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### **Subject: Putting the ARIS back into our Sporting Reserves**

**Date: Thursday, 27 June 2019**

The City of Melville is calling on the community to help shape its Active Reserves Infrastructure Strategy (ARIS) which aims to provide sustainable, fit-for-purpose, multi-use and inclusive community sporting reserves.

Building on the City's Strategic Provision of Active Reserves Study (SPARS) report from 2011, the ARIS Strategy will incorporate new research and trends to provide a 20 year plan to help fulfil our community's aspiration of achieving a healthy lifestyle.

Currently the City has 72 sporting clubs with over 10,000 members that use its active reserves, which are nearing sporting capacity and the City is requesting the community to answer survey questions and review the draft strategy before it is presented to Council later this year.

City of Melville Mayor Russell Aubrey said he encourages the community to get involved and work with us to explore options to create sustainable, multi-use sporting reserves for future generations to enjoy.

"The City currently has 20 active reserves which consist mainly of grass sporting fields. The optimum use of these reserves is approximately 25 hours per week but during our recent winter season 70% of these reserves were overused, with some areas seeing nearly double this usage amount, meaning the maintaining the turf is unsustainable." Mayor Aubrey said.

"The ARIS will also consider challenges which include the limited opportunity for new active reserves, climate change, creating a hotter and dryer climate, emergence of new sporting activities, continued increase in female sport participation numbers and the Federal and State Government requirement that sport and recreation infrastructure should be shared, multi-use facilities with the collocation of a number of user groups."

"We will be using our rates and customer service database to contact a random sample of residents who live within 400 meters of an active reserve to participate in a community survey and will ask the whole community to review the draft strategy, via our Melville Talks community engagement website."

"We will also be contacting local schools to harness the ideas of Melville's young people, as they make up ~75% of local sporting participants, and of course, engage with the City's Sporting Clubs."

"Working with external leisure consultant Dave Lanfear who has 20 years' experience in the development of similar strategic plans and who will be drafting the strategy based on

community feedback and extensive literature from State and National levels aims to provide a balanced and practical 20 year plan for our active reserves.”

“It is important to note that the development of the ARIS will not impact current projects such as Tompkins Park, Shirley Strickland Reserve and Bert Jeffrey Park as previous Council decisions have been made in relation to these projects.

We encourage residents to learn more about our active reserves and use the interactive map by visiting [www.melvilletalks.com.au/ARIS](http://www.melvilletalks.com.au/ARIS) where all project information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) are contained.

The draft ARIS Strategy will be presented to Council and then released for public comment, after which time it will be returned to Council for adoption.

*Image: ARIS*

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