

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK

Project Manager
Perth and Peel@3.5million
Department of Planning
Locked Bag 2506
PERTH WA 6001

Submission on Draft Plan for Perth and Peel@3.5million

We write on behalf of the Friends of Allen Park in Swanbourne and wish to provide comment on the Central Sub-Regional Plan.

Page 4

We are extremely concerned that the Allen Park remnant bushland, and adjacent Public Open Spaces, do not appear to be included in the Green Network.

We endorse and support the submission of the Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group.

The Allen Park remnant bushland and adjacent Public Open Spaces have high environmental and community value, and we strongly urge that they be included in the Green Network.

Community Vision

The local community places an extremely high value on the Allen Park remnant bushland and adjacent Public Open Spaces.

The vision of the local community for this area, as established over many years of ongoing public consultation, culminated in the development of the Swanbourne Precinct Masterplan in 2009.

“The Swanbourne Precinct Masterplan aims to facilitate a safe, family orientated environment with a high emphasis on bushland conservation and recreation. The Precinct, which sits in a coastal and heritage setting, strives for simplicity whilst still providing the highest level of amenity as supporting community infrastructure for local residents as well as regional visitors. Overall, the Swanbourne Precinct aims to build on the sense of place which is, and has been Swanbourne since its establishment in the 1890’s.”

Carnaby Cockatoos – class 1 MNES – Matter of National Environmental

Significance

The local community feels privileged to share the Allen Park remnant bushland and adjacent Public Open Spaces with endangered Black Cockatoos, and places a very high value on this.

We are particularly concerned about the importance of the remnant bushland to the critically endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, and share the alarm of the Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group in this regard.

Historic Significance and Community Value

The Allen Park remnant bushland and adjacent Public Open Spaces are also of significant historical importance.

Mr John Allen is the person after whom Allen Park was named. He was a soldier who was part of the first landing at Gallipoli in 1914. He became a member of the Claremont Road Board (a predecessor to the City of Nedlands) in 1920.

In 1922 he moved a motion that was carried unanimously by the Claremont Road Board to create a parcel of land in Swanbourne "for Recreation ... and Natural Gardens and a Lookout ... for the people ... for all time." From 1922 to 1926, Mr Allen then relentlessly pursued this vision, as is evident from the minutes of the meetings of the Claremont Road Board that were held during those years.

As a consequence of Mr Allen's work the Claremont Road Board purchased a number of blocks of land in Swanbourne from landowners for the purpose of incorporating them into this Swanbourne Reserve. Mr Allen personally met with a number of the landowners to persuade them to sell their lots to allow this to happen.

The lots that were purchased by the Claremont Road Board were amalgamated within A Class Reserve 19283 as for parks and recreation purposes. A number of roads were closed for the express purpose of incorporating the land within the A Class Reserve. This A Class Reserve then formed part of the overall Swanbourne Reserve.

Over his lifetime John Allen continued to plant, protect and improve this land.

In 1936, with a war on the horizon, the Commonwealth seized much of the land John Allen had sacrificed so many years parcelling together for Defence Purposes.

It appears that the community backed John Allens' vision and objected so strongly that the then Defence Minister did two things:

1) The Defence Minister gave back a large piece of the reserve that Defence did not need, free of charge to the state.

2) The Defence Minister stipulated that the community was to be allowed free access to all but the very top of Melon Hill.

The legacy of John Allen has been enjoyed by the people of Western Australia for over 90 years, and in the years since the creation of Allen Park a huge amount of grant money and community effort has gone into preserving and improving the A Class Reserve and the surrounding bushland.

Descendants of John Allen remain in the area, and retain an active interest in John Allen's legacy.

As a community we wish to follow in John Allen's footsteps and to preserve, protect and improve the Allen Park remnant bushland and adjacent Public Open Spaces for everyone to enjoy as a 'natural garden...playing ground and lookout for the people for all time...'

Friends of Allen Park
allenparkswanbourne@gmail.com

31 July 2015

*Supporting documentation to follow.