

19.1 PURCHASE OF LAND - CONSERVATION PURPOSES, ORMISTON

Objective Reference:

Authorising Officer: Louise Rusan, General Manager Community & Customer Services

Responsible Officer: Donna Wilson, Acting Group Manager Environment & Regulation

Report Author: Damien Jolley, Senior Property Officer

Attachments: Nil

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is:

- (h) *other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.*

PURPOSE

To provide an update in regards to the resolution made 8 May 2019 in relation to the acquisition of land for conservation purposes in Ormiston.

BACKGROUND

At the general meeting on 8 May 2019 (Item 19.2 refers) a report was presented to Council outlining options to consider acquiring 3-53 Cowley Street, Ormiston.

The Officers recommendation was that Council resolve to:

1. *not purchase the property; and*
2. *maintain this report and attachments as confidential, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.*

The recommendation was not adopted and Council resolved to:

1. *request officers bring a further report back to Council by 30 June 2019, providing a detailed plan, valuation, affordability and feasibility of a purchase with the intent of retaining high conservation areas and reselling developable areas of the property; and*
2. *maintain this report and attachments as confidential, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.*

ISSUES

The engagement of an external consultant (Saunders Havill Group) has been undertaken to provide a detailed report including:

1. Current valuation of the property
2. Determination of developable area based on detailed ecological report and property economic assessment, with recommendations to:
 - a. amend City Plan to zone the medium density residential multiple dwelling development on lots with low conservation value

- b. draft vegetation protection covenants for lots with medium conservation value and amend the City Plan as necessary
 - c. retain high conservation value lots in Council ownership
3. Projected valuations on the remaining developable areas of the property, to forecast costs that could be recouped from initial purchase costs.

Due to time constraints with the consultant commencing the evaluation, the report will be finalised and provided to Council at the General Meeting scheduled 17 July 2019.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves as follows:

- 1. To note this interim report.**
- 2. That a final report will be brought to the General Meeting scheduled 17 July 2019.**
- 3. That this report remains confidential, subject to maintaining the confidentiality of legally privileged, private and commercial in confidence information.**