

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**13 JULY 2009**

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<b>5.</b>	<b>PERCE WHITE RESERVE REFERENCE GROUP</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	<b>PERCE WHITE RESERVE</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>DAVID YEOUART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ASSETS &amp; SERVICES</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>DAVID HEHIR, FORESHORE COORDINATOR, PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACES</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	<b>E17374/09</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. PERCE WHITE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Council with information on the process undertaken to establish the Perce White Reserve Management Plan Reference group and;
- 1.2 Requests Council to appoint three (3) community representatives and a (1) councillor to the Reference Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 2.1 Endorse the Terms of Reference for the proposed Reference Group and the establishment of the Perce White Reserve Management Plan Reference Group.
- 2.2 Appoint Councillor \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.3 Appoint three community members:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4 Request Council officer's to review the license agreement with the Port of Melbourne Corporation as part of this project.

**3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Perce White Reserve is an important, four-hectare, naturalised nature reserve, located at the extreme southwest end of Sandridge Beach. It has been identified as having both significant local and regional conservation status (Natural heritage assessment of sites within the City of Port Phillip, Biosis 2003; Perce White Reserve landscape Management and Development Plan, 2007)
- 3.2 Council has identified protecting, preserving and reinstating local natural environments and open spaces within the city as a key strategy for caring for our natural environment.
- 3.3 A budget of 50K has been allocated in the 09/10 capital program for the development of design plans for the improvement of Perce White Reserve. In conjunction with this a management plan will be developed to ensure any improvements and ongoing maintenance of Perce White meets the community's expectations.
- 3.4 The land is owned by The Port of Melbourne Corporation and is managed and maintained by The City of Port Phillip.
- 3.5 Current issues associated with the Reserve include;
- The Reserve is under-utilised;
  - It lacks physical and visual connection with the rest of Port Melbourne;
  - There is no directional signage and;
  - Conflicting uses and safety concerns.
- 3.6 A management plan was developed in 2007, which had input from the Friends of Port Melbourne Foreshore, who are a local community group that work to actively protect and conserve the regionally significant remnant species at Perce White Reserve. Whilst this document has been used as an internal reference document, it was not officially endorsed by Council.
- 3.7 Regular feedback has been received from local residents requesting the opportunity to be consulted and involved in any further management plans for Perce White Reserve. Hence, the Perce White Reference Group is being established to seek local community advice and feedback on the principles and values, for the management of Perce White Reserve and the development of a new management plan that, will include concept plans.

The Group will disband, upon the official completion of the Perce White Management Plan i.e. when it's adopted by Council.

**4. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

4.1 The following process has been undertaken in the establishment of the Reference Group:

- 4.1.1 Terms of Reference for the Perce White Reserve were prepared in consultation with the Ward Councillor.
- 4.1.2 A target audience framework was developed, to guide the selection of members for the Perce White Reserve Reference Group and ensure participants have a good understanding of the issues at the Reserve.
- 4.1.3 Notices, calling for Expressions of Interest in nominating for the Reference group, were placed within and surrounding the Perce White Reserve.

Letters seeking nominations were also posted, in late May, to three-hundred and ninety (390) Fisherman's Bend residents.

4.2 Five (5) responses were received from individuals nominating for the Perce White Reserve Reference Group, all of which responded to the selection criteria.

4.3 The selection criteria was:

- Knowledge of and experience with Perce White reserve and related issues.
- Appreciation of issues related to open space, recreation planning and/or coastal environmental values.
- Understanding of and commitment to community development.
- An ability to work with complexity and conflict.
- An open mind.

4.4 The criteria were met by all of the candidates.

**5. DISCUSSION**

**5.1 OPTIONS**

5.1.1 The proposed Reference Group membership and structure is the most efficient and viable means to ensure the views of relevant community groups, government agencies and community are expressed and taken into account, in developing the management and concept plan for Perce White Reserve.

5.4 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN

5.4.1 The recommendations in this report support Council's plan as outlined below;

**Enhancing Livability** – Caring for our natural environment:

- Protect, preserve and reinstate local natural environments and open spaces within the city (Council Plan Strategy 4.3.2)

**Engaging and Governing the City** – value and utilise skills and knowledge in the community.

- Enhance Council's engagement with the community by maximising community feedback to ensure open and inclusive decision making. (Council Plan Strategy 1.1.1)

5.5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN

5.5.1 The key policy drivers that most directly relate to this project are the Open Spaces and Foreshore strategies.

5.5.2 The City of Port Phillip Open Space Strategy defines poor open space as land that "is under utilised, offers poor connection to other spaces or streets is unsafe for users, [and] offers poor accessibility". Developing a management plan and plans for future improvements will assist with improving the value of this area as open space.

5.5.3 The Foreshore Management Plan's key objectives relevant to Perce White Reserve are;

- Protect the distinctive character and features of the CoPP foreshore;
- Implement agreed strategy and action plans to manage the foreshore and ensure regular review to respond to improvements and changing community expectation; and
- Continue to resolve competing demands and conflicts of foreshore users, visitors and residents by weighing up the relative merits of issues and providing for their management.

5.6 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.6.1 There is \$50,000 allocated in the 09/10 Capital Works budget to undertake design works for Perce White Reserve and 150K allocated in the 10/11 financial year to undertake works.

5.7 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.7.1 There may be reputation risks to Council if the reference group is not established, as this would limit the opportunity for community to engage with Council in expressing their views.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

6.1 TIMELINE

- 6.1.1 Subsequent to Council endorsement, successful applicants will be advised of their appointment to the reference group following Council's decision.

- 6.1.2 It is anticipated that the reference group would be engaged over a period of five months and individuals make themselves available to attend four meetings of the group.

6.2 COMMUNICATION

- 6.2.1 The key messages relating to the recommendations contained in this report are:

- Council is committed to the improved use and management of the Perce White Reserve;
- Council is committed to community consultation and engagement;
- The Perce White Reserve Reference Group membership will represent the range of community groups, government agencies and community members with an interest in the current and future management of the reserve.
- All residents who applied to participate on the reference group will be advised by letter.