
Report of the General Manager - 23 August 2016

ITEM 6.9 Jim Ring Reserve Plan of Management

AUTHOR City Planning

ISSUE

The current Jim Ring Reserve Plan of Management (the Plan) was prepared in 1999. An updated Plan has been prepared to bring it in line with current requirements and is required to be placed on exhibition prior to final consideration.

RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council exhibit the draft Jim Ring Reserve Plan of Management 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. A further report be prepared and submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period to consider any submissions.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* Council is required to prepare Plans of Management (PoMs) for all its community land. As a consequence, the Jim Ring Reserve PoM was adopted by Council in 1999. Since the adoption of this plan improvements at the site have included upgrades to the aquatic centre (carpark, landscape, water play area), construction of a shared pedestrian/cycle path along the western edge of the park, improved parking and access along Woods Road, installation of play equipment, safety fencing along the stormwater channel, tree planting and improvements to the sports grounds and supporting infrastructure. The 1999 PoM is now out-of-date and requires review.

REPORT

The draft Jim Ring Reserve PoM replaces the 1999 document. The main changes proposed are summarised below.

Categories of Community land

Currently the community land at Jim Ring Reserve is categorised entirely as *Sportsground*. It is proposed to change the category of community land from *Sportsground* to *General Community Use* in the locations of the Birrong Bowling and Sports Club, Men's Shed and Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre to more accurately reflect the current and potential uses of the facilities. The rest of the site will remain *Sportsground* for active recreation.

Permissible Uses, Leases and Licences

For both categories of community land there is a comprehensive list of permissible uses and developments, and types of permissible leases and licences proposed. Generally the lists reflect more contemporary potential uses such as cafes and personal training and is consistent with the Generic Plan of Management over the majority of Community Land in the former Bankstown area.

Bowling Club lease

Birrong Bowling and Sporting Club leases a 0.9ha parcel of land on the south east corner of the reserve. Established in the early 60s, the Club provides an active sporting and social facility for the local community. It has district and city wide significance based on competition teams, informal recreational use, and community social activities. The current 21 year lease expires in September 2017.

The 1999 Jim Ring Reserve PoM allowed for a lease extension of 22m x 50m to the north of the bowling greens, however this extension has not been taken up by club management. The draft 2016 Jim Ring Reserve PoM proposes a larger extension of 22m x 88m (approx.) to allow for a more functional expansion of the Club.

If the Bowling Club takes possession of the larger leased area, the two soccer fields on the eastern side of the site can still be accommodated within the grassed sportsground area by moving them slightly north. There will be costs associated with moving the soccer fields such as relocating the lights and cricket pitch. These expenses should be considered as part of the terms of a new lease.

Men's Shed

The maintenance shed previously used as a Council staff and equipment depot has recently been converted into a Men's Shed. Currently this is being operated as a casual hire agreement as the 1999 Plan does not allow for a license as it was not listed as permissible. The update to the Plan will allow for a license agreement for a five year period with the Men's Shed, rather than continue the current casual hire agreement.

Objectives and targets

The PoM concludes with a table of principles, objectives and performance targets required by the *Local Government Act*.

Exhibition

The *Local Government Act* requires a public exhibition period of 28 days, with a further 14 days to receive submissions. The document will be exhibited on Council's website, in the Customer Service Centre and in the libraries. During the exhibition period consultation will occur with relevant users groups.

The *Local Government Act* also requires a public hearing in respect of a proposed PoM (including an updated PoM) if the plan proposes altering the categorisation of community land. As the new PoM is proposing changing a portion of Sportsground to General Community Use, a hearing will be held.

Master Plan and Works Action Plan

Following adoption of the new Jim Ring Reserve PoM, a master plan and works action plan will be prepared. This will ensure works are included in Council's works program in a timely manner. Examples of the types of improvements which have been identified in the Plan include:

- Complete missing sections of the standard footpath along Gascoigne Road.
- New paths from the clubhouse to the bridge (over the channel) and to the playground.
- Investigate options to improve connectivity over the entire site as currently access is limited to narrow bridges over the concrete channel.
- Signs on the rear (north facing) side of the clubhouse and amenities building, to direct people approaching from the north.
- Directional signage to Jim Ring Reserve at Sefton train station.
- More shaded seating and/or picnic tables for sports participants to rest and view sport.
- Multi-purpose hardcourts north of the clubhouse on Woods Road to increase the range of sports available, e.g. netball, basketball.
- Upgrade fences at Jim Ring Reserve to a consistent style and high standard.
- Investigate a new toilet block in the eastern half of the reserve in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and to enable eastern fields to operate independently.
- Liaise with Sydney Water regarding future naturalisation of the concrete stormwater channel.
- Increase vegetation in the reserve to improve shade and habitat.
- Promote small park-based businesses such as mobile cafes and personal training.

The master plan will graphically illustrate the proposed improvements, and the works action plan will describe the proposed works in terms of timeframe, approximate cost and staff responsibility.

POLICY IMPACT

The new Jim Ring Reserve Plan of Management 2016 will replace the current Jim Ring Reserve Plan of Management 1999.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan does not have any financial implications at this stage. Any future works identified as part of the Masterplan will be considered through the normal Operational Planning process.

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ATTACHMENTS

- A. Jim Ring Reserve draft Plan of Management