop report will be compiled and shared with all residents living adjacent to the reserve.
2. A draft rehabilitation works map will be produced that reflects agreed upon works and their locations.
3. A meeting will be scheduled for early 2022 to present the draft rehabilitation works map to residents and gather feedback.
4. Further discussions regarding a walk path through the reserve and the installation of bench seating will be undertaken.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Vesting Order

FIGURE

Land Act, 1933

(Section 33)

VESTING ORDER

File No 2782/955V5

I, Professor Gordon Reid, Governor in and over the State of Western Australia and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, do hereby, in pursuance of the powers enabling me in that behalf, under and by virtue of Section 33 of the Land Act, 1933, direct that Reserve No 24738 (Victoria Location 10471) shall vest in and be held by the Shire of Greenough in trust for the following objects and purposes (that is to say) "Private Dwellings and Recreation" with power to the said Shire of Greenough to lease the whole or any portion thereof for any term not exceeding thirty (30) years from the date of the lease or for the lifetime of the last surviving registered lessee of any portion of the said reserve holding a lease on the 1st day of May 1985, whichever term shall be the longer, subject nevertheless to the powers reserved to me by Section 37 of the said Act.

Given under my hand, at Perth
this 15th day
of JULY 1986

Gordon Reid
GOVERNOR

APPENDIX 2: Previous Engagement

In 2005, the former Shire of Greenough proposed Amendment No. 108 to its Town Planning Scheme No. 4 which involved rezoning of a portion of Reserve 24738 from Recreation Zone and Single Residential R12.5 Zone to Single Residential R20 zone. This included rezoning the pocket of land, currently known as the Hillview-Seacrest Reserve, to R20 residential development.

During the public consultation regarding the proposed rezoning, leaseholders were surveyed on the various aspects of the proposed amendment with the majority of them agreeing the pocket of land located between Hillview Drive and Seacrest Way should be kept as a public open space with the following recommendations:

- It to remain as managed bushland with a pedestrian path going through it
- Be accessible to the public
- Be jointly cared for by the Shire and residents

A number of submissions made by non-leaseholders also recommended the Hillview-Seacrest Reserve should be kept as a public open space and managed as coastal heath vegetation.

APPENDIX 3: Landgate Customer Advices for Reserve Actions

LANDGATE – Customer Advices for Reserve Actions	
New, Amendments, Cancellations to Reserves in the City of Greater Geraldton	
RESERVE 52409	June 2016
RESERVE CREATION	A9896
Land Description:	Lot 752 on Deposited Plan 57295
DPI File Number:	00228-2010-01RO
Volume & Folio:	3154-165
Action:	Reserve Creation for the designated purpose of Public Recreation.
Document Number:	N298410
Registered:	12/04/2016
Street Name:	Tailer Street, Drummond Cove
Area:	1.0446 Ha
Public Plans:	
MANAGEMENT ORDER	
Land Description:	Lot 752 on Deposited Plan 57295
DPI File Number:	00228-2010-01RO
Volume & Folio:	3154-165
Action:	Management Order to City of Greater Geraldton of PO Box 101, Geraldton WA 6531 to be utilised for the designated purpose of “Public Recreation” only.
Document Number:	N298411
Registered:	12/04/2016
Street Name:	Tailer Street, Drummond Cove
Area:	1.0446 Ha
Public Plans:	

APPENDIX 4: Extract - Local Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Greater Geraldton



APPENDIX 5: Proposed Native Plant Species List

- *Clematis lineariflora* (Slender Clematis)
- *Acanthocarpus preissii* (Prickle Lily)
- *Enchylaena tomentosa* (Barrier Saltbush)
- *Ptilotus divaricatus* (Climbing Mulla Mulla)
- *Rhagodia preissii* (Red Berry Saltbush)
- *Rhagodia baccata* (Berry Saltbush)
- *Eremophila glabra* (Tar Bush)
- *Scaevola crassifolia* (Thick-leaved Fan-flower)
- *Solanum oldfieldii*
- *Stylobasium spathulatum* (Pebble Bush)
- *Templetonia retusa* (Cockies Tongues)
- *Alyxia buxifolia* (Dysentery Bush)
- Quondong (*Santalum acuminatum*)
- *Tetragonia implexecoma* (Bower Spinach)
- *Melaleuca cardiophylla*
- *Casuarina equisetifolia*

APPENDIX 6: Mapped Works Locations





Hillview-Seacrest Reserve Community Workshop

Participant Feedback Form

Thank you for your time and effort in participating in the workshop. Your feedback helps us improve how we engage with the community.

How well did this workshop go for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Very well</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Can't say / not sure</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not very well</i>
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How useful did you find each of the following aspects of the workshop?	<i>Very useful</i>	<i>Quite useful</i>	<i>Not very useful</i>	<i>Not at all useful</i>	<i>Can't say</i>
a. Printed information (list docs here)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Discussion(s) with other people at your table	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How well did you feel you were you able to:	<i>Very well</i>	<i>Quite well</i>	<i>Not very well</i>	<i>Not at all well</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
a. Understand what was happening during the workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Understand the key issues being discussed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Learn about the issues or get new information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Hear from people with differing viewpoints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Express your own views	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How much do you believe that:	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>Probably</i>	<i>Probably not</i>	<i>Definitely not</i>
a. Your participation was encouraged?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Your expertise and experience were considered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Your contribution was valued	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you going to participate in any further workshops regarding the reserve?	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Yes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>No</i>
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What do you want/need to happen in the next consultation?
Is there any information you would like presented or have access to at the next consultation?
Do you have any major concerns for the reserve?