

## Frank Smith Park submissions

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 6 May 2022 4:19 PM  
To: Mail <Mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>  
Subject: Frank Smith Oval feedback Re sporting groups

Dear Jeremy (Bell)

I am writing in response to the Council's letter to residents in relation to feedback regarding sporting groups having further use of Frank Smith Oval (FSO).

Given this is the only area where I can let my dogs off their lead for a run within an hour's walk of where I live I am very disappointed to hear about this.

My feedback therefore is to leave this space open for residents. There are enough other venues close to FSO ie in Blackwood that cater for sporting groups. Dog owners, and there are many of us, use the FSO for recreational use. Please therefore leave it alone.

I note also that the oval at Hawthorndene is now also used for cricket!!

If you require further information please feel free to call me on [REDACTED].

Regards  
[REDACTED]

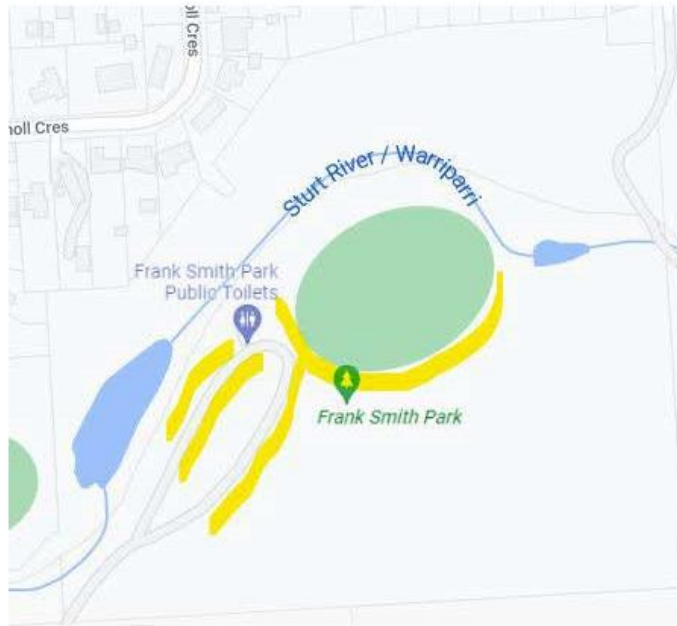
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 May 2022 1:52 PM  
**To:** Simon McMahon <Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Frank Smith Park

Hi Simon,

Following on from my previous email regarding Frank Smith Park, I'd like to communicate a few other issues regarding the opening up of the park for regular community sport.

As we usually do, my kids and I went to Frank Smith Park over the weekend both days. On Saturday I spoke to a number of members of the local community and the regular users of the park, there was strong and overwhelming opposition to any long term leasing of the park to any clubs, aside from the local school. Many of the people I spoke to were surprised that there was a consultation process on as they hadn't heard anything about it, and a number expressed their concern at being able to complete the online forms due to their limited computer skills. Interestingly I actually ended up talking to a person with a formal role at the Sturt Lions, who had come to inspect the area and pitch. We had a really constructive conversation and he was supportive of the community's opposition to regular use of the park, and agreed it was not fit for purpose (even with pitch upgrades).

On Sunday - as you may be aware there were a number of soccer games on, which made it nearly impossible to get a car park. With the limited access to the grounds and surrounds my family, as well as the few other locals who were there certainly had a very small area to access. At a rough count for the time I was there (about 45 minutes) - I estimated at least 60 cars (hard to tell exactly as there was a constant in and out at speeds that were generally unacceptable) within the park - so over the course of the 3 matches I believe that were played that is between 150-200 cars entering the area. As this significantly exceeded the designated parking areas around the oval, the remaining cars were parked in areas that blocked off community access to areas and places that in winter turn into a muddy bog. I've marked them on the map here in yellow. If you have visited the park, you would be aware that to the north of the creek (Mitcham Council's area) is a beautiful, regenerated area that is great for bush walks and exploring, but not much else such as ball sports, dog exercise etc... The large south eastern part of the oval is atop a steep climb, but currently is a paddock full of prickles and dead, dry grass - but with a large slope on the edge its not ideal for teaching my son to kick a footy nor ideal for large congregations of dogs. All the cars took over the flat easy access part where kids often ride their bikes and koalas are regularly spotted. In the depths of winter - high traffic volume and parking there will destroy the grass and result in many bogged cars. Access to the BMX track was still there, but it isn't suitable for smaller children, the smaller track being adjacent to what turned into a relatively busy road.



I have had a look over the councils Guide for Leasing and Licensing Sport and Community Facilities - and I simply cannot see how sporting clubs fit the Pre-assessment of a potential tenant (page 20) - yesterday there was no activity that benefited and engaged the community (aside from the club- not the local community which Frank Smith Park was established for), it was clear the community facility was not fit for purpose and there was certainly not increased utilisation of the community facility.

This information I would like to be taken onboard for consultation, as well as my previous emails and my 'Your Say'. From talking to the local Coromandel community - there is strong opposition to opening this park up to sporting clubs, and as I have outlined above it is not fit for purpose - the pitch isn't the only issue, the surrounding infrastructure is. A local family was having their birthday party there on Saturday - about 5 families, if they had planned that for Sunday (as it is very difficult to identify when the soccer teams are playing) they would have been unable to access the area, enjoy the surrounds or even have a place to set up- it would be utterly devastating if this were to occur, which it would, on a regular basis if the local community do not have priority access to the facilities and grounds. There are plenty of other more fit for purpose ovals in the council and surrounds that are fit for purpose - these should be investigated as an alternative for the external clubs, as a matter of urgency and Frank Smith Park should be left for the Coromandel Valley community, as it was intended.

Thanks for your time and happy to discuss further,

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 May 2022 5:31 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Bell <[Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Frank Smith Park

Hello Jeremy

I just wanted to touch base with you regarding the recent Community Consultation of Frank Smith Park.

This Park was previously my Great Grand Fathers land which he donated it to the Mitcham council back in the mid 1970s before he passed away in 1983 with the condition that it would be used for the community and not for development. Because of this my family and I would like to be involved in the discussions around the park.

My cousins and I and so many other people of the community spent so much of our younger days playing and exploring Frank Smith Park.

In 1994 when I was in year 5 I rallied with a number Coromandel Valley Primary School students to get a small BMX bike track built.

In 2000 some of the same students and I decided that we needed another BMX track so we built a bigger one next to the smaller one. Over the years these BMX tracks have weathered away becoming almost unusable for the next generation of kids growing up in the community.

The Cricket nets are in very poor condition and located in the wrong area and the Playground is the same old metal one that was installed in the 80s and becoming unusable. The oval has seen better days with patchy grass and uneven surfaces taking shape over the past 10 years.

The surrounding park itself is still in good condition and although the Sturt Creek that runs through the middle of it acts a council boarder for Mitcham and Onkaparinga council's they both seem to keep the park in good condition but so much more could be done to it to make it more of a desired place to go.

The park has a wonderful wetland and the forest that was planted in 1993 by CVPS students and it acts as an excellent connector for the Blackwood Pine Forest and the Coromandel valley Historic liner park trail.

I have previously been working closely with Sam Duluk (the former local MP) and David Spears (previous Environmental Minister) regarding this area with many conversations and visits with them to the area. During this time Sam was prolific in liaising with Onkaparinga council as you can see in the attached communication that I was brought into with Sam. With the recent change of government obviously Sam and David are not in their respective roles but I would really like to continue liaising with you regarding my families wishes with the land and the legacy of Frank Smith.

Over the last 4 years I have seen some amazing playgrounds and open spaces pop up or be upgraded in the Marion and Onkaparinga council area with some being Heron Way

Hallet Cove, Shamrock Road Reserve Hallet Cove, Christopher Grove Reserve, Trott Park, Wilfred Taylor Reserve Morphett Vale, Hendrie Street Reserve, Park Holme, Angus Neil Reserve, South Brighton and Bandon Terrace Reserve, Marino and would love to see something similar in Frank Smith Park.

This is a very special place for our family with the Frank Smith plaque situated near the dam which also has a plaque for his Son ( My Great Uncle) and we would like to organise one for my Grandmother (Frank's daughter) who passed away in 2020 either being a new playground or oval being renamed after my Grandmother this would be one of Frank's wishes.

From the attached communication I believe there has been interest from local sporting clubs as well as potential ideas as below. We are also aware that the CVPS has access for sports on weekends which was part of Frank's wishes.

- Playground including natural play elements
- Formalising of the oval to allow for soccer and cricket
- Improvements to car parking
- Provision of picnic facilities including a camp style kitchen
- Improved access across the Sturt River
- Wetland improvements (note that much of the original wetlands was damaged by flooding in 2016).

I understand that you are a very busy but if you did have a spare 30 mins I would love to show you through the park and float some ideas with you that could just give Frank Smith Park the TLC that I believe it deserves.

Thank you for your time,

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 May 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** Simon McMahon <Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Frank Smith Park

Hi Simon,

Was at Frank Smith Park again over the weekend, as I always do and spoke to the locals about the current consultation. Again there was overwhelming support against long term sporting leases for the oval- not a single person I spoke to (everyone who I saw) wanted to see any long term leasing of the oval out to any community sporting teams.

Other points of interest

- The noise pollution is a significant factor for the neighbouring residents. As I made mention of last week, the games and crowds make quite a bit of noise – compared to the usual natural silence. A resident whose house borders the park was awoken by the sound of a coach 'screaming' (her description, not mine) at players
- There is still relative lack of knowledge about the consultation – the signs up were the first that the majority of people I spoke to, aside from those I had spoken to the week prior had heard about the consultation. Regarding the signs – I feel it is important to note the 'Frank Smith Park (Oval)' wording – as the future of the whole park is in question, the oval and park itself are intrinsically linked by the virtue of lack of infrastructure and the nature of the park
- A few of the people I spoke to live in Mitcham council – with houses that border, or near border the Park – they have not or are yet to receive any letter regarding the consultation
- It was noted by some people I spoke to that the gate was left open, unlocked after the games last weekend, and on Sunday after the game this week, the gate was again left open after the last car had left. I had to inform a family that the gate was presumably due to close at some point – as they had unknowingly driven in and parked within the park.
- A couple of locals complained that after the games last week there was enough rubbish left that they did a rubbish collection on the oval. I cannot comment on the validity of this statement, as I did not observe it, however I did note a small collection of rubbish – a few pieces of paper that had been left by the game from the weekend.
- The majority of people I spoke to this weekend were dog walkers – they expressed their concerns to me regarding alternative off lead dog exercise areas in the local area. One person stated along the lines of 'I've been bringing my dog here for years – Its one of the few places around here we can actually get to without sports on the weekend' - dog walking is obviously an important physical, mental and social activity for owners and pets, limiting use of the oval to sports – will restrict access for the local community to undertake this. The people I spoke to on the weekend expressed concern for their off lead dogs if the area has cars parked and driving throughout it, as it had been for the weekends games
- It was also noted that the soccer game on the weekend just gone was on the northern half of the oval, which is adjacent to and in close proximity to the wetlands – again concern was expressed regarding this, as the southern half of the oval could have been utilised to minimise the impact on the delicate ecosystem there
- Importantly, it was noted that people aren't against sensible development within the scope of the park, just not for sporting clubs. Small infrastructure projects were suggested by a number of people, such as more bridges in the wetlands, fences to protect the wetlands/creek from dogs and repair of the creek to divert more water to the wetland – as had been in place prior to the 2016 flood. People want to see investment for the local community as opposed to sporting clubs

Thank you for the extension on the consultation and the opportunity to have the face to face session – Are there any further details regarding the face to face consultation? Eg. What format will it take, will there be formal presentations, who will be attending?

Thanks and will continue to be in touch,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 May 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** Simon McMahon <Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Frank Smith Park

Hi Simon,

Also of interest was this letter that was shared via social media by the previous state MP for Waite - Sam Duluk. (in a reply to a comment on his Facebook post on 6th May 2021)

I have attached for your reference.

Following on from the completion of the Belair NP masterplan Sam was assisting the local clubs with finding suitable alternative sporting grounds. The attached letter is a communication between the then Mayor Erin Thompson and Sam Duluk.

I would like to draw your attention to the fourth paragraph - regarding Frank Smith Park

*'The park and oval space are well used by the local community and visitors and there is a desire to limit organised sport to Saturdays to enable general community use on Sundays.'*

I appreciate that the then Mayor has now shifted to a role in state politics, however the local community has not changed significantly in less than 12 months. It would appear as if the council already have some insight into the use of the park and the thoughts of the local community on the issue. The position of the council is quite strikingly supportive of leaving Frank Smith Park as it is, to have changed only 9 months later the council granting permits to sporting clubs. This is a significant change in a short period of time, with no additional consultation or at least any that was advertised to the local community to have taken place. Can this please be added to the formal consultation correspondence.

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, May 23, 2022 at 12:51 PM [REDACTED] wrote:  
Hi Simon,

I was unable to get to Frank Smith Park on the weekend as my family and I went away, but just some observations from talking to the local community throughout the week again.

1. There is still a significant misconception amongst the community that the consultation is about the council themselves (as opposed to sporting clubs seeking independent funding- as outlined on the documents on the YourSay) upgrading the pitch solely for the school to use. I have heard this from multiple people, including people involved with Coromandel Valley Primary School.
2. Regarding the use of the oval during summer for cricket games. There would be a significant risk for the local community, as well as the club using the park given the lack of egress points within the park and traffic bottleneck at the exit point if any more than a few cars were allowed to park within it. Magarey road is not fit for the volume of cars that would need to exit the area, including the locals who already live there. Additionally, this would cause further flow on effects to bottle necks at Ackland Hill Road and Main Road as well. I

cant see how the required upgrade in infrastructure would be possible without the removal of trees and potentially the acquisition of property from locals. Again this comes back to my point of not being able to talk about the future of the oval, without talking about the whole park itself.

3. I have found it hard to find any information regarding planned uses by the sporting clubs of Frank Smith Park – I have searched online and found a soccer fixture website that lists some allocated uses, but have not found any other resources to let me know when games are on. This makes it hard for the local community to plan ahead for use of the park for parties, picnics or other communal use etc...

4. Finally, a number of people I have spoken to have asked me if I have a vested interest in the park- I would just like to be clear that I have no vested interests. I am a public healthcare worker at a major hospital and I have no shares, memberships or affiliations with any local clubs or businesses. I am doing this purely as my family and in particular, my children love Frank Smith Park.

Looking forward to the community consultation on the weekend- hopefully there is a good turn out from the local Coromandel Valley community.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 23 May 2022 09:55  
To: Marion Themeliotis  
Subject: Frank Smith Reserve

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender's full email address and know the content is safe.

Good morning Marion

I am writing to you to express my concern over the future plans for Frank Smith Reserve. I am very much against any major development of this piece of land, which was donated to the Community, by a local farmer many years ago. The land was donated so that the local Community could enjoy the peace and tranquility that this Reserve offers. A walk through this Reserve provides a stroll like no other because the Reserve is still very much in its natural state there are kangaroos grazing on the oval, koalas in the trees and birds of all different types. I am aware of people who just like to sit in the Reserve and enjoy its tranquillity as well as being able to walk their dogs without the multiple rules and regulations that are found elsewhere. Groups of people gather on the oval to enjoy morning walks and talks with their dogs. The Coromandel Valley School enjoy the oval for their Saturday sports amongst other things but on a small scale. There are so many local families who just enjoy the lake and feeding the ducks! If this Reserve was to become home to a much larger sporting group or other there would be cars, clubrooms and other infrastructure plus the huge amount of noise that usually is associated with sporting events. All of this would drive the fauna away. What we have is a "real gem" one that is almost impossible to find given that everyone wants to establish, develop and subsequently ruin a natural wonderland.

Please leave our Reserve alone to be enjoyed for generations to come just as it is.

Kind regards

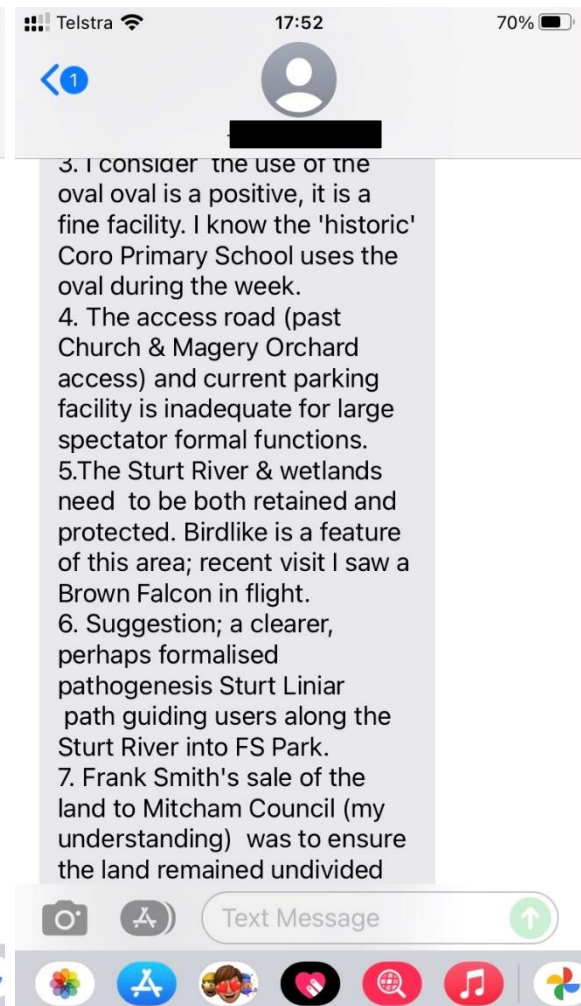
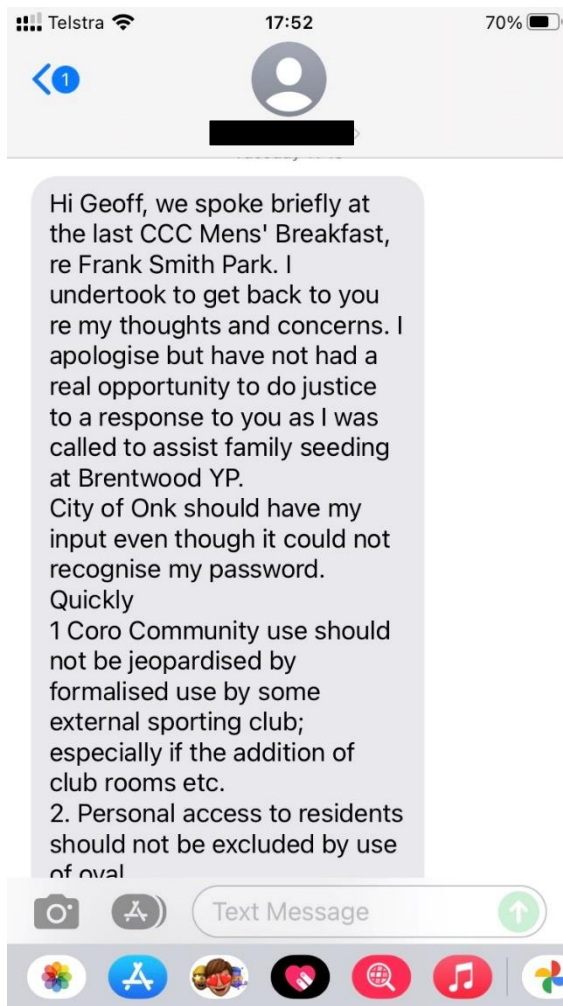
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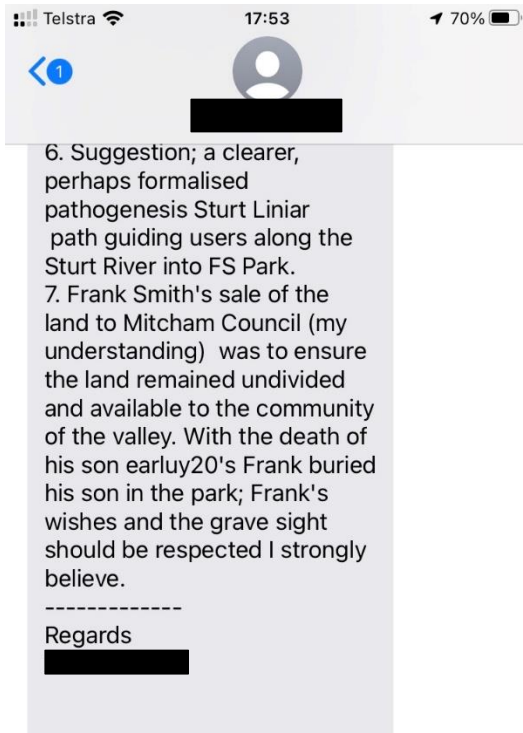
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]







**From:** [REDACTED]. >

**Sent:** 29 May 2022 11:08

**To:** Marion Themeliotis <[Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Geoff Eaton <[Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Simon McMahon <[Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; [jeremy.bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:jeremy.bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au) <[jeremy.bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:jeremy.bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Say NO to Frank Smith sports ground

Hello,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal, "Frank Smith Ocal - potential increased use by organised sporting groups".

As a resident adjacent to the reserve, I strongly oppose the use of the Reserve for organised sport. I use the reserve to walk with or without my dogs, along with my family and friends 3 to 4 times a week. The reserve provides a connection to nature to unwind, enjoy the tranquility and peaceful surroundings that the reserve allows. The rich habitats created among the creek and its surrounds provides homes for a wide array of bird life, which are spotted daily including, rens, kookaburras, magpies, ibis, and parrots.

To sit and listen to the sounds of the birds, without distraction and the build environment is a little bit of heaven. Freedom to walk throughout the reserve at will is a gift.

Sporting activities will negatively disrupt the ability to walk with freedom at will in the space. It will increase noise and distraction, which will impose on the wildlife. The addition of parked cars and traffic will cause congestion to the side streets, which I live on.

If there are further opportunities to stack my opposition to this decision with Council, please inform me.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, 5 June 2022 2:43 PM

**To:** Marion Themeliotis <[Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Geoff Eaton <[Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Simon McMahon <[Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Jeremy Bell <[Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** NO to long term sporting club leases at Frank Smith Park

Please don't spoil Frank Smith Park, it's bush and wetland areas already see too much traffic so any additional sporting activities are going to have a negative impact.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 June 2022 3:48 PM

**To:** Marion Themeliotis <[Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Marion.Themeliotis@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Geoff Eaton <[Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Simon McMahon <[Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Simon.McMahon@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>; Jeremy Bell <[Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Jeremy.Bell@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Frank Smith Park

Hello,

I am writing to express my wish for there to be NO long term sporting club leases for Frank Smith Park. I live nearby in Coromandel Valley and use the area to walk and relax and get peaceful time with nature regularly (as do the other three people in my house). If a sporting club were to gain a permanent lease of this area they would wish to make changes which would destroy this area. Please do not approve any changes such as adding artificial turf or lights, removing of trees or bushes, adding bitumen/sealed paths or adding car parks. I also worry that any of these additions/changes would distress the animals, birds, organisms that live in the area. They have so few areas to go without us interfering as it is and especially in the hills this should be a priority. Coromandel Valley is one of the oldest suburbs in SA and I feel in the last few years the changes with tree chopping and building houses that take up the whole block have ruined a lot of the "feel" and lovely natural areas of this suburb. We need to protect the last parts of this wonderful suburb (which include I believe a Southern Brown Bandicoot which is natural to this area!). Extra traffic on Magarey Road and the already burdened Main Road would cause significant problems also. Unfortunately I was unable to go the Community Consultation so please accept this email as my "vote". I also want to add that even if the sporting club says they will not do these things, once they get a permanent lease and "get in" they will go ahead and make the changes they wish regardless.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 10:45:30 AM

**To:** Geoff Eaton <[Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:Geoff.Eaton@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Federal Grant City of Onkaparinga - Bushfire Management

Thanks Geoff,

The CFS certainly uses the Frank Smith area for training nights and at other times randomly during the week / year. We use it for training of grass fire, drafting water, and also driver training (mainly starting off, nice and quiet).

The oval is definitely under utilised, however sat mornings I would say are still used for kids sports and this would be greater than the crowds that the senior cricket would pull.

As for the access in and out of Magarey road, I won't say too much but whoever does the road planning either hates us or has never driven a truck. Solid barriers and islands are not friendly when trying to turn up Acklands that's for sure. 😊

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Response to Council re Frank Smith Park, Future use May..... 2022

This response to the consultation has been considered by the committee and represents views expressed by members and local visitors in conversation with us in our branch activities.

- Frank Smith Park should be recognised as a community place primarily for the use of community people involved in recreation activities.
- Use of facilities for sporting activities should be conditional on not precluding casual use of the Park by others.
- Development of the Park should support casual informal use by the wider community and not detract from its natural character and value.
- A document of the history (natural and people) should be assembled as a conservation plan to guide future adaptations and ongoing management.
- Larger periodic club events should only be considered under specified conditions and not be intended as exclusive or ongoing use.
- The application of lease or licence to larger “sporting groups” is considered inappropriate.

Trevor Conlon

Chair CVDNT