

Randwick Council NR-3/17

Rescission Motion – Botany Cemetery Expansion Proposal

The La Perouse Precinct considered the proposal CP10/17 at its meeting on 6th March 2017 and submits in favour of the amended resolution as resolved, consequently against rescission motion NR-3/17, and supports:

1. Obtaining of detailed information from *all* stakeholders involved, which includes the resident community; and
2. Deferring the proposal to a Councillor briefing as an efficient *and appropriate* means of achieving consultation in the circumstance.

In our previous submission we objected to the original proposal CP10/17, on the following grounds:

1. It is a large parcel of land, definitely the best part of, and contiguous with Bicentennial Park that has always been earmarked as a park;
2. As the highest local point it has commanding views of all of Botany Bay and headlands from Airport to Yarra Bay that makes it an important asset to be enjoyed by the *living* community;
3. Colonial and WW2 fortifications on the subject land serviced by Military Road over a Colonial cobblestone road should be a subject of an archaeological study and will negate Land Claims;

We further submit in response to arguments raised at Council Meeting of 28th February as follows:

1. The Trust's relinquishing of its licence over the Market Gardens is not relevant to the proposal, not only because the Market Gardens lot is subject to flooding rendering it unsuitable cemetery use, but also because the disposition this lot (one of three) of Market Gardens will be determined by State Government without reference to the approval or otherwise of the cemetery expansion proposal;
2. A case has to be made by the Land Council that Bumborah Point is the only suitable land to site an Aboriginal Cemetery, anywhere from Watson's Bay in the north, to Helensburgh in the south, and from the eastern coastline to Sutherland and suburbs of the inner west; and
3. A case has to be made by the Cemeteries Trust as to the value to the community of expanding Botany Cemetery into Bumborah Point over that in other areas, for example at Woronara where the cost to its clients is

significantly lower – \$9,200 compared to \$13,200 for a standard burial plot for two internments.

Removing Market Gardens from the equation (because the outcome of the proposal in no way affects as to its disposition) should I anticipate allay concerns raised by some Councillors.

Consideration an alternate Aboriginal Cemetery site by the Land Council could produce a superior or more equitable outcome for both Aboriginal and resident communities in terms of the best use of the prime land comprising Bumborah Point.

The development of the Costal Walkway around Bumborah Point provides an excellent opportunity for the point itself to be remediated and protected for community use as a recreation amenity given its commanding position and view of the area.

An archaeological study of the subject land may reveal that the historical significance of Bumborah Point is second only to Bear Island.

Jayasooriah

28-Mar-2017

Chairperson

La Perouse Precinct