



REPORT FOR

**CONFIDENTIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

MEETING DATE

**14 NOVEMBER 2023**

RECORD NO:

**D23/88011**

REPORT OF:

**STRATEGY & FINANCE**

TITLE:

**REQUEST TO RENAME MEMORIAL OVAL RESERVE WITHIN  
TEA TREE GULLY SPORTS AREA**

- 1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council orders that the public (except staff on duty) be excluded from the meeting to enable discussion on the Request to rename Memorial Oval reserve within Tea Tree Gully Sports Area.*
- 2. That the Council is satisfied that pursuant to section 90(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the information be received, discussed or considered in relation to this item is:*
  - information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).*
    - in that it involves discussion regarding personal attributes of an individual which would be inappropriate to discuss in the public domain prior to the matter being finalised.*
- 3. That the Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in relation to this matter by the need to keep the discussion of this matter confidential, given it would be inappropriate to put personal affairs in the public domain prior to the matter being finalised.*

## **PURPOSE**

**To consider the renaming of Memorial Oval located in the Tea Tree Gully Sports Area as a memorial to a local resident who recently passed away.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That Council declines the request to rename Memorial Oval within the Tea Tree Gully Sports Area on the basis that the oval is already a memorial that commemorates those who have served in various conflicts in which Australia has been involved.**

- 2. That Council writes to the resident that requested the renaming of the reserve to inform them of the alternative option of making an application for a memorial bench at Memorial Oval, which would be assessed in accordance with Council's Memorial Management Policy.**

## **RETENTION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS**

**1. That having considered the agenda item titled “ REQUEST TO RENAME MEMORIAL OVAL RESERVE WITHIN TEA TREE GULLY SPORTS AREA” and dated 14 November 2023 in confidence under section 90(2) & (3)(a) and Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act 1999:**

- **information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)**

**the Council pursuant to section 91(7) of the Act orders that the report, attachments and minutes relevant to this item be retained in confidence until the resident requesting the renaming has been informed of the outcome or until the Council resolves otherwise, whichever occurs first.**

**2. That Council gives the power pursuant to Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1999 to the Chief Executive Officer to revoke the order made under Section 91 (7) of the Local Government Act 1999 subject to the Chief Executive Officer consulting with the Mayor and reporting to the Elected Members of the revocation.**

## 1. BACKGROUND

A letter was received dated 18 October 2023 from a resident, requesting a name change of Memorial Reserve (located within the Tea Tree Gully Sports Area at Memorial Drive, Tea Tree Gully) to be renamed The Neil McLean Reserve, after a resident who recently passed away. It is understood that the resident that made the request for renaming the reserve is not a family member of Mr McLean.

In the letter the resident advised of the recent passing of Mr Neil McLean, who was a passionate advocate for requesting more spaces be made available for dogs off leash in the City of Tea Tree Gully. Council have been advised by the resident that Mr McLean walked his dog on the oval three times a day for the last twelve years and was very well known by other dog owners.

## 2. DISCUSSION

Memorial Oval, is bounded by Memorial Drive, Dowding Terrace, Perseverance Road and Heitmann Court in Tea Tree Gully and is part of the Tree Gully Sports Area. The area is used by many groups, the community for exercising dogs, and also school groups during the day on an ongoing basis. Below is an aerial view of the area with the Memorial Oval component highlighted in yellow.



Council's [Memorial Management Policy](#) requires that any memorial requests, other than a bench seat, will be referred to Council for consideration.

Council's [Property Identification Policy](#) provides guidance on the naming of Council reserves, which states that where a request is received for a reserve name change, that this will be submitted to Council or a relevant Committee for consideration.

In this instance, the oval is named Memorial Oval as the oval commemorates those who have served in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved. The naming convention is aligned to the naming of the road (Memorial Drive). It also has connection to the Tea Tree Gully Memorial Garden on the corner of North East Road and Memorial Drive, Tea Tree Gully.

Should the Council be open to consider renaming the reserve as per the resident's request, community engagement would be recommended given the multiple uses of the location and history of the area.

Should Council determine to decline the request to rename the reserve, an alternative option could be presented to the resident to make application for a memorial bench at near the oval, which would be assessed in accordance with Council's Memorial Management Policy (noting that Council's policy position is that the cost of the memorial is to be borne by the requestor of the application).

### 3. FINANCIAL

Financial impacts will involve the costs in establishing suitable signage and other memorial treatments within the reserve. The cost of communicating the change to local residents also needs to be considered. Additional budget requirements will need to be established. As community engagement is recommended prior to a reserve name change, this would also be an additional cost.

### 4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

#### Strategic Plan

The following strategic objectives in Council's Strategic Plan 2025 are the most relevant to this report:

Objective	Comments
<b>Community</b>	
<i>People feel a sense of belonging, inclusion and connection with the City and the community</i>	Need to consider if a proposed name change would benefit the whole community or a small select group

## **Policy**

Councils Memorial Management Policy and Property Identification Policy are both relevant to this report.

### **5. LEGAL**

The Community Land Management Plan (which includes Memorial Oval) identifies the group of land parcels as the [Tea Tree Gully Sports Area](#).

### **6. RISK – IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION**

The oval is used by many different areas of the community including sporting groups, school groups and residents for exercising dogs. There is a risk that by renaming the area that it could be confusing to residents. There is also a risk on how the community may respond to renaming a reserve that already serves as a memorial. Although the resident who passed away was well known by other dog owners who used the area, it is unclear as to whether he was well known by the other groups or the broader community.

### **7. SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

The benefits of the proposed name change are largely social in as much as they seek to engender a sense of community for a small group of the community. Renaming the area does not necessarily benefit the community as a whole and it could open up requests from other residents for requests that only benefit a small group. Consideration also should be given to the history behind the original naming of the reserve.

### **8. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

No general community engagement has been carried out for the purposes of this report. If Council was to recommend a rename of the area, community engagement would be recommended before renaming was to occur.

### **9. COMMUNICATIONS OF COUNCIL DECISION**

A letter will be provided to the requestor of the name change advising of Council's decision.

## **Attachments**

N/A

## Report Authorisers

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