



Liverpoolcitycouncil
creating our future together

Submission
No 6

27th July 2006

Mr Kevin Greene MP
Chairperson
Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on
Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Greene,

RE: SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT IN NSW

I refer to your letter dated 7th July 2006 regarding your invitation for Liverpool City Council to make a submission on an inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW. Please find listed below is Liverpool City Council response to the key issues for this inquiry:–

Adequacy of provision of sportsgrounds in key demand areas

Liverpool City Council is very aware of the growing community needs associated with increasing urban development and changing demographics. The population growth in Liverpool and South West Sydney is helping re-position Liverpool as a major regional centre in metropolitan Sydney.

In order to plan for the future needs of the community Liverpool City Council has adopted in 2003 the Recreation Strategy 2020. The Recreation Strategy 2020 was adopted after extensive community consultation and research on the future needs of the community. The Recreation Strategy acts as the directive for the future planning needs of our Local Government Area's recreation needs. (Appendix A)

Current requirement for updating and refurbishment of sportsgrounds and supporting infrastructure

Council's Assets and infrastructure unit have a 5-year Capital works program that is updated on an annual basis as part of its budget process. Whilst the capital works program does rely on state government funding the majority of the costs associated with capital works are borne by Council.

The capital works program is developed by Council's Assets unit in consultation with other Council departments who provide to them the Community priorities and identified issues related to occupational health and safety.

Council adopts the capital works program on an annual basis as part of the Council Management Plan. This plan is placed on public exhibition for community feedback prior to adoption.

Appropriateness and fairness of council pricing principles for facilities

The fees and charges for Council's sporting fields are benchmarked with other council's adjoining our local government area or those of similar size. This practice enables it to provide a fair and equitable fee base to our user groups.

Schools in our local government area do not pay for the use of the fields for weekly sporting activities although a small fee is in place for larger carnivals.

Council has a number of field hire options available to our sporting groups, these range from single day hire to seasonal weekday and weekend hire. All fees for the hire of sporting fields are on a partial cost recovery basis as full cost recovery would not be a viable option for many of our sporting groups.

Council adopts the fees and charges on an annual basis as part of Council's Management Plan. This is placed on public display for community feedback prior to adoption. (Appendix B)

Environmental issues, including water conservation and grounds maintenance

The drought conditions and water restrictions have affected the sporting fields in Liverpool City Council as it has in many other local government areas. Liverpool City Council has been an advocate for the enforcement of the gazetted water restrictions put in place by Sydney Water.

Council has developed a four-year sporting field maintenance program to address the increased needs of the sporting fields. We believe this to be one of the largest renovation programs implemented for sporting fields in our local area. (Appendix C)

The maintenance program addresses the field's needs by first identifying the usage of the site, the needs of the sports played on each site and the current field conditions. Upon determination of the criteria, the fields are then placed in a maintenance matrix that will determine the amount of maintenance

delivered to each site over a four-year period. At this point, the cycle would be repeated with minor modifications dependent on the environmental needs.

Council has also applied for Australian Government Community Water grants and were successful with its grant submission for a water tank to be installed

at one of its recreation facilities. Council's assets unit has also been exploring the opportunity to access bore water at some of its field's; this is in the preliminary stage of testing the ground water for suitability.

Residential amenity, public liability and security issues

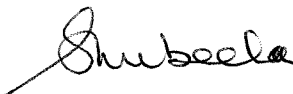
Liverpool City Council has a Hire of Playing Field's Policy (Appendix D) that is distributed to the hirers each year. This policy is quite extensive and addresses many aspects of the liability and responsibility of the user groups whilst conducting activities on Liverpool City Council owned or managed sites.

It is a requirement of the user groups to provide us with a signed form acknowledging the criteria of the Hire of Playing Fields Policy. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the changing environment of sport within New South Wales.

All hirers of our fields and facilities are expected to hold a minimum of \$10,000,000 public liability insurance.

If you require any further information or clarification on Council's responses, please do not hesitate to contact me on 98219395.

Yours faithfully



Sandra Kubecka
Manager of Recreation and Open Space

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020
- Appendix B – Liverpool City Council Revenue Pricing Policy
- Appendix C - Liverpool City Council Sportsground maintenance program
- Appendix D – Liverpool City Council Hire of Playing Fields Policy