

**Submission
No 26**

The Committee Manager
Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
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Sydney NSW 2000

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SUBMISSION: Sports Ground Management

The provision of my submission encompasses a lifetime dedication of 45 years to the sports turf management industry and I have a strong desire to be involved in this process.

I wish to address all aspects of your agenda based on my experiences during my working life as an employee and in the last 25 years in private enterprise via our family company.

Briefly my small company's involvement is focused on sports field renovation and construction having constructed three (3) Olympic sports venues and two major NRL venues Energy Stadium Newcastle and Orana Park Campbelltown. Enclosed is a brief CV of my company and my experience.

One only needs to glance out the window of an aero plane over any given town or city to realize the huge impact that turf has on our way of life. Vast expanses of playing fields with huge wear factors are indeed very visible set to cater for the demands of our sports hungry society.

It might be said that in saying this it's stating the obvious, but wander laterally to the conclusions of what a reasonable set of standards for sporting surface preparation means economically and socially to our society. If the turf production industry is in excess of \$450 mil at the farm gate nationally of which one third is in NSW just imagine the kick on effect through all other industries such as in house staff for local government, fertilizer, and maintenance equipment, scientific and educational institutions, contractors etc.

What are not obvious are the enormous environmental benefits of turfgrass. One may provide a broad overview of grass's role on our planet by a simple observation. *"Where do all the trees grow in the wettest areas, where do the most grasses grow in the driest areas? Additionally it provides a result by support a huge amount of animal waste recycling from grazing animals."*

There are a great many papers written about the environmental benefits of healthy turfgrass and I direct the committee in particular to a paper. *"The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans"* James B. Beard* and Robert L. Green

The problems addressing the issues referred to in your publicized document is that they all impact and or relate to each other. There are huge inadequacies in the provision of quality sports grounds to meet community needs. These inadequacies are not necessarily obvious in the lack of dedicated open space there are a plethora of circumstances that lead to the break down of the system such as:

a) The various providers such as schools local governments place turf management low on the priority list for focused resources either monetarily or dedication wise. It is my observation that for the majority, dedicated resources are inadequate which leads to an ad hock attitude that is "fix it when it is so bad that it demands fixing" because that's all we can afford.

b) In schools for example decisions are made by headmasters, sports masters or administrators without adequate guidelines, background knowledge or budgets, which leads to the inevitable disasters you see all too often in rough surfaces, weedy or bare school grounds and ovals.

c) Turfgrass is a great renewable resource and as a growing thing it must be treated in a manner that will provide the best possible result in accordance with its use. All too many times we expect the maximum performance with the least amount of basic good turf management practice.

d) Visiting local government fields during their “renovation program” (a loose term in my opinion), it is common to see the same processes being employed today that were in vogue 30 to 40 years ago. “Spike or slice the surface, re-turf, if it is affordable, fertilise, dump soil on to rough fill the hollows and top-dress the surviving grass. That will have to do till next time if the resources are available.

e) In this age of computer technology I am perplexed at the inadequacies of a system that does not provide the necessary time for proper recuperation periods to be available for sports field rehabilitation and basic turf management practices to be employed. The time given between summer, winter, winter, summer codes for field use is ridiculous to say the least. The demand on our premier grounds is very extreme and as a result huge annual budgets are implemented

f) With the shrinking of resources (soil sand & gravel) and ever changing legislation regarding herbicides, nutrient management, water and occupational health & safety systems should be enhanced to explore alternative techniques. For all these and many other reasons we must get it right.

Standards

A scientific and practical set of standards for field construction and maintenance should be set for the guidance of providers. A set of realistic milestones must be set for our community to receive the best possible standards for recreational surfaces.

Categorize budgets and resources to accommodate premier sports use, high standard use and all round community sports use. Currently there are no separate specifications for construction or maintenance of these three levels of sport that are realistic toward the budgets and resources available.

In the city of Rotterdam in Holland they have developed an annual process that is proving to be a huge success for their limited growing time of 17 weeks maximum per year with tens of hundreds of fields to prepare for winter sport in this limited time. Their logistical implementation works.

In Europe techniques of recycling existing soils from within the playing field profile whilst maintaining the integrity of the surface has long been in use. Additional benefits have been deeper root systems that are water and nutrient efficient as well as improved field playability via good turf and user friendly surfaces.

Similarly other techniques such as removing strong native weeds such as Parramatta Grass and introduced species can be eradicated in the main by mechanical means with minimal chemicals involved. The Sports Turf Institute in Bingley Yorkshire GB is encouraging the use of these tools for Premier League Soccer pitches as well as local government public amenities. A

glowing report on the technique was recently published by the curator at Wimbledon All England Tennis Club.

Wear Control on Sports Turf

There are specific products that reduce wear with profile reinforcement and quick replacement turf systems using big rolls. "The Arena" in Amsterdam the home of "Ajax" replaces its surface completely up to 5 times per year with standard turf big rolls thick cut @ 40mm applied via a an exact replacement system that can support a Premier League game within 7-14 days

The "Desso DD Grassmaster" system for example has the ability to create up to four times the wear capability of standard turf. There are other products such as "StaLock" reinforced big rolls replacement system.

Research

A tremendous breakthrough has been initiated the board of directors of the Turf Producers Australia Ltd. A levy \$0-015 cents on every square metre of turf has the capability of producing a minimum \$1,500,000-00 per year just for turf research. Industry is doing their bit and as a board member of TPA I am sure that our organization would be eager to work with government to achieve a common goal.

The Sydney University Plant Breeding Institute at Cobbitty near Camden is actively working with private enterprise to breed new varieties of turfgrass for sport and recreation. They are assimilating these studies with water management, recycled water, salinity, and low nutrient use, all round growth performance etc., etc.

Position

The sports turf industry, discounting the entrepreneurial aspect of sport, is a much underestimated economic, social and environmental force in our society.

As an active participant of this industry I am very excited about my further involvement. Like myself there is a huge amount of passion within the ranks of sports turf managers and staff. This passion is a huge resource that government should exploit to the maximum. Systems of standards for construction and rehabilitating our sports amenities can be achieved via co-operation with all concerned.

I look forward with great anticipation as to the outcome of this very positive government initiative.

It should be said at this point my company has a pecuniary interest as we have accessed some of the technology and systems referred to in this submission .

Geoff Hatton

Managing Director

Manoeuvre Mow Pty Ltd T/as Cobbitty Turf, Koro Australia, Sports Turf Solutions.

Life Member Aust. Golf Course Superintendents Assoc NSW

Recipient Australian Sports Medal 2000

Foundation Board Member, Turf Producers Australia.(TPA)

Friend, University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute.

Member Turf Producers International (TPI)



OUR PRECIOUS PLANET

Being A True Environmentalist Begins Right Under Our Feet

Turfgrass -- Functional, Recreational & Aesthetic

The earth has been good to us, but we haven't always been good to it.

While industry and technology have provided jobs and goods to make life easier, the effect on the environment has been substantial.

But we can help restore this precious earth with something as simple as turfgrass -- the earth's living skin.

The U.S. Congress has acknowledged these positive benefits to our environment. "Turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities can aid in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, mitigating the heat island effect, reducing energy consumption and contributing to efforts to reduce global warming trends."

Scientific research has documented the many benefits of turfgrass to our environment. Our turfgrass lawns, parks and open areas:

- Provide a natural, comfortable, and safe setting for fun and games.
- Release oxygen and cool the air.
- Control pollution and reduce soil erosion.
- Purify and replenish our water supply.

Our Environment

The satisfaction of creating beauty within the landscape can be rewarding for you and the environment. With turfgrass sod, the rewards are practically immediate.

- A well maintained lawn and landscape can enhance the "curb appeal" adding as much as 15 percent to the value of a home.

Pollution Control

Today's improved turfgrass varieties are very effective in reducing pollution.

- Turfgrass traps and removes dust and dirt from the air.
- 2,500 square feet of lawn absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and release enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe.

Nature's Air Conditioner

Another benefit that everyone enjoys, usually without notice, is turfgrass' tremendous cooling effect.

- On a hot summer day, lawns will be 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.
- The front lawns of eight houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning. That's amazing when the average home has an air conditioner with just a three or four ton capacity.
- The cooling effect of irrigated turf reduces the amount of fuel that must be burned to provide the electricity which powers the air conditioners.
- Watered when the grass plant needs it, turfgrass will very efficiently and effectively use almost every drop.

A Natural Filter

Runoff water in urban areas carries many pollutants.

- Turfgrass acts as a natural filter, reducing pollution by purifying the water passing through its root zone.

Soil Erosion

The clean gentle strength of turfgrass is the most cost-effective method for controlling wind and water erosion.

- A healthy sodded lawn absorbs rainfall six times more effectively than a wheat field and four times better than a hay field.
- A sodded lawn will absorb greater amounts of rain than a seeded lawn; even after three years of growth.

Fun & Games

The soft resilient surface of turfgrass is the safest and least expensive place to play.

- For backyard ball games or the Super Bowl, athletes of all sizes prefer the green cushion of turfgrass.
- Turfgrass is the only place for putting, picnics or just plain relaxing.

Our Mental Health

Turfgrass quietly adds to the beauty of our lives and even our mental and physical health.

- Doctors have shown that people recover faster in a hospital when given a landscape view, rather than seeing only the walls of adjoining buildings.

Turfgrass

. . . a continuing source of oxygen and cool air.
. . . a cleansing answer to our environment.
. . . a source of beauty and comfort.

With the benefits of turfgrass working their wonders for us, we will be able to share a beautiful and healthy planet with our future generations.



Manoeuvre Mow

Pty. Ltd.

A Hatton Family Company

Sports Field Construction

Football, Cricket, Baseball, Lawn Tennis, Softball, Equine Arenas,
Bowls, Croquet

Sports Turf Renovations

Aeration ♦ Top -Dressing ♦ De ♦ thatching
Turf Supply ♦ Turf Laying
Turf Sprigging ♦ Turf Row Planting

Civil Works Laser Levelling

Building Pads ♦ Ground Preparation ♦ Landscapes

Golf Course Construction

Bulk Earthworks, Wetlands, Flood Mitigation
Architectural Shaping

Cobbitty Turf Farm

264 McKEE ROAD THERESA PARK NSW.2570 AUSTRALIA

Phone:

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Fax: 02 46 51 2626

Email info@cobbittyturf.com.au

Specialised Sports Turf Equipment



"ATTENTION TO DETAIL SHAPES OUR REPUTATION"

RECENT PROJECTS

ENERGY STADIUM Newcastle NSW.

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

- ◆ **Consultation on Reconstruction techniques**
- ◆ **Final Finish Earthworks**
- ◆ **Laser Level Surface to Exacting Grades**
- ◆ **Implement “Conquest Couch” Stolonizing Grassing Technique**

KELSO SPORTS FIELDS East Hills NSW

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ **Reconstruction of Soccer Fields 3.60 h/a.**
- ◆ **Concrete based synthetic cricket wickets.**
- ◆ **Survey, weed spray and environmental protection.**
- ◆ **Lighting tower structures removal.**
- ◆ **Strip top-soil, level sub-grade.**
- ◆ **Automatic irrigation and pump station**
- ◆ **Topsoil laser level and grass preparation**
- ◆ **Re-grass and maintain**

MARCO FIELDS Panania NSW

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ **Reconstruction of Soccer Fields 3.60 h/a.**
- ◆ **Concrete based synthetic cricket wickets.**
- ◆ **Survey, weed spray and environmental protection.**
- ◆ **Lighting tower structures removal.**
- ◆ **Strip top-soil, level sub-grade.**
- ◆ **Automatic irrigation and pump station**
- ◆ **Topsoil laser level and grass preparation**
- ◆ **Re-grass and maintain**

Construction Programs: On grade, On time, On budget.

“ATTENTION TO DETAIL SHAPES OUR REPUTATION”

SYDNEY OLYMPICS

2000

GOLD MEDAL SOFTBALL & BASEBALL AQUILINA RESERVE BLACTOWN NSW

FIELD CONSTRUCTION

Construction and supervision of intensive sub-soil drainage installation, placement of gravel blanket and USGA sand profiles to 4 fields. Material selection, particle gradient analysis and quality control, ensuring integrity of materials, with clean exacting interfaces.

Supply of expert staff and specialised laser guided low-ground pressure profile placement equipment to meet minimum compaction and water infiltration rate criteria. Surface shaping and finishing to exacting specifications, plus 10mm minus zero. Selection and placement of Bermuda grass washed turf. Construct skinned surfaces for bases, runways, batters and pitchers plates.

PRESENTATION & MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT OLYMPICS

Manoeuvre Mow Pty Ltd provided exceptionally high standard playing surfaces throughout the Olympic Games. Praise emanating from players and officials worldwide gave us enormous pride for our role in our country's presentation of the best Olympic Games ever.

CONSTRUCTION PRELIMINARY COMPETITION BASEBALL DIAMONDS:

Intricate shaping and profile placement - sub-soil drainage through to turf surface. Runways, bases batters and pitchers "Skinned- Surfaces" meeting exacting specifications: Commenced construction May 1999 – Presented 3 international standard diamonds for Olympic test event, 1st week November 1999.

OLYMPICS TRAINING FACILITY

1 Athletic Track & Field Arena plus 2 Throws Fields:

Total profile construction for Olympic training and future community facilities.

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STADIUM AUSTRALIA OLYMPICS MAIN ARENA

Telstra Stadium Australia - Homebush NSW

Proudly accepted the challenge and made the grade for the Centre Field at the Olympic Main Stadium.

Profile placement of, drainage gravel, and USGA sand layer. Exacting standards of tolerance (+5mm) for levels and compaction and water infiltration were met, setting a benchmark surface necessary to place the amended turf system.

OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Horsley Park NSW.

Construction of 18 arenas, providing accurate profile levels to 5 hectares of quality international standard, competition dressage arenas and equine training facilities. Distribution of variant materials, precise degrees of profile placement, up to 5 layers of different densities, meeting exact specification of tolerance for grades and compaction. Final finish surfaces provided stability and cushion to what was quoted as being the finest equestrian facility of all previous Olympic venues.

CAMPBELLTOWN SPORTS GROUND

**City of Campbelltown NSW
Premiership Division Football Field
NRL Western Suburbs Rugby League**

Profile design and construction, site management, from sub-grade, sub-soil drainage, gravel blanket, USGA growing medium, "Turf Grids" profile reinforcement, turfing and maintenance.

Selection of all materials, exacting analysis standards, meeting external quality assurance audit procedures. Guaranteed infiltration rate performance in 100mm per hour rainfall.

ATHLETICS FIELD & LANDSCAPING

Orana Park Campbelltown NSW

Construct athletics turf infield spectator mounds and landscaping to all site facilities.

"ATTENTION TO DETAIL SHAPES OUR REPUTATION"

THE HATTON FAMILY

The Hatton family company's involvement presenting sports facilities for "The 2000 Olympic Games" in their home city of Sydney was a proud milestone of participation in their country's sporting history. For our family company the construction and maintenance of international standard sporting fields is a way of life and we are intensely proud of the roles played within the sporting industry.

Geoff Hatton snr the Managing Director of our company was awarded "**The Year 2000 Australian Commemorative Sports Medal**" **On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 for a dedicated lifetime of 40 years to the sports turf industry.** His peers via the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Australian Golf Union nominated him for the award.

Geoff Hatton is a Life Member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association, NSW. A serving committee member for 17 years, elected president in his state of NSW for eight years serving 5 of those years as Australian National President.

Phyllis Hatton (Co-director) and son Geoff Jnr. (Manager) are an enthusiastic and important part of the company structure and its management system.

The company reputation and subsequent profile has allowed the forging of friendships with leading sports field managers' worldwide. This network of information exchange, sources the latest techniques and trends as well as setting strong business relationships in The Netherlands, Europe, The United Kingdom and the USA.

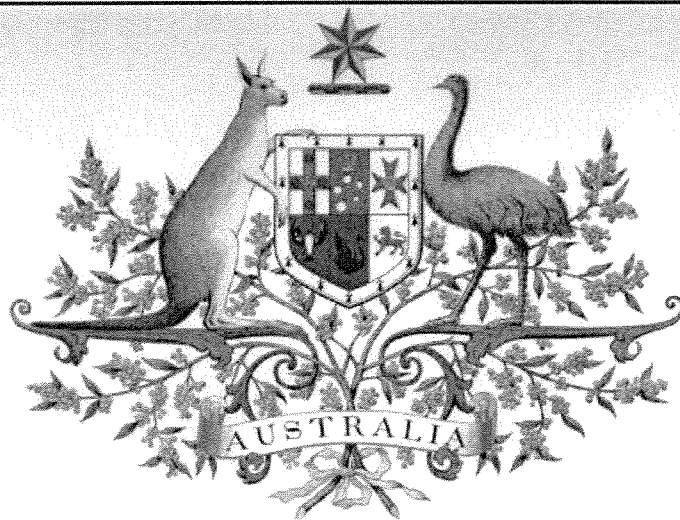
Recently the family company Manoeuvre Mow Pty Ltd became distributors for the **DESSO DLW Sports Systems featuring "DD GRASSMASTER"** the unique natural grass support system, providing 3 to 4 times more wear than conventional pitches.

The company machinery division are distributors for the "**KORO**" range of revolutionary Dutch designed turf renovation equipment in Australia, New Zealand and Asia. They also have acquired Australian rights for "**BLEC**" (UK) sports turf & landscaping machinery.

The Hatton families live on and work the 30 h/a Cobbitty Turf Farm on the outskirts of Sydney, growing quality turf grass. The company's business activities allow integration of their skills in all company activities, cricket wickets, tennis, athletics, football, croquet, bowls and golf. Manoeuvre Mow Pty Ltd proudly presents its motto!

"ATTENTION TO DETAIL SHAPES OUR REPUTATION"

AUSTRALIAN SPORTS MEDAL



To

GEOFFREY THOMAS HATTON

Greeting

*WHEREAS Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second,
Queen of Australia, has instituted an Australian medal
to commemorate, in the year 2000, Australian sporting achievement
I DO by this warrant award you the Australian Sports Medal.*

Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia

By His Excellency's Command

Service to the Turf Industry

EQUIPMENT

**Turf Area Preparation and Placement
Equipment for fast implementation of large projects**

“KORO”

**Revolutionary sports field renovation equipment,
FTM200 & FTM120 Field Top Maker
Deep Renovating RD225 Recycling Top-dresser**

**Case 850G Dozer laser equipped – Skid Steer Loaders - Trenchers
5 Fat Foot Articulated Low Ground Pressure Dumpers - Rollers
Excavators – Tractors + attachments--Laser levelling equipment**

The latest in accurate laser operated leveling and material placement technology has been applied to our quality machinery with automatic grade leveling trenchers, dozer and excavators and our low ground pressure ‘big foot’ 4WD articulated 3 ton dumpers.

These extremely versatile machines allow us to move and place large amounts of materials over surfaces accurately, economically and fast with minimal compaction without fear of disturbing valuable drainage whilst maintaining the integrity of a free draining turf root zone.



“KORO AUSTRALIA”