

Willoughby City Council

O.H. Reid Citizen's Panel – Report to Council - Final

Version: V6, November 5, 2019



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Background



Community Engagement Background

On February 25, 2019, Willoughby City Council resolved to endorse the formation of a Citizens' Panel to inform and guide the development of the O.H. Reid Reserve Master Plan. The purpose of the Panel is to:

- Provide recommendations regarding the strategies and actions for the drafting of a Master Plan for O.H. Reid Reserve (Plan to be developed by Council).
- Represent the views of the community, key stakeholders and other interested parties.

Council endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Panel (see Appendix 1) on June 11, 2019, and Panellists were recruited by Council in July 2019, with a broad representation:

- 2 residents of West Ward
- 1 youth representative
- 1 representative of local dog walkers
- 1 representative with local knowledge of bushcare/flora/fauna
- 3 sporting club representatives (one each of football, cricket and AFL)
- 1 representative of the Chatswood West Progress Association
- 1 representative from Chatswood Public School administration or P&C

Four workshops were convened (Monday August 19, Monday September 2, Monday September 9 and Monday October 21, 2019). Sessions ran for up to two hours each and were facilitated by Micromex Research, with specific subject matter advice provided by Council. Appendix 2 provides details of the panellists and their attendance.

In addition to the four face-to-face workshops, Council, Panellists and Micromex were able to share information (such as Minutes, photos) in between meeting dates via a 'closed' online portal managed by Council.

The Terms of Reference state that the bushland areas of O.H. Reid Reserve were not in scope, as they have already been addressed by the May 2018 Reserve Action Plan.

Session Guides/Presentations used in each session are Provided in Appendix 3.

History of O.H. Reid Reserve

- 1993 – Council proposed the installation of lights at O.H. Reid Reserve. After significant objections from the local community the proposal was withdrawn.
- After the bushfires in 1994, a local bush care group was established to protect the bushland around the Reserve – with the support of Council and local residents it ran for over 20 years.

O. H. REID MEMORIAL RESERVE WEST CHATSWOOD

Under attack!!

Your help is needed to stop a proposed development.

The O. H. Reid Memorial Reserve is a picturesque playing field, surrounded by bushland, at the end of Reid Drive, Chatswood West. This area has for decades been used for numerous sports and family activities, such as cricket, hockey, school athletics carnivals, office picnics and sports days, and for just plain walking the dog.

The bushland surrounding the oval is a haven for abundant birdlife and natural flora and fauna—kookaburras, possums, fruit bats and galahs abound.

This may all end if a \$400 000-plus development application, which has been lodged with the Willoughby Council by Sydney North Women's Hockey Association and the North Sydney District Hockey Club, is approved. Under the proposed development application, the playing field will be ripped up and artificial turf will be installed. In addition, six 18-metre towers will be installed with 16–24 lights. The lights will operate until 10 p.m. each night.

The Hockey Association proposes to take a minimum 10-year lease with a 10-year option from Willoughby Council, and plans to dominate usage of the Reserve for 48 weeks of the year at a ratio of 90 per cent occupancy.

Reserves and parks should be available for the use of the ratepayers and residents—they should not be leased long term for exclusive use of minority groups. If this development application is approved, then no doubt other parks and reserves will follow and we will find that one of the main reasons we live on the North Shore—for its parks and vegetation—will no longer exist.

To demonstrate your concern for this proposed development please write to Willoughby Council and contact your local West Ward alderman. For those willing to volunteer to help, please ring the numbers below.

For further information, call GARY CROSSLEY

(Secretary of O. H. Reid Memorial Reserve Residents' Association)

331 5143 (work)—413 1894 (home)

From North Shore Times 1993



History of O.H. Reid Reserve

WILLOUGHBY (former) Mayor Pat Reilly Speech (at O.H. Reid Reserve)

Garry Crossley Memorial gathering – UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL

Sunday Aug. 6/06

Dear friends and residents, on behalf of Council I am delighted to be here this morning and proud that the Council can recognise such a wonderful person with this memorial.

It is wonderful that we are recognising a local West Chatswood resident who has made a great contribution to protect a portion of the beautiful environment we have in the City of Willoughby.

After listening to the stories about Garry and his drive, determination and passion I am glad I was not the mayor in 1992 wanting to change this beautiful Open Space.

Please be assured that Council is continuing with the fight that Garry started and doing all we can to continue to protect Open Space in the City of Willoughby and creating more Open Space where possible.

Karen and Garry's mother 'Pat', would you please join me and unveil this monument to recognise the efforts of Garry in making West Chatswood and O.H. Reid Oval 'a special place' amid the hustle and bustle of the City of Chatswood.



Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Principles Underpinning Proposed Actions

1. That any development does not threaten or disturb the habitat for the native wildlife
2. That any development does not disturb or degrade the surrounding bushland
3. That any changes/development do not threaten or disturb this area as a bushland corridor linking other bushland areas to Lane Cove National Park and Mowbray Park
4. That any actions proposed in this plan do not undermine and are consistent with other WCC plans – e.g.: “Urban Bushland Plan of Management”, the current bushland O.H. Reid Reserve Action Plan, and “Our Green City”
5. That O.H. Reid Reserve is an important community meeting place – “Village Green” and treated and remain as such
6. That the usage of the oval be maximized during daylight hours
7. That the Reserve retain its multi-purpose role – sporting activities, leisure activities, “Off Leash” dog walking place of relaxation and enjoyment of the bushland/wildlife

Citizens' Panel Actions Summary – Main Priorities

1. Continue to upgrade and improve play area
2. Improve car parking area – better utilization and increased safety
3. Improvements to general amenities – drinking fountains, etc.
4. Improve sporting area – e.g. quality of grass playing surface grass/drainage, cricket nets, upgrade change/storage sheds and pavilion, exercise equipment
5. Preserve and protect the natural environment and “vulnerable” wildlife
6. Rejection of lights – 8 oppose, 2 for
7. Promote maximum use of Oval in daylight hours – Council to promote



Panel Outcomes:

1. Vision for O.H. Reid Reserve



Visions

Whilst the majority of Panel time was spent generating and reviewing strategies and actions, Session 1 did uncover a number of key guiding visions that Panellists had for O.H. Reid Reserve:

- ***Increasing accessibility and participation:***

- Council to encourage greater usage of the Oval for physical activity:
 - Multipurpose sporting field, used by a wide range of users, including sporting clubs and community activities throughout as much of the year as possible
- The Oval to remain a dog-off-leash area, a place for dogs and dog owners to socialise
- Suitable amenities provided to allow the Reserve to be used by the whole community

- ***Preserving the natural environment:***

- That the Reserve be maintained and conserved to protect its role as a peaceful bushland sanctuary and that its significant role as a wildlife corridor and area of rich biodiversity (as recorded in WCC 'O.H. Reid Reserve Action Plan') continue to be recognised (see also Appendix 4b).

- ***At night...***

- The majority of panellists felt strongly that O.H. Reid Reserve remains a dark and quiet place after sunset
- However, the Local Football Club/Association and the Local AFL Club/Association representatives recorded dissenting views, believing that this precluded the option of utilising the Oval after dark



Visions (cont.)

- **Playground:**

- A beautiful and safe picnic and play area for children of all ages, community and families, and an area also being used for children's birthday parties

- **Access and parking:**

- Suitable access and parking for all users, including emergency vehicles, ensuring safety for pedestrians and minimal inconvenience for residents while recognising the limitations of the existing parking area



Panel Outcomes:

2. Strategies and Actions



Strategies and Actions – Access and Parking

Issues

- Majority of users of the Reserve come by car – no nearby bus or rail service
- Parking area is very congested for incoming and outgoing cars:
 - Congestion poses a safety risk to pedestrians moving through the car park
- Parking spills over into nearby streets (e.g. The Fairway and Reid Drive)
- Current parking configuration and layout of car park is not optimal
- Limited space for any extension of the car park
- Speeding of cars descending The Fairway on route to O.H. Reid Reserve



Strategies and Actions – Access and Parking (cont.)

Actions

- Use small buses (not coaches) to transport CBD residents and the broader community to use the Reserve – not just for sports
- Add painted parking lines in the car park to increase parking capacity
- **Within** the O.H. Reid car parking area, Council to investigate feasibility (both logistically and from a funding perspective) of:
 - Adding a drop-off spot and turning circle in the car park (without the loss of too many parking spaces)
 - Increasing the size of the car park – perhaps by encroaching slightly into the playground side or opposite (northern) side (see photo at right), 90 degree parking could be achieved on both sides
 - Removing redundant gutter and entrance gate in car park (see photos below):



Strategies and Actions – Access and Parking (cont.)

Actions (cont.)

- **Outside** the O.H. Reid car parking area, Council to investigate feasibility (both logistically and from a funding perspective) of:
 - Restricting parking to one side of Reid Drive closer to the entrance to the Reserve – need to find balance between improving safety and minimising the loss of parking spaces and impact on residents
 - Lowering speed limit on Reid Drive
 - Mark roadway on Reid Drive near Reserve as shared pedestrian zone



Strategies and Actions – Playground

Issues

- Lack of shade
- Equipment/structures need maintenance
- Some equipment/facilities are redundant
- No protection for users of the playground from dogs coming into the play area
- Danger of young children going into the bush and falling over rocks
- BBQs can be switched on by young children



Strategies and Actions – Playground (cont.)

Actions

- Improve ongoing maintenance of all play equipment – in particular:
 - Shade or similar solution to minimise bird droppings on slide
 - Top up sand pit so toy skeleton is hidden
 - Update and maintain children's playhouse, include age-appropriate seating inside and roof for shade
- Re-purpose the existing bird song poles to display pictures and information about local birds
- Add fencing with secure gate around playground, in order to keep children in and dogs out
- Upgrade BBQ facilities – in particular, install child locks on the 'on/off' buttons for hot plates
- Increase sun protection, such as shade sails – and with tables covered by shade
- Improve drainage with gravel around circular dais, to facilitate run off of moisture
- Maintain the Garry Crossley and Stella Cornelius Memorials



Strategies and Actions – Sports Field

Issues

- Sports field underutilised during daylight hours
- Pressure on Council for greater utilisation of sports fields from sporting groups (and more broadly from the NSW Government)
- Council is also expected to protect Willoughby's bushland and biodiversity based on a report by the Greater Sydney Commission, and expressed in Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (item 13)
- Area around oval is sensitive native bushland and full of vulnerable wildlife that would be disturbed and driven away by lights and noise due to after-dark activities
- This is a multi-purpose Reserve accessible to all/various activities – balance needs to be maintained
- Potential development/changes to the oval appear to be inconsistent with other Council plans (e.g. 'Our Green City')
- Existing strong resident rejection of lights at the Reserve and after-dark activities – as per community action in 1993





Strategies and Actions – Sports Field (cont.)

Actions

- Lighting: This issue generated most discussion and concern amongst the majority of panellists across Sessions 2 and 3:
 - Eight of the ten Panellists are opposed to lights – their opposition was based on several grounds:
 - The fact that the sports field is directly adjacent to a protected bushland area regulated for conservation by WCC
 - That the bushland in question is an important wildlife corridor as noted in WCC's bushland Action Plan for O.H. Reid Reserve
 - That the bushland includes vulnerable animals (special categories under the Environmental Protection biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act see <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species>) These species are the Powerful Owl and the Long-eared Bat. Vulnerable Species require protection under Schedule 1 of Threatened Species of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 in NSW
 - There is sufficient observational data and peer-reviewed research to indicate that sports tower lights would have a negative impact on wildlife over time

(Please refer to Appendices 4a and 4b for supporting documents for the above)
 - Light and noise impact on local residents – the natural amphitheatre aspect of the Oval means the sound would reverberate – and that lights can be accidentally left on late into the night
 - In addition to lights on the Oval, lights would also be needed in the car park for departing players to see in the car park
 - Having sporting teams training at night reduces options for local residents who walk their dogs on the Oval at night
 - There are strong concerns that putting in lights – even with quite restrictive operating times – could be the 'thin edge of the wedge', with restrictions relaxed later on



Strategies and Actions – Sports Field (cont.)

Actions

- Lighting (cont.):
 - The Local Football Club/Association and the Local AFL Club/Association representatives were in favour of lights as a means of extending the availability of the Oval for training purposes. They highlighted that the on-off times are computer-controlled from Council (so lights can't be left turned on), and that the lux level required for training is a lot lower than for competition (and that it is competition level lighting that residents may have seen at other locations, such as Chatswood High School)
 - One of the two West Ward Resident representatives did express interest in learning more about how lighting technology has improved in recent years, to better understand what the extent of 'spill lighting' is from modern-day tower lights. However, evidence pertaining to lower level lights and new lighting technology was not provided to the Panel, which was therefore unable to consider this suggestion
 - The facilitator suggested the compromise of lights until 7:00pm or 8:00pm but this was not accepted by the majority given concerns about possible future extensions of lighting hours, the negative impact of lights and noise on declared vulnerable wildlife and the view that daylight hours were not currently efficiently utilised by the sports organisations

Strategies and Actions – Sports Field (cont.)

Actions (cont.)

- All 10 panellists agreed on the need to retain natural rather than installing artificial turf due to the negative impacts of the latter on the environment and on the wide ranges of uses to which the Reserve is currently put
- Improve maintenance of the natural grass – including a review of drainage issues and better quality grass with deeper root systems
- Use recycled water to irrigate Oval
- Investigate ways to reduce people and dogs walking off the sports field into the surrounding bushland – can this be achieved with signs asking users to stop their dogs running through the bush, or is a low fence required to discourage dogs and minimise balls rolling into the remnant bushland?
 - Are there safety issues for participants (e.g. cricketers) with a low fence close to the sports field?
 - Further stakeholder consultation may be required for this issue
- Long term maintenance of the cricket pitch
- Investigate the feasibility of installing cricket practice nets, which will make the Oval more attractive to cricket clubs. Also investigate placement of basketball ring/half-court:
 - Will the inclusion of cricket nets and/or basketball ring preclude other full-oval sports – such as AFL – from using the Oval?
- Whilst the Panel agreed that sports and other activities should continue to be encouraged at O.H. Reid Reserve, some also felt that Council should continue investigating other spaces across the LGA that can accommodate sport, such as private school fields as part of major new developments and infrastructure and industrial areas where lighting is not an issue



Strategies and Actions – Accessibility/Participation

Issues

- Reserve not being fully utilised by sporting groups in summer months
- Need to encourage greater use of Reserve for all kinds of activities
- Little information at the Reserve regarding history and resident wildlife
- Lack of accessible toilets for those with accessibility issues
- Investigate potential for adult exercise equipment e.g. Chatswood Oval



Strategies and Actions – Accessibility/Participation (cont.)

Actions

- Council to investigate ways to better promote and utilise the Oval – for instance:
 - Create and encourage activities (such as tai chi, educational presentations) to encourage wider usage of the Reserve (for instance, during winter organised Saturday sports finish at 1.00pm or so, after which there is ground availability)
 - Encourage more sports clubs to use the Oval in the summer months when it is lighter for longer (and hence noise is easier to tolerate)
 - Encourage more after-school sports and training on weekday afternoons
 - Outdoor fitness equipment (general equipment that would address a range of fitness needs)

It should be noted that one of the sporting club representatives mentioned that afternoon/evening training programs can attract a lot more players (and therefore in most cases, parents) than regular game days – so the nature/type of after-school activities may need to be considered within the context of access/parking discussed earlier

- Tours/ecological talks about the local ecology – including in languages other than English:
 - Complement with signage about the natural wildlife/Aboriginal history of the area – perhaps with QR codes for more information
- Maintain/upgrade the bushwalking trails (including the Rail to River Walk) to encourage not just use of the Trails, but as a way to access O.H. Reid Reserve
- Disability/accessible toilets at the Pavilion – possibly as an external addition to the current block



Strategies and Actions – Amenities

Issues

- Lack of:
 - Adequate storage and shower facilities at Pavilion
 - Outdoor fitness equipment
 - Adequate recycling bins
 - Drinking fountains for people and dogs
 - Canteen facilities for sporting groups using the oval
 - Comfortable seating at Pavilion and cover



Strategies and Actions – Amenities (cont.)

Actions

- Potential **new** amenities (some subject to funding):
 - Stylish bubblers with dog bowls and water refill stations – like those available in Manly and Double Bay
 - Storage at the Pavilion for sporting equipment (in between training and matches)
 - Investigate installing shower facilities in the Pavilion (subject to funding)
 - Install seating and cover over the Pavilion
 - Install more seating around the sports field – although need to consider safety issues if seating is too close to the field
 - Investigate adding a canteen to the Pavilion (subject to funding). Plan would be for sporting teams to run the canteen and raise funds for their teams. Investigate ways to minimise rubbish
 - Re-install signage outlining dog on-leash and off-leash areas (original sign removed when higher fence at southern end installed)
 - Provide recycling bins next to each of the three existing general rubbish bins



Appendix 1: Terms of Reference





Willoughby City Council

Terms of Reference for O H Reid Reserve Master Plan Citizens Panel 2019

On 25 February 2019, Council resolved to endorse the formation of a Citizens Panel by June 2019 to inform and guide the development of the O H Reid Reserve Master Plan. Council sought to receive a report on the Terms of Reference by July 2019.

The Panel is being established to represent the views of key stakeholders, the community and other interested parties. The Panel will provide recommendations regarding the strategies and actions for the consultation draft of the Master Plan for O H Reid Reserve which will be developed by staff.

A Reserve Action Plan for the bushland areas of O H Reid Reserve was previously developed and adopted in May 2018. It is not within the scope of this Master Plan to review /update the Reserve Action Plan. The areas to be included in the Master Plan include the oval, pavilion, playground and main site entry, as illustrated in **Attachment 1**

Objectives of the Panel

To recommend a Draft Master Plan for O H Reid Reserve to Council by February 2020 by:

- Applying the Community Strategic Plan, Council principles for decision making and Council strategic plans for recreation and other core relevant strategies and plans, to the development of O H Reid Master Plan.
- Giving consideration to all perspectives of the multiple stakeholders in an objective and considered manner.
- Considering the recreation uses and demands on O H Reid Reserve and potential impacts of intensified use, traffic, parking, environment (where not addressed by the Reserve Action Plan) and residential amenity.

3. Facilitator

- The Panel will be chaired by an independent Facilitator appointed by Council.
- The Facilitator is expected to encourage the Panel members' differing views and opinions to be aired and discussed to achieve consensus where possible.

4. Composition of the Panel

A maximum of 10 people will be selected for the Panel according to the following composition and will be required to apply via an Expression of Interest process. Applicants will need to satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

The total composition of the Citizens Panel will be as follows:

- 2 residents of West Ward
- 1 representative from the local football club/association
- 1 representative from the local cricket club/association
- 1 representative from the local AFL club/association
- 1 representative of Chatswood West Progress Association
- 1 representative for young people
- 1 representative with local knowledge of bushcare/flora/fauna
- 1 representative from Chatswood Public School Administration or P&C.
- 1 representative on behalf of dog walkers

- Citizen Panel Members will be selected by a Panel consisting of the West Ward Councillors, the Mayor and General Manager.
- Panel members will reflect a balance in both gender and age groups.
- The Panel will be disbanded when it finalises its role of providing recommendations to Council and Council has adopted a Draft Master Plan for Public Exhibition. It is anticipated that this process will be finalised by the end of April 2020.
- Council officers will provide a support and advisory role only. They will not be members of the Citizens Panel.

5. Duties of Panel members

- Develop a working knowledge of Council's strategic plans relevant to the site.
- Attend and participate in all panel meetings by identifying and seeking the information required to make an informed recommendation to Council.
- Listen to, and work co-operatively with, other members in achieving the objectives of the Panel.
- Contribute ideas and suggestions and provide advice and recommendations to the Panel on agenda items.
- Provide the scope of recreation opportunities and development to be included in the draft Master Plan.

6. Meetings

- The Facilitator will convene not less than 4 meetings before the end of November 2019.
- Meetings will be held at a local site (*eg Chatswood Tennis Club at 120 Fullers Rd or the Dougherty Centre/ Council Chambers*), commencing no later than 7pm, with meeting length to be a maximum of 2 hours.
- Meetings will not be open to the general public, except for Council Officers with expertise in relevant areas that may assist the Panel from time to time.
- The minimum notice period for an upcoming Panel meeting is seven calendar days.

7. Attendance

- Appointed Panel members are expected to attend all Panel meetings as convened.



Terms of Reference

- Panel members cannot send alternate representatives for any of the meetings.

8. Conduct of panel meetings

The intent of the Citizens Panel is to ensure all voices are considered equally and to provide Council with a holistic vision of the future use of O H Reid Reserve. This is done by:

- Behaving in a respectful manner toward each other and acknowledge each members' perspective.
- Ensuring that each person has an opportunity to voice their point of view, without interruption.
- Adhering to *Council's Code of Conduct*.
- Ensuring that the discussion stays within the scope of the project.
- Ensuring that issues raised are considered objectively and not personalised.
- Considering evidence in decision making, noting the need to work with the best evidence that is currently available.

9. Confidentiality

Confidentiality will be addressed under *Council's Code of Conduct*.

10. Minutes

Minutes of the panel meetings will be action-oriented and will contain: attendance, actions agreed on by the panel and the date of the next meeting. A suggested format for recording actions is shown below:

Action	Who is responsible	By when

Dissenting views will be recorded

The draft minutes and action items will be agreed prior to the conclusion of each meeting.

11. Reporting

- The Panel will provide a report to Council Officers outlining their recommendations for the draft Master Plan for O H Reid Reserve by the end of November 2019.

Attachment One O H Reid Reserve Site Plan



Appendix 2: Panellist Details





Panellist Details

Panellist Name	Representing	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Dr. Meredith Foley	Local knowledge of bush care/flora/ fauna	Attended	Apology	Attended	Attended
Alan Hall-Watson	West Ward Resident	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
Phillip Sharratt	West Ward Resident	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Diana Pryde	Chatswood West Progress Association	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Matt Tallentire	Dog walkers representative	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Brett Backhouse	Local football club/association (Chatswood Rangers Football Club & Northern Suburbs Football Association)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
Steve Si	Local cricket club/association	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
John Goode	Local AFL club/association (North Shore Bombers AFL Club)	Attended	Attended	Apology	Attended
Su Hill	Chatswood Public School Admin or P&C (Chatswood Public School Deputy Principal)	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Arleia Vidgen	Young people	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended

Appendix 3: Panel Guides and Presentations



Panel Guide - Session 1

Citizens' Panel Guide – Session 1

Introduction:

5 mins

1. Introductions to the Council and MMX teams (Participant intros at Item 7)
2. On behalf of Council, thank participants for their interest/commitment
3. Welcome to Country ("We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we now stand. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.")

10 mins

4. Setting the Scene (Slides):
 - o (Slides 2-3): What is a Master Plan? (Refer to Castle Cove Park and Thomson Park examples on walls)
 - o (Slide 4): The engagement process – and acknowledge Terms of Reference

5 mins

5. (Slide 5): Housekeeping rules/Code of Conduct

5 mins

6. (Slide 6): Goals for Session 1:
 - o Identify issues/themes to be explored

Why are we here?

30 mins

7. (Slide 7): Participants to introduce themselves (2-3 mins per person):
 - o Name
 - o 'Objective' interest in OH Reid Reserve (i.e.: resident, dog-walker, sports club, etc)
 - o Mini presentation: "My vision for OH Reid Reserve is..." (include what you do and don't want to see in the future). (Whiteboard the key themes as they emerge).

10 mins

8. (Slides 8-11): Why is Council preparing a Master Plan for OH Reid Reserve.

Task 1: Breakout Groups

35 mins

9. (Slide 12): Split into two mini-groups (mix of residents and sports/community reps in each group):
 - o Each group will have flip charts – with five or so pages with thought-starting theme headings, such as: 'Access/Parking'; 'Playground'; 'Sports Fields'; 'Increasing Accessibility/Participation', 'Amenities', and perhaps 'Other'.
 - o Group to record appropriate initiatives/programs on each page – including dissenting views. Possibly via post-its that they write individually and then group on each page.

15 mins

10. Reconvene and a Member from each group presents back their thoughts/ideas – with discussion from the whole Panel welcomed.

5 mins

11. Wrap-up, next steps...



Panel Presentation - Session 1

Willoughby City Council

OH Reid Reserve Masterplan
Citizens' Panel – Session 1

Facilitated by: Micromex Research
Workshop Date: August 19, 2019



What is a Master Plan?

Open Space landscape master plans are used to guide improvements and manage increased use of a defined area of open space while acknowledging the existing natural and cultural heritage of the site for the future.

The master planning process encourages community consultation from the design concept stage through to the production of the completed plan, which is then adopted by resolution of Council to implement in stages as funding becomes available.

A master plan identifies priorities for improvements over a 10-15 year period. Master plans aim to:

- Balance the concerns of all community groups
- Establish priorities for future improvements that are important to the community and user groups
- Integrate sustainability principles into park design
- Provide a holistic approach to design that allows for improvements to occur in stages as funding becomes available





Panel Presentation - Session 1

The OH Reid Master Plan

- Seeks to deliver on Council's broader strategic plans (eg: *Willoughby Open Space and Recreation Plan 2013* and the *NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy Review 2017*).
- There is currently no Master Plan for OH Reid Reserve.



The Community Engagement Process

Stage 1: Citizens' Panel

- Three to four sessions
- Iterative – inside and outside the sessions:
 - But keep your decisions confidential
- Identify issues in order to help shape – but not write – the Master Plan
- Our job is to facilitate – your job is to make us redundant!

Stage 2: Public exhibition and engagement

Review Terms of Reference





Panel Presentation - Session 1

Housekeeping

If we all thought the same...

- Encourage diverse views
- Respect diverse views – and each other
- Participate!
- Stay on topic
- No harassment or bullying – during or after sessions
- No offensive language

Other:

- OH&S – follow Council directions
- Phones on silent
- Audio recording (and photos)
- Casual/relaxed



Goals for Today

- Introductions
- Identify themes/issues/opportunities (to be explored in subsequent sessions)





Panel Presentation - Session 1

Introductions...

- 2-3 mins each:
 - First name
 - Objective interest in OH Reid Reserve
 - “My vision for OH Reid Reserve is...” (what you do and don’t want to see)

Why do we need a Master Plan?



Panel Presentation - Session 1

Why Do We Need a Master Plan?

- Growing population, and increasing housing density:

*"The NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy 2005 set a target for the City to accommodate an extra 6,800 new dwellings by 2031 ... A firm direction from the NSW Government's Strategy is that councils need to do better with their existing open space."*¹

- Development means less available land/land costs increasing – and there is more pressure on traditional funding sources^{2,3}

And demographic changes mean a diversified population and diversified sporting needs, creating greater competition between codes:⁴

*"This study has, for the first time, quantified and reaffirmed the gap between demand and supply of sportsgrounds in the NSROC area"*⁵

- Council is already partnering with schools to address the supply shortage

1. Willoughby City Council "Open Space & Recreation Action Plans 2013", p6
 2. Ibid
 3. NSROC "Regional Sportsground Strategy Review 2017", pii
 4. Ibid
 5. Ibid, pi

Why Do We Need a Master Plan?

- Largely Council's responsibility:

*"While the economic benefits of participation in sport and active recreation accrue across many levels of government, responsibility for community sport and recreation infrastructure lies predominantly with Local Government."*⁶

- Community health concerns⁷:

The importance of sound planning for sport and recreation infrastructure is underscored by national and/ or international evidence demonstrates that:

- 6 out of 10 adult Australians are overweight or obese
- Physical inactivity is the 4th leading risk factor for global mortality
- Physical inactivity is associated with chronic diseases (coronary heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, colon cancer, breast cancer), and
- Sedentary behaviour (in particular long periods of sitting) is an increasing health risk

Access to parks and sportsgrounds can significantly influence residents' levels of physical activity and improve health outcomes.

6. Ibid, p3
 7. Ibid



Panel Presentation - Session 1

Why Do We Need a Master Plan?

- Community benefits⁸:

- *Wellbeing* - participation in sport is linked to improved health status, both physical and mental, as well as long-term preventive health benefits. It improves self-concept, quality of life, and increases opportunities for social interaction
- *Social Capital* - builds social networks, particularly at the neighbourhood level, and strengthens community cohesion and resilience
- *Building Communities* - sports programs are a key contributor to community development
- *Social Impacts* - has the potential to address gender, cultural, and disability barriers to a greater extent than many other sectors. It provides an opportunity for persons to 'connect' with others within their community
- *Youth* - sports participation in young people helps to foster basic values such as fair play, sportsmanship, competitiveness, and achievement

Breakout Groups...

Themes:

- Access/Parking
- Playground
- Sports fields
- Increasing accessibility/participation
- Amenities
- Other



⁸. Ibid, p4



Panel Guide - Session 2

Citizens' Panel Guide – Session 2

Introduction:

- 5 mins 1. Introductions to anyone new from Council and/or MMX.
- 10 mins 2. Review Action Items from Session 1
- 10 mins 3. Any questions from what was discussed in Session 1? (Excluding additional thoughts/themes, which will be covered in Item 4 below)
- 90 mins 4. Review list of 'Action items' per Theme (these 'Action Items' | have been derived from the longer list of 'Vision items' from the Session 1 Minutes) – discuss and vote on whether each action item should be incorporated into the document to be prepared for Council (notionally 15-20 minutes per Theme):
 - Working theme by theme, review the Action items – vote (show of hands) whether for or against including in our submission to Council (attempt to obtain Meredith's input before Monday).
 - Are there any other Action Items as a result of discussions with your networks during the past two weeks? If so, add to list and vote.
 - Review – do the Action Items address the 'Current' and/or 'Future' issues/concerns from Session 1? Are additional Action Items required?
- 5 mins 5. Wrap-up, next steps...



Panel Guide - Session 3

Citizens' Panel Guide – Session 3

Introduction:

- 5 mins 1. Introductions to anyone new from Council and/or MMX.
- 10 mins 2. Review Action Items from Session 2
- 10 mins 3. Any questions from what was discussed in Session 2?
- 5 mins 4. Purpose of Session 3: Review the Session 2 spreadsheet to ensure the wording captures the correct intent of the Group – in essence, the spreadsheet is evolving into the Report.]
- 20 mins 5. Finalise review list of 'Action items' for the Amenities tab:
 - Vote (show of hands) whether for or against including in our submission to Council.
 - Are there any other Action Items as a result of discussions with your networks? If so, add to list and vote.
 - Review – do the Action Items address the 'Current' and/or 'Future' issues/concerns from Session 1? Are additional Action Items required?
- 65 mins 6. Work back through the Visions and Actions from all tabs to 'finalise' wording to reflect the Group's intent (in essence, ensuring the comments in Col F are reflected in the Action Item in Col A – Col A then essentially forms the Report):
 - Review all vision statements on First Tab – can we identify the top five or six to be included in an overall vision/positioning statement?
 - Upon reflection, can any of the Action Items be deleted? Are any others needed?
 - Review each Action item wording to ensure it reflects what the Group wants – and to reflect dissenting views (actual vote counts don't have to be included in the report – this is up to the Group to decide).
 - Should any Action Items be moved to different Themes (ie: to different tabs)?
- 5 mins 7. Wrap-up, next steps...

Appendix 4a: Biodiversity – Supporting Materials

The following slides present a range of materials provided by one of the Panelists to support their comments on biodiversity.



Report Feedback from Panellist (Diana Pryde)

I want to add one general comment on the (earlier) draft report. I felt that it didn't really capture the importance of the biodiversity and in particular that there are two Vulnerable species (special categories under the EPBCA see <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species>). These species are the Powerful Owl and the Long eared Bat (see attached list).

Vulnerable Species require protection under Schedule 1 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 in NSW. In the article mentioned in my Micro Bats at O.H. Reid document attached, Responses of insectivorous bats and nocturnal insects to local changes in street light technology by Joanna Haddock et al the authors conclude:

This study confirms that unlit urban bushland remnants are important refuges for high bat diversity, particularly for more clutter-adapted species and some edge-space foraging species. Preventing light penetration into unlit bushland patches and corridors remains essential to protect the urban bat community.

Residents value our wildlife and are aware of many of the animals in the area, particularly the birds. The CWWPA has started a Wildlife sightings Google Doc in which some residents have recorded their observations (many more are reported orally but not written up).



Sugar glider Feeding at O.H. Reid Reserve



Evidence of Powerful Owl at O.H. Reid Reserve

A number of local residents did training to monitor Powerful Owls in the area. This was with Beth Mott from The Powerful Owl Project and provided by WCC.

(Diana & John Pryde, Andrew Nelson & Barbara Bohdanowicz & James Harriman are some of the local residents who were at the training on 7th May 2019.)

On Friday 20th September, Beth Mott, Andrew Nelson & Diana Pryde went on a walk to monitor the Powerful Owls. We saw two roosting along the Mowbray Track and then walked down to O.H. Reid Reserve and around the oval. Beth pointed out evidence of the Powerful Owls using the new high fencing on the southern side of the oval as a perch from which to hunt. On the other side of the oval there was more evidence of 'whitewash' and regurgitated matter which Beth said was from a Powerful Owl. (Beth entered this data on the BirdData app).



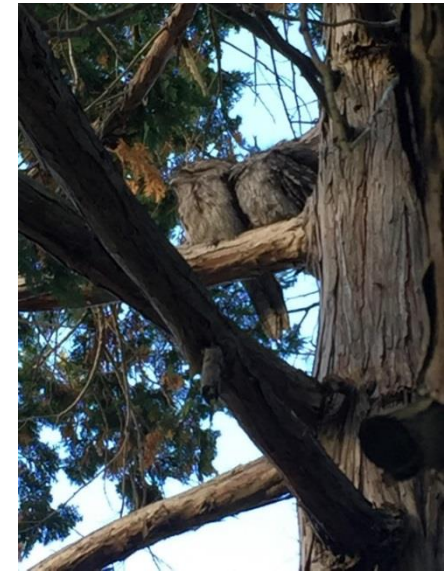
White wash on a new fence at O.H. Reid



White wash in drain in front of grandstand



Powerful Owl in Andrew Nelson's garden



Tawny Frogmouths in D & J Pryde's backyard



Microbats at O.H. Reid Reserve

- *Nyctophilus* sp. - Long eared Bat (possibly Gould's or lesser) –
(Slow flying) - **Vulnerable**
- *Vespadelus vulturnus* – Little Forest Bat –
(Slow flying) – **Declining Population**
- *Miniopterus oceanensis* - Eastern Bent-wing Bat
- *Mormopterus ridei* - Eastern Free-tail bat
- *Austronomus australis* - White Striped Free-tail
- *Chalinolobus morio* - Chocolate Wattled Bat
- *Chalinolobus gouldi* - Gould's Wattled bat
- *Scotorpens orion* – Eastern Broad nosed Bat



Little Forest Bat -
Declining Population



Long-eared Bat -
Vulnerable

Source: Narawan Williams (ecologist) and Simon Brown, Willoughby City Council



Source: Slide from WCC sponsored talk Light pollution at the urban forest edge by Joanna Haddock on 28 August 2019 at Chatswood Golf Club



Microbats at O.H. Reid Reserve

As presented by Joana Haddock (Syd Uni) at WCC Talk – Light Pollution at the Urban Forest Edge

May 2019 [Joanna K. Haddock](#), [Caragh G. Threlfall](#), [Bradley Law](#), [Dieter F. Hochuli](#)

Responses of insectivorous bats and nocturnal insects to local changes in street light technology

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/aec.12772>

Abstract

Artificial light at night is a pervasive anthropogenic stressor for biodiversity. Many fast-flying insectivorous bat species feed on insects that are attracted to light-emitting ultraviolet radiation (10–400 nm). Several countries are currently focused on replacing mercury vapour lamps, which emit ultraviolet light, with more cost-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights, which emit less ultraviolet radiation.

This reduction in ultraviolet light may cause declines in insect densities in cities, predatory fast-flying bats, and some edge-foraging and slow-flying bats. Capitalising on a scheme to update streetlights from high ultraviolet mercury vapour to low ultraviolet LED in Sydney, Australia, we measured the activity of individual bat species, the activity of different functional groups and the bat and insect communities, before and after the change in technology.

*We also surveyed sites with already LED lights, sites with mercury vapour lights and unlit bushland remnants. Species adapted to foraging in cluttered vegetation, and some edge-space foraging species, were more active in unlit bushland sites than in all lit sites and decreased in activity at lit sites after the change to LED lights. The change to LED streetlights caused a decrease in the fast-flying *Chalinolobus gouldii* but not *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*, the latter being more influenced by seasonal and environmental variables. Insect biomass was not affected by changing light types, but instead was negatively correlated with the moon's percentage illuminance. Changing streetlights to LEDs could result in a decline in some insectivorous bats in cities.*

This study confirms that unlit urban bushland remnants are important refuges for high bat diversity, particularly for more clutter-adapted species and some edge-space foraging species. Preventing light penetration into unlit bushland patches and corridors remains essential to protect the urban bat community.



Wildlife Sightings at O.H. Reid

Date	Animal	Location/Details	Resident
Mid 2018	Echidna	Path in Hawthorne Ave cul-de-sac leading down to O.H. Reid	[REDACTED]
5/12/18 +	Powerful Owls	Behind houses near [REDACTED] Valerie	[REDACTED]
12/12/18 13/12/18	Micro Bats	O.H. Reid Oval and surrounding bushland	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
30/1/19	Boobook Owl (Mopoke)	Behind houses near [REDACTED] Valerie	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
1/2/19	Channel-billed Cuckoos	Near the gates to carpark on Reid Drive front garden of [REDACTED] Valerie Ave	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
4/2/19	Powerful Owl	O.H. Reid Oval and to the west of oval -(heard twice) Recorded by Simon Brown	[REDACTED]
10/2/19	Powerful Owl	3.30am, from direction of Oval. Quite clear. Called for some time.	[REDACTED]
14/2/19	Powerful Owl	2:02am	[REDACTED]
16/2/19	Bandicoot	[REDACTED] Hawthorne Avenue -Large bandicoot holes	[REDACTED]
17/2/19	King Parrots	Between the houses in Hawthorne Ave cul-de-sac leading down to O.H. Reid	[REDACTED]
18/2/19	Bandicoot King Parrots Kookaburras	[REDACTED] Valerie Ave front yard, [REDACTED] Valerie back trees on oval, Pool fence backyard - all weekend. Many Bandicoot diggings last night. King Parrots calling, Small kookaburra & Mum	[REDACTED]
19/2/19	Bat Possum	[REDACTED] Valerie front yard. [REDACTED] Valerie backyard Vocal Bat noises bickering all night. Possum emerged from his hollow in gumtree again at dusk where we've seen him living	[REDACTED]
20/2/19	Whip Bird	6:20am -Whip Bird calling on Oval early morning dog walking	[REDACTED]
20/2/19	Tawny Frogmouth	5am [REDACTED] Hawthorne Avenue	[REDACTED]
22/2/19	Powerful Owl	[REDACTED] Heard a Powerful Owl calling near O.H. Reid Reserve about 11.45pm	[REDACTED]
22/2/19	Powerful Owl	[REDACTED] Hawthorne Ave -Heard from direction of O.H. Reid at midnight.	[REDACTED]
26/2/19	Owl	[REDACTED] Valerie Ave - calling 1.30am	[REDACTED]



Wildlife Sightings at O.H. Reid

Date	Animal	Location/Details	Resident
27/2/19	Powerful Owl	Heard from ■ Hawthorne Ave - 10pm	■■■■■■■■■■
23/2/19	2 Black Cockatoos	River Ave.	■■■■■■■■■■
27/2/19	Powerful Owl	Heard from Greville Street in direction of Swaines Creek - around midnight	■■■■■■■■■■
1/3/19 night - found 2/3/19	Powerful Owl	■■ Valerie Ave - 6.20am remains of decapitated possum outside back gate on oval, skull lying nearby innards removed	■■■■■■■■■■
2/3/19	Powerful Owl	■■ Hawthorne Ave Heard from the direction of O.H. Reid (near ■ Valerie) - 2.27am	■■■■■■■■■■
12/3/19	Powerful Owl	From ■■■■■ house	■■■■■■■■■■
13/3/19	Boobook Owl	Heard in western end of Hawthorne Avenue - 9.15pm	■■■■■■■■■■
14/3/19	Water Dragons	Bank of Swaine's Creek	■■■■■■■■■■
14/3/19	Powerful Owl	9pm	■■■■■■■■■■
12/4/19 13/4/19	Boobook Owl	12.38am Boobook Owl	■■■■■■■■■■
20/4/19	Powerful Owl	3.22am - close to ■■■■■ house	■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■
22/4/19	Boobook Owl	O.H. Reid	■■■■■■■■■■
1/5/19	Powerful Owl	1.37am O.H. Reid (possible in vicinity of the golf course	■■■■■■■■■■
12.5.19	Powerful Owl	Heard in distance towards golf course just before midnight.	■■■■■■■■■■
17.5.19	2 Black Cockatoos	Near Hawthorne Ave. about 6.30 pm	■■■■■■■■■■
25/06/19	Tawny Frogmouths	■■ Hawthorne Ave. A neighbour of mine at ■ Hawthorne Ave. reports that she has a pair of Tawny Frogmouths living in the tree on front of her house who visit regularly.	■■■■■■■■■■
1/6/19	Pair of Tawny Frogmouths	Sighted in afternoon at ■ Valerie	■■■■■■■■■■



Wildlife Sightings at O.H. Reid

Date	Animal	Location/Details	Resident
23/7/19	Echidna	■ Hawthorne Ave	██████████
23/7/19	Kookaburras	Family of 11 kookaburras. Goal posts O.H. Reid Oval	██████████
2/8/19	Powerful Owl	Heard a Powerful Owl in a tree near my backyard from 9.30pm from 3am. ■ Hawthorne Ave. Chatswood West	██████████
2/8/19	Powerful Owl	■ Hawthorne Ave Chatswood West towards Oval - about Valerie Ave distance, 4.27am for about 5 min.	██████████
3/8/19	Powerful Owl	Decapitated possum on oval remains from Powerful owl O.H. Reid oval in the early morning	██████████
3/8/19	Bandicoot	■ Valerie Ave - 7 holes dug in front lawn	██████████
6/8/19	Powerful Owl	■ Valerie Ave Chatswood West -10 minutes of calls very nearby 10.30pm	██████████
7/8/19	Bandicoot	■ Valerie Ave - digging extensively in backyard	██████████
12/8/19	King Parrots	Two flew over O.H. Reid oval in the afternoon	██████████
14/8/19	Powerful Owl	10.30pm	██████████
15/8/19	Powerful Owl	3.25am	██████████
16/8/19	Powerful Owl	1.10am on and off until 3am	██████████
17/8/19	Whip Bird	Heard at 4.45pm at the southern end of the Oval coming from bush	██████████
20/8/19	Powerful Owl	Calling vicinity O.H. Reid Oval, 9.47pm	██████████
20/8/19	Powerful Owl	■ Valerie Ave - Sitting in tree outside my back fence on O.H. Reid Oval calling at around 8.30pm. Then flew off to other side of oval	██████████
24/8/19	Powerful Owl	Calling 11.16pm and 3am last night. Vicinity of the oval. Too cold to go out and look!	██████████ ██████████
25/8/19	King Parrots	Calling in tree to each other (pair) a lot of the day. Front of ■ Valerie	██████████

Appendix 4b: Biodiversity/Wildlife Protection Zone

The following slide provides additional commentary from a Panelist about biodiversity, with an emphasis on the existing status of the bushland adjacent to the sporting field as a wildlife protection zone.



Report Feedback from Panellist (Dr. Meredith Foley)

I am concerned to ensure that the draft report recognise the existing status - as a wildlife protection zone - of the bushland directly adjacent to the sporting fields at O.H. Reid.

It is not possible to separate the bushland and the wildlife which inhabits it from O.H. Reid Reserve. The noise from the reserve and any planned lighting from the reserve will disturb the wildlife which feeds, roosts and breeds in the trees surrounding the sports field. Birds and another local animals also feed on the turf oval, fly and run in and around it as part of their natural behaviours and use the fences and goal posts for roosting spots.

Council has already committed itself to protecting the biodiversity in this bushland. The importance of this reserve as a wildlife corridor in both north/south and east/west directions is acknowledged in Council's Action Plan for the Reserve under the WCC Urban Bushland Plan of Management. Council is also under direction by the NSW State Government and Greater Sydney Commission to preserve and extend wildlife corridors and protect existing biodiversity (see WCC draft Local Strategic Planning Statement).

*This position is also strengthened by Council's commitment in **Our Green City** to 'protecting, conserving and improving the natural environment' and bushland which is a 'vital habitat for our wildlife' (p.20) and ensuring that 'By 2028 we will have ensured 'no deterioration of bushland conditions as a result of urban activities'.*

Appendix 5: Reference Materials



Reference Documents

1. File O H Reid Reserve Action Plan 2018 (3.29 MB) (pdf)
2. File Willoughby Open Space and Recreation Plan 2013 (5.44 MB) (pdf)
3. File NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy Review 2017 (3.72 MB) (pdf)
4. File Plan of Management - Five Parks (including O H Reid Reserve) (2.06 MB) (pdf)
5. File Urban Bushland Plan of Management (5.93 MB) (pdf)
6. File Our Green City Plan 2028 (5.47 MB) (pdf)
7. File Sustainability Charter 2008 (1.01 MB) (pdf)
8. File Ferndale Park Reserve Action Plan 2017 (925 KB) (pdf)
9. File Natural Grass vs Synthetic Turf Surfaces (Government of Western Australia) (775 KB) (pdf)
10. File Protecting Powerful Owls In Urban Areas (1.75 MB) (pdf)
11. File Light pollution at the urban forest edge negatively impacts insectivorous bats (2.05 MB) (pdf)
12. File Council Meeting Agenda - 12 June 2018 - O.H. Reid Reserve Action Plan (1.72 MB) (pdf)
13. May 2019 [Joanna K. Haddock](#), [Caragh G. Threlfall](#), [Bradley Law](#), [Dieter F. Hochuli](#) *Responses of insectivorous bats and nocturnal insects to local changes in street light technology.*
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/aec.12772>





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