

## **MM-1            MAYORAL MINUTE - POKEMON GO IN RHODES**

**Department    Executive Services**

**Author Initials: HM**

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### **REPORT**

I would like to bring to Council's attention the recent phenomenon of Pokémon Go augmented reality game in our community.

As Council may be aware, and as reported across media outlets, large crowds have been congregating in Peg Paterson Park in Rhodes since the launch of the game less than two weeks ago.

While Council welcomes people into our community to enjoy our foreshores and open parklands, we ask that all visitors and Pokémon players respect the residents and the natural environment.

With the increase in traffic and rubbish in Rhodes, Council has been working closely with the police in monitoring both traffic violations and ensuring people are safe. Council staff are also investigating options to close side streets to improve traffic congestion.

Aside from rubbish and noise complaints, Council has been receiving increased complaints from residents regarding adult Pokémon players monopolising the children's play equipment in Peg Paterson Park, meaning children aren't able to access the playground. Our law enforcement officers are now requesting any adults sitting on the play equipment to move on.

Our Communications team are monitoring social media reports and directing enquiries to the relevant department or police. They are also researching how to request the game application developer, Niantic Inc., to remove the three intersecting pokéstops from Peg Paterson Park and will circulate this information to the Rhodes building managers and put in a submission on behalf of Council.

I ask that Council join me in thanking our law enforcement and parks and gardens staff who have been continually monitoring Peg Paterson Park, ensuring cars aren't blocking traffic or driveways and cleaning the park every morning.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council law enforcement and parks and gardens staff continue to monitor the impact of the Pokémon Go game in Rhodes and respond accordingly.
2. THAT Council lodge a submission to Niantic Inc. requesting the removal of the three intersecting pokéstops from Peg Paterson Park.