



# Hurstville City Council

**Submission  
No 25**

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10 August, 2006

Mr Kevin Greene MP  
Chair, Legislative Assembly  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Greene,

**Re: SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 7 July, 2006 pertaining to the inquiry into Sportsground Management in New South Wales being conducted by the NSW Standing Committee on Public Works.

Enclosed is a submission from Hurstville City Council for your consideration.

Should you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact me on 9330 6203 or alternatively by email via [asharp@hurstville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:asharp@hurstville.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully,

**Andrew Sharp**  
**Manager Parks & Recreation**

Encl.

## **SUBMISSION TO THE NSW STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS**

### **INQUIRY INTO SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT IN NSW**

#### OVERALL

As this inquiry is examining issues relating to current and projected community demand for sportsground facilities and the related issues, it would seem that the most appropriate initial source of data should be the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Metropolitan Open Space Team. This group has coordinated a range of projects as the first step in assessing how to make the best use of Sydney's open space.

A comprehensive stock-take of all open space in Sydney has started - the first major review in 20 years. The outcome will be an adaptable spatial database of all local and regional open space.

To assist with establishing the community's need for open space across Sydney, the Department has initiated a series of projects to collect recreation demand information from studies already prepared by local governments and other state government agencies. The regional studies commenced in October 2002 and have now been completed for Western Sydney, Central Coast, Northern & Southern Sydney. The broad aim of the study is to understand and summarise the unique recreational opportunities that exist in each region and to develop a regional perspective of the current recreation demand and opportunity.

In relation to Hurstville and the surrounding area, the relevant study is the Southern Sydney Regional Recreation Demand Study, prepared for DIPNR by HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd and Inspiring Place 2003. This study points out a range of wider Recreational Planning and Management Issues requiring action and/or guidelines. They include:

- Open space adequacy
- Recreation and open space definitions and hierarchies
- Funding recreation development and open space acquisition
- Non-government providers of recreation opportunities
- Council commitment and political processes
- Regional recreation demands and pressures
- Recreation resource use and use coordination
- Health
- Marketing and promotion
- Leisure participation trends and impacts
- Recreation planning
- Fees for use
- Insurance

- The role of state government agencies
- User conflict and inappropriate uses
- Transport and access
- Community leisure ethos

I trust this inquiry will seek to address all these matters.

#### HURSTVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Overall, Sydney continues to show strong demand for sport, particularly traditional field sports such as soccer, AFL and cricket. Whilst areas like Western Sydney have access to more reserved open space, Hurstville is already fully developed and subsequently has limited opportunities for growth. As a result, growth in particular codes places unsustainable pressures on the existing facilities. Funds for maintenance and embellishment of these facilities are limited which invariably leads to more intense lobbying by organized sporting groups for these funds. Management issues such as field rotation, shared facilities, field resting, synthetic surfaces, irrigation, improved turf types, all need to be addressed if fields are to remain usable.

#### JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT/INCREASED PARTICIPATION

The development of “feeder” or junior development programs to support the longer established age groups, such as Auskick for AFL, have also compounded the problems faced by Councils with a general inability to provide additional fields. This inevitably leads to overuse of existing facilities. Whilst it is admirable for these codes, as well as the State and Federal Governments, to promote increased physical activity and involvement in sport throughout the general community, it unfortunately cannot be matched by an increased range and number of open space areas. For example, participation in Auskick in NSW and ACT between 1997 and 2004 rose from 2,000 to 30,000 participants. Soccer, for the last decade or so, has consistently grown at a rate of around 7% per annum in NSW, and the recent World Cup program will surely exacerbate this “problem”.

#### ALTERNATIVE CODES

Increasingly varied working hours and growth in alternative sports (eg. Oztag or Touch Football) has led to a demand not just for more grounds, but for night competition and additional training (both on weekdays and weekends). Existing fields that once could accommodate weekend competition and one or two nights a week training, are now being required to support more than one code for often seven (7) days a week.

#### WATER RESTRICTIONS

To compound the problem, the Sydney Water imposed water restrictions remove the ability to adequately irrigate and rejuvenate sports fields. Many of Hurstville’s grounds are built on landfill areas and consequently are not able to support durable turf surfaces because of

poor soil structure, poor nutrient holding capacity and poor water retention. The lack of regular watering from both rain and artificial irrigation makes it difficult to retain healthy turf growth and therefore good safe and consistent playing surfaces.

### FUNDING

As suggested by Mr Jim Forrest, the then Vice-President of soccer NSW, in an industry seminar in 2004, ... "Funding is another important aspect, most obviously for Councils. Comparison with other states indicates that sports field development is not to be a high priority for state government in this State, whereas grants-in-aid are generally much more generous. There is also to be a tendency to focus attention on very expensive, top level facilities where the general benefit, at least in terms of active participation, is at least doubtful. In short, there is a need for an integrated approach to provision of active recreation spaces at all levels, and for the benefit of all sports, among sports bodies, Councils and state government."

Hurstville City Council has recently requested a Special Rate Variation from the Minister, a significant portion of which is to be used to finance sportsfield reconstruction and park embellishment works (around \$380,000 per annum). This injection of funds is essential in order to continue to provide reasonable quality playing surfaces and is necessary to supplement the already substantial annual operating budget provided annually by the Council.

### CURRENT FEES AND CHARGES

The fees and charges imposed on users of Council's sportsfields are a minimal contribution to the maintenance costs of these grounds. They in no way could be considered a "user pays" system and in fact represent only about 7% of the cost of maintaining the field per annum. Currently, the fee charged for the seasonal use of the ground is \$550 / season. The following schedule sets out all the relevant fees for the 2006/2007 Summer Season and the 2007 Winter Season.

Description	Hurstville Council Fee
Football Field (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Soccer Field (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Seasonal Fee for Floodlight Usage (per field)	\$120.00 incl GST
Hurstville Oval – Soccer/League (per game)	
▪ "A" Grade & Under 21's	\$170.00 incl GST
▪ Under 16's to Under 19's	\$160.00 incl GST
▪ Under 10's to Under 15's	\$120.00 incl GST
▪ Under 6's to Under 9's	\$80.00 incl GST
Cricket Field (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Baseball Field (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Athletics Field (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Casual Charge	
▪ Parkland (per day)	\$300.00 incl GST
▪ Oatley Park Castle (per day)	\$260.00 incl GST
Netball Courts (per season)	\$70.00 incl GST
▪ Night training only (per season/court)	\$50.00 incl GST

▪ Subsequent Marking Fee (per court)	\$40.00 incl GST
Cycling	
▪ Hurstville Oval Velodrome (per season)	\$1500.00 incl GST
▪ Kempt Field Circuit (per season)	\$550.00 incl GST
Touch Football/Oztag (per season)	\$275.00 incl GST
Schools	
▪ Hurstville Oval Sports Carnivals	\$300.00 incl GST
▪ Plus linemarking for athletics	\$220.00 incl GST
▪ Plus canteen/glasshouse	\$70.00 incl GST
▪ Plus Cleaning Deposit	\$200.00 incl GST
Refundable cleaning deposit (parkland)	\$200.00 incl GST
Damage deposit (carnivals and marquees)	\$1000.00 incl GST

### CURRENT FACILITIES

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>TYPE/ GROUND</b>	<b>PARK</b>	<b>SUBURB</b>
Athletics	Running Track	Grass	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		Grass	Olds Park	Mortdale
	Long Jump	31m Synthetic Grass run-up	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		2 x 30m & 2 x 45m Synthetic Grass run-up	Olds Park	Mortdale
	Shot-Put	1 Concrete circle	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		2 Concrete circles	Olds Park	Mortdale
	Discus	2 Concrete circles with permanently erected cages	Olds Park	Mortdale
AFL	Field	Ground # 1	Olds Park	Mortdale
Baseball	Diamond/ Field	Ground # 1	Kempt Field	Hurstville
		Ground # 2	Olds Park	Mortdale
	Diamond/ Field with dolerite mound		Evatt Park	Lugarno
Teeball	Field with no mounds		Evatt Park	Lugarno
Bocce	Field	Loam Surface 27.5m x 3m	Kempt Field	Hurstville
Cycle Track	Velodrome	410m paint asphalt surface	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
	Track	550m long asphalt surface	Kempt Field	Hurstville
		1200m long asphalt surface	Olds Park	Mortdale
		900m long asphalt surface	Gannons Park	Peakhurst
Cycle Track Childrens only	Track	270m long asphalt surface	Peakhurst Park	Peakhurst
		197m long asphalt surface	Edgbaston Road Reserve	Beverly Hills
		217m long concrete surface	Rasdall Park	Narwee
Cricket	Practice Nets	2 Synthetic grass surfaces	Beverly Hills	Beverly

		- 2 full nets with roof netting	Park	Hills
		1 concrete surface – half roof with roof netting	Croot Park	Hurstville
		7 turf surfaces – half nets with roof netting n/p	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		1 Synthetic grass 20m surface – half net with roof netting	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		2 concrete surfaces – 2 half nets with no roof netting	Peter Lowe Reserve	Kingsgrove
		2 concrete surfaces – 2 half nets with roof netting	Smith Park	Kingsgrove
		2 concrete surfaces – 2 half nets with roof netting	Evatt Park	Lugarno
		1 Synthetic grass surfaces – half net with roof netting	Beatty Street Reserve	Mortdale
		4 Synthetic grass surfaces – 4 full nets with roof netting	Olds Park	Mortdale
		1 concrete surface – half net with roof netting	Austin Avenue Reserve	Narwee
		1 concrete surface – half net with roof netting	Seaforth Avenue Reserve	Oatley
		1 concrete surface – half net with roof netting	Simpson Reserve	Oatley
		3 Synthetic grass & concrete surfaces 25m long – 1 full sized net & 2 half nets all with roof netting	Gannons Park	Peakhurst
		2 Synthetic turf surfaces – full net with roof netting	Peakhurst Park	Peakhurst
		3 Synthetic grass surfaces 23.5m long – 3 half nets with roof netting	Penshurst Park	Penshurst
		1 concrete surface – half net with roof netting	Gifford Park	Penshurst
Cricket	Wickets	3 Synthetic grass	Beverly Hills Park	Beverly Hills
		1 Turf grass	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		1 Synthetic grass	Evatt Park	Lugarno
		2 Synthetic grass	Olds Park	Mortdale
		1 Synthetic grass	Oatley Park Oval	Oatley
		5 Synthetic grass	Gannons Park	Peakhurst
		1 Synthetic grass	Peakhurst Park	Peakhurst
		1 Concrete	Peakhurst Park	Peakhurst

		1 Synthetic grass	Gifford Park	Penshurst
		1 Synthetic grass	Penshurst Park	Penshurst
		2 Synthetic grass	Riverwood Park	Riverwood
Golf		18 Hole course – 5159m		Peakhurst
Netball	Courts	2 Grass & 2 Sealed	Smith Park	Kingsgrove
		2 Grass	Evatt Park	Lugarno
		3 Grass & 1 Sealed	Jubilee Park	Mortdale
		9 Grass & 5 Sealed	Olds Park	Mortdale
		2 Grass	Lambert Reserve	Peakhurst
		1 Sealed	Gifford Park	Penshurst
		3 Sealed	Penshurst Park	Penshurst
		2 Grass	Tallowalla Reserve	Beverly Hills
Rugby League/ Union	Field	Ground 1	Beverly Hills Park	Beverly Hills
		Ground 1	Hurstville Oval	Hurstville
		Grounds 1, 2, 3	Evatt Park	Lugarno
		Ground 3 & 4	Riverwood Park	Riverwood
Soccer	Field	Ground 2 & 3 mini	Beverly Hills Park	Beverly Hills
		Ground 3	Olds Park	Mortdale
		Grounds 1 – 8	Gannons Park	Peakhurst
		Grounds 1, 2, 5 & 6 mini	Peakhurst Park	Peakhurst
		Ground 1 & 2	Gifford Park	Penshurst
		Ground 1 & 2	Penshurst Park	Penshurst
Swimming	Tidal Baths	1	Oatley Park	Oatley
	Swimming Pool	25m FINA Standard 8 Lane Lap pool 10 x 15m Program Pool	Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre	Penshurst
Tennis	Courts	2 Synthetic grass	Vanessa Tennis Courts	Beverly Hills
		8 Synthetic grass	Fairway Tennis Courts	Peakhurst

### CURRENT USERS

NAME	ASSOCIATION	ADDRESS	SUBURB	EMAIL
Mrs Barbara Stonestreet	Baptist Women's Netball	PO Box 259	<b>Riverwood NSW 2210</b>	<a href="mailto:leftshoe@iprimus.com.au">leftshoe@iprimus.com.au</a> 9543 1901
Mr Kevin Green	GRPD Cricket Association	39 Jindabyne Crescent	<b>Peakhurst NSW 2210</b>	<a href="mailto:kevin.greene@parliament.nsw.gov.au">kevin.greene@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a> 9580 9349

Mrs Marilyn Lees	Hurstville All Breeds Dog Training Club	PO Box 348	Riverwood NSW 2210	<a href="mailto:marilyn1@optusnet.com.au">marilyn1@optusnet.com.au</a> 0413 881 149
Mr John Gagro	Hurstville Soccer	PO Box 354	Hurstville NSW 2220	0419 011 240
Ms Christina Fitzsimmons	Hurstville United Netball Club	115 St Georges Road	Bexley NSW 2207	<a href="mailto:fitzy06@bigpond.net.au">fitzy06@bigpond.net.au</a> 9554 3154
Mr Alan Spaul	NSW Churches Football Association	PO Box 509	Chester Hill NSW 2162	<a href="mailto:nswcfa@tig.com.au">nswcfa@tig.com.au</a> 0416 269 799
Ms Cathy Mercer	Oatley RSL Netball Club	PO Box 282	Oatley NSW 2223	<a href="mailto:cathym@ezylink.net.au">cathym@ezylink.net.au</a> 9580 4246
Mr Richard Ekholm	Oatley Rugby Club	PO Box 132	Lugarno NSW 2210	0412 393 882
Mr Frank Gabriel	Peakhurst Touch Football Association	12 Rona Street	Peakhurst NSW 2210	<a href="mailto:frankgabriel@hotmail.com">frankgabriel@hotmail.com</a> 0419 273 967
Mr Chris Ryan	Penshurst RSL Junior Aust. Football Club	PO Box 294	Mortdale NSW 2223	<a href="mailto:chrissally@optusnet.com.au">chrissally@optusnet.com.au</a> 0412 290 185
Ms Sheree Martin	Penshurst West Youth Club Netball	PO Box 18	Mortdale NSW 2223	9580 3749
Mr Andrew Cubitt	St George Aust Football Club	PO Box 165	Hurstville NSW 2220	<a href="mailto:acubitt@ozemail.com.au">acubitt@ozemail.com.au</a> 0408 447 812
Mr Matt Lyall	St George Baseball Association	PO Box 217	Engadine NSW 2233	0419 223 028
Mr Jeffrey Barrett	St George Cycling Club	PO Box 79	Hurstville NSW 2220	<a href="mailto:jeffrey.barrett@adi-limited.com">jeffrey.barrett@adi-limited.com</a> 0412 262 236
Mr Jon Jobson	St George District Cricket Club	PO Box 102	Menai Central NSW 2234	<a href="mailto:stgdcc@ozemail.com.au">stgdcc@ozemail.com.au</a> 0414 776 111
Mr Chris Buggie	St George Junior Baseball Club	PO Box 57	Peakhurst NSW 2210	<a href="mailto:chrisbuggie@optusnet.com.au">chrisbuggie@optusnet.com.au</a> 0404 869 479
Ms Cathy Crowe	St George Junior Rugby League	8 Samuel Street	Peakhurst NSW 2210	<a href="mailto:stgjnrlleague@optusnet.com.au">stgjnrlleague@optusnet.com.au</a> 0409 911 094
Mr Graeme Holbeach	St George Little Athletics Centre	25B Mirral Road	Lilli Pilli NSW 2229	<a href="mailto:holbeach@tpg.com.au">holbeach@tpg.com.au</a> 9525 4848
Mr Scot Holmes	St George Oztag Association	PO Box 507	Riverwood NSW 2210	<a href="mailto:scot@oztag.com">scot@oztag.com</a> 0418 469 203
Mr Russell Baker	St George Soccer Football Association	PO Box 395	Brighton Le Sands NSW 2216	<a href="mailto:russell@sgsfa.com.au">russell@sgsfa.com.au</a> 0407 496 218
Mr David Johansson	St Joseph's Riverwood Softball Club	PO Box 31	Peakhurst NSW 2210	9231 4872

Mr Ken McAneny	Oatley Amateur Swimming Club Inc.	7A Johnstone Street	<b>Peakhurst NSW 2210</b>	0407 024 797
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECREATION PLANNING

We need:

- Mechanisms to promote sub-regional and regional planning, liaison and coordination
- Opportunities to prepare and promote case studies model and/or define best practice
- State and Federal governments to commit more money to recreation planning to ensure good outcomes. NSW government must review its position on rate capping as it is impacting negatively on the capacity of most Councils to develop and adequately maintain recreation facilities.
- Professional support mechanisms for individuals, groups and organizations wishing to pursue recreation planning.

### SHARED USE

- NSW should adopt the initiatives demonstrated in the ACT where grounds linked to schools were designed for multiple use, and facilities were constructed to be shared between schools and weekend or evening non-school use.
- Increased co-ordination between local government bodies and the schools within their jurisdiction as to the shared use of facilities should be pursued.

### UPGRADING OF EXISTING SPORTS FIELDS

- Investment in degraded sports fields to improve their capacity/durability must be increased, specifically to increase water holding capacity, nutrient levels and improved turf types.
- Alternative sources of irrigation water must be investigated and funded by State government, including possible introduction of water filtration plant where the expense can be justified.