



Submission
No 50

THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE MP

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

Dear Mr ~~Greene~~

Kevin

Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW

Please find attached the City of Sydney's submission on the Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW.

Participation in sport and recreation generates many positive health and social outcomes for our communities. This Inquiry provides a valuable forum to gather the collective thought and discussion on sportsground capacity to help local government meet current and future growth.

If you would like to discuss this submission or for further information, you can contact the City's Director of Strategic Planning and Project Development, Ms Catherine Hart on 9265 9426.

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore

Clover Moore MP
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW

Submission by City of Sydney

The Current Situation

The City of Sydney covers an area of 26.1 square kilometres
The City owns or manages a total of approximately 187 Ha of public open space which consists of approximately 406 open space areas.
The City has 12 sports fields which represents only 20Ha or 10.6% of the City's open space area.
Within the City of Sydney area are sportsground resources not controlled by the City but are critical in providing access to active recreation for residents and workers. These include The Domain, Centennial and Moore Park, Sydney University and Wentworth Park.

City of Sydney Sportsground Parks			
Park	Suburb	Sports fields Provided	Sports Accommodated
Redfern Park	Redfern	1	Rugby League
Erskineville Oval	Erskineville	1	Rugby League
Alan Davidson Oval	Alexandria	1	Junior AFL, Cricket
Jubilee Oval	Glebe	1	AFL, Hockey, Cricket, Soccer
Wentworth Park Sportsfields	Glebe	4	Soccer, Hockey
Reg Bartley Oval	Rushcutters Bay	1	Rugby, Soccer, Cricket
Waterloo Oval	Waterloo	1	Rugby League, Cricket
Alexandria Park	Alexandria	1	Rugby League, AFL, Cricket,
Turruwul Park	Rosebery	1	Soccer, Junior Cricket
TOTAL		12	

Key Issues

1. Adequacy of provision of quality sportsgrounds to meet community needs across NSW

In summary the issues facing the City of Sydney are an undersupply of facilities, overuse of facilities, limited space for additional facility development, increasing resource commitments required to maintain quality facilities and extensions to traditional seasons.

The demand for access to sportsgrounds is increasing due to a number factors.

- Increased population growth. The City's population has grown rapidly over the past decade in response to increasing employment opportunities, improved inner city amenities and urban consolidation. By 2009 the City's population is expected to increase by 30,000 people to over 180,000.
- Government initiatives to promote active lifestyles are actively encouraging increase participation in sport and active leisure
- Sporting Associations are professionally managed with a focus on marketing and promotion of their particular codes. Sports such as AFL, Soccer and Cricket have as a component of their marketing plans targets for increased participation rates.
- Media coverage of sporting events increases participation rate –eg World Cup soccer.
- Increased female participation of traditional male sports –eg AFL, soccer, touch football, cricket has generated additional use of fields for training and competition.
- Growth in new and emerging sports – eg Oztag and hockey

The City of Sydney is in a situation where its sportsgrounds are near capacity and opportunities for developing additional facilities are extremely limited. The direction the City is taking is to undertake measures to increase the carrying capacity of existing fields using latest sporting field technology.

Measures undertaken include:

- improved drainage and irrigation
- selecting turf cultivars that have increased wearing capacity.
- upgraded lighting to extend hours of use
- programmed field renovation in September during which fields are closed for use;

4. Environmental concerns associated with sportsground management

The drought and associated water restrictions limit the capacity to sustain turf growth and provide a quality surface. Some of the City's fields access bore water however current directions the City is pursuing is to drought proof its parks by incorporating water harvesting and reuse infrastructure as part of upgrade works.

5. Traffic, noise and other direct impacts on residential amenity;

Parking impacts have been a major issue given that a lot of residents rely on street parking and so even relatively small crowds at a venue places pressure on available parking capacity. Options available to council to address parking issues is to enforce parking regulations through patrols by City rangers and to encourage the use of public transport and car pooling. Use and licence conditions can address noise impacts from PA systems by restricting morning and late evening use.

Future Directions

- Participation in sport and active leisure provides so many positive health and social outcomes. All stakeholders - State, Local Government and sport associations need to recognise playing field capacity as a significant issue that requires a coordinated approach to meet current and future growth.
- Need to focus on regional and sub regional planning between sporting associations and neighbouring councils in the provision of facilities and accommodation of various sporting codes.
- The City is preparing an Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy which aims to provide direction for the future planning, provision, development and management of open space and recreation facilities in the City.
- Sporting associations may have to review the format of the sport eg ability to play on smaller field size, shorter game duration etc to ensure equity in participation.
- Continued industry wide research into sports ground capacity and sustainability needs to be encouraged. This should include the use of synthetic surfaces for training activities and mini field game sports.
- Better utilisation of existing open space resources. The removal of greyhound racing facility from Wentworth Park would allow reunification of the Park and opportunity to establish new sports fields as well as amenities for unstructured recreation.