

## REQUESTS FOR SALE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE RESERVES

**STATUS:** **Council Policy** – *A strategic policy that sets governing principles and guides the direction of the organisation to align with community values and aspirations.*

*Council policies are developed by the Policy Committee for approval by the Council.*

**RESPONSIBLE  
DIRECTORATE:** Planning and Community Development

**OBJECTIVE:** To establish guidelines for the assessment of requests for sale of public open space reserves.

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### RELATED DOCUMENTATION

This policy should be read in conjunction with Part 2 (“Reserves”) of District Planning Scheme No.2 (“DPS2”).

### STATEMENT

#### 1 Policy Aims

- (a) To preserve land reserved for public recreation, being public open space (POS), where it provides a benefit to the community.
- (b) To give due consideration to the current and future needs of the community and environmental matters in assessing requests for excision or sale of POS.

#### 2 Policy Area:

This Policy applies to all local public recreation reserves within the City and land reserved for parks and recreation under District Planning Scheme No. 2.

#### 3 Policy Statement

- (a) The Council views POS as an extremely valuable community asset.
- (b) A clear benefit to the community, outside of any direct financial contribution, is to be established before a proposal seeking the sale of a portion of a POS reserve is advertised for public comment.
- (c) Maintenance of a reserve is not a relevant matter in assessing whether the proposed excision would have a clear benefit to the community.

- (d) If such a proposal does not provide a clear benefit to the community and/or does not promote sustainability objectives, the Director Planning & Community Development and Manager Approvals, Planning & Environmental Services have the delegated authority to determine that the request not proceed.
- (e) If the proposed excision of portion of the POS reserve provides a benefit for the community and promotes sustainability objectives, the request will be advertised for a minimum period of 30 days as follows:
- (i) A sign is to be erected on the site, at the applicant's cost.
  - (ii) A notice is to be placed in a local newspaper, at the applicant's cost.
  - (iii) Letters sent to nearby landowners.
  - (iv) Liaison with identified local community and interest groups.
  - (v) Referral to the Department of Land Information, Department for Planning and Infrastructure and other relevant servicing authorities for comment.
  - (vi) A notice is to be placed on the City's notice boards and the City's website.
- (f) Upon the closure of advertising the request shall be referred to Council having due regard for the aims and statements of this policy, comments received as a result of advertising carried out in accordance with clause 3(e) above, and the requirements of the Department for Planning & Infrastructure (DPI), Guidelines for Administration of Section 20A "Public Recreation" Reserves.

The applicant shall also obtain a valuation at their cost, from the Valuer General's Office, on the portion of land proposed to be purchased.

#### **4. Sustainability**

This policy promotes sustainability objectives by:

- Ensuring existing natural bush land is retained within the POS reserves.
- Recognising that the role of POS reserves in providing visual relief in addition to passive and active recreation areas should not be diminished without appropriate benefit to the community.
- Recognising that POS reserves are a public asset for the enjoyment of the wider community, and ensuring that any proposed excision of POS is of benefit to the community, outside of any direct financial contribution.

Amendments: CJ156-09/06

Related Documentation: Delegated Authority Manual  
District Planning Scheme No 2  
Guidelines for Administration of Section 20A “Public  
Recreation” Reserves (Department for Planning &  
Infrastructure)

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