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PRESS RELEASE

Improved Sportsground Management Required in NSW

The NSW Standing Committee on Public Works, in a Report released today, has made recommendations to improve the management regime for sportsground facilities in NSW.

“Physical health and well being are good insurance policies for a productive and rewarding life”, said Mr Kevin Greene, the Committee Chair. *“The adequate supply and maintenance of sportsgrounds is very important contributor to community health and social cohesion. Better local, State and Federal government planning and coordination, combined with consultation with sporting organisations, are needed to increase available opportunities for sporting participation and recreational activity”.*

While participation rates in sporting activities have been increasing for more than two decades, recent comments have highlighted the critical shortage of sportsgrounds in some areas of the State. This includes claims that at least 100 cricket teams, 60 soccer teams and countless touch and Oz Tag teams have been refused registration because of the unavailability of playing pitches.

The Committee’s *Sportsground Management in NSW* Report makes 15 recommendations to address overuse and identified shortages of sportsgrounds in many local council areas. The Report also looks at sporting organisations sharing the responsibility for keeping grounds in good condition, managing water needs, and limiting unwanted impacts on adjoining residents. In addition, accessing funds, sharing joint facilities and improving planning decisions are canvassed to maximise the availability of sportsgrounds as part of an overarching framework for management.

The inquiry considered 76 submissions provided by local councils, sporting bodies, State government departments, community members and individuals.

“I believe that the recommendations in this Report will assist to improve our community’s capacity to manage sportsgrounds effectively”, Mr Greene said.

The Committee’s report was tabled in the NSW Parliament today. Copies are available online from the Committee’s web site at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ or ph. 9230 2633.

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