

RESPECTING AND PROTECTING ALLEN PARK A CLASS RESERVE

Address to City of Nedlands Council 28 July 2015 on Item 14.2

Mr Mayor and distinguished councillors, my name is Stephen Lipple, an elector of this city, living at 30 Lynton Street Swanbourne. Although 6pm 20 October 2007 now seems a long time ago, I still remember the Council years. So I gratefully acknowledge your dedication, diligence and sacrificial service of the councillors to the well-being of City of Nedlands, its people, its places and its purposes. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on what a first glance seems a simple matter: putting up an entry statement.

As our leaders and representatives, please commission the entry sign mooted under item 14.2 because Council and citizens want four results What are they? To:

- Remember
- Respect
- Preserve and
- Integrate

the historic and continuing, major conservation, heritage and recreation values and purposes of Allen Park A Class Reserve.

REMEMBER

May we **remember** the far-sighted, pioneer work of long-serving Cr Jack Allen in establishing Allen Park with its diverse and regional uses, including:

- retention of a most significant wildlife, natural landscape and heritage conservation zone which provides a unique 1km transect from surf to 'swamp', recognized at State and Commonwealth levels.
- Display of geology, soils and vegetation complexes that make this a very special tract. From fragile sandy fore-dunes (Safety Bay Sand) with low, salt-tolerant grasses, to shrubland, then the inland Karrakatta complex with deep yellow sand and pinnacles of bedrock Tamala Limestone, there is a most rich, special flora, some with particular botanical significance, from orchids to massive tuart and marri trees.
- Provision of a regional, much-loved recreational space with the former swamp now site for the wack of cricket bats and thump of footy balls.

May we **remember** that the forest across the Sayer Street entrance is classified by the National Trust on its *List of Classified Places*.

May we **remember** the thousands of hours of volunteer community labour, the state and national financial grants and City of Nedlands budget expenditure and staff commitment to restore, manage and enhance the ecological values of Allen Park bushland.

May we **remember** that Melon Hill is a special, readily accessible, but fragile example of the Quindalup Dune System formed 10,000 years ago at a time of much lower sea level.

May we **remember** and appreciate the treasure that we hold in trust.

RESPECT

We ask for **respect** for the:

- Years of work by Council and community as faithful trustees of this precious and special area;

- Community values and wishes expressed from the 1990s in a series of conservation plans for Allen Park, and several community development plans for Swanbourne, such as the 2002 Swanbourne Local Area Plan, desiring protection of the character and integrity of the bushland.
- The significance of the Allen Park Heritage Precinct occupying this part of the park;
- The military history and panoramic vista of Melon Hill; and
- The special forest habitat and ecology that Sayer Street cuts through.

PRESERVE

We ask to **preserve** the:

- values just cited; and because we are grateful for Council solidarity against the DHA designs on Seaward Village, we ask that Council preserve -
- community confidence that our leaders and representatives support us against (in my opinion) ignorant, bullying, remote bureaucrats and wannabe government entrepreneurs who neither understand community nor business.
- Community amenity - not just for Swanbourne residents, but all Nedlands people and the wider district.
- Community safety, since the eastern, Sayer entrance is a major access for walkers, runners, cyclists, school children, those exercising their dogs, conservation workers, people using the disability access path and the Bush to Beach Heritage and Recreation Trail.

INTEGRATE

We ask for Council to integrate northeast Allen Park, by a permanent entry statement making it clear that though a bitumen strip crosses the park, it is all A Class reserve. Let not usage of the Sayer extension lead to a permanent partitioning of the park.

Conclusion

Thank you for hearing me voice community desire that we remember, respect, preserve and integrate the special values and amenity of Allen Park for all Nedlands people. The sign that you can commission tonight will be pegs in the ground telling Canberra: 'No, to community disrespect; no, to riding roughshod over Council and citizens; no, to damaging our places; no to defeating our purposes; and no to distaining our posterity'. Let Allen Park be protected and respected.

Thank you Mayor and Councillors.

Stephen Lipple
28 July 2015