



LINDFIELD DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB INC

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**Secretary; Steve Henry 2 Trafalgar Road, Roseville
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The Committee,
Public Works Enquiry,
Sports Ground Management,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St. Sydney,
Dear Sir/Madam,

We have been referred to your Enquiry by Kur-ring-gai Council. I am writing this submission as President of Lindfield District Cricket Club, which has 30 junior and 1 senior teams. I am also the Chairman of the Sydney Shires' Cricket Competition and a member of the Sydney Cricket Association Management Committee. I submit as follows;

1 Adequacy of Sports Grounds.

Obviously we would like more but as major cities go we are very lucky to have what we have. This is due to the vision of our grandfathers and the value they placed on sport and its contribution to our community. In the current debate this is overlooked as Councils take for granted the enormous input of volunteers and generally don't recognise this and try to work with them. The helpers know the best as to current needs and there is not enough consultation between the parties. Normally the public servants think they know best since they have done a course at University. From here the process goes sideways.

Having said that;

1 Multiple use juniors /seniors/boys/girls on Saturdays days and on Sundays is a good starting point.

2 Most of the problem is maintenance. Councils do not maintain what they have. They do not make regular inspections, follow up or repair. They

have no publicised hotline email address or email or phone register of complaints/ maintenance whereby matters are attended quickly as a routine process.

- 3 There is not enough consultation between the parties. There should one body, which speaks for each sport- not 5 different clubs speaking to the Council at once each getting a deal.
- 4 Overall some Councils (mostly the wealthy ones) do not contribute enough money to maintenance of sporting fields as they are paying far too much money on **administration, excessive staff** or non-core activities. This means that there are 5 supervisors TO one worker who then becomes confused. This makes decision making impossible as each of the 5 public servants insist it be done their way. Excessive paper work compounds the situation. Litigation fears then kick in and no one makes any decision, as they are too scared to do so. Operations (especially maintenance) and a “can do” attitude are the victims. Councils with administrators run far more efficiently as decision-making finds a reliable, secure and accessible home.

2 Funding and Pricing Principles

- 1 The user should pay ...but to a reasonable limit. Councils should recognise that sport keeps children occupied and vandalism to a minimum. The funding should be heavily weighted in the clubs way. The value of volunteers is not accepted enough.
- 2 Councils and /Governments should not treat volunteer sporting clubs as a cash cow eg the legislation requiring Clubs to pay rent for their clubhouses which they have paid for or look after. Councils don't charge for rent for public toilets or other community assets so why should the clubs pay rent for their buildings?

3 Formal Agreements

These are fine except they should be heavily in favour of the Clubs and worked out in consultation with them. Especially without a dictatorial attitude that the clubs WILL to do this. There should be more flexibility to allow clubs to take the ownership of matters so long as the adequate insurance is in place for which council should pay.

These submissions have been placed together quickly as we were only told about the closing date for submissions and enquiry this afternoon. If you

wish me to attend and give evidence in person , I am only to pleased to do so.

We thank you for the opportunity to work with you to provide this community project.

**Stirling Hamman,
President,
Lindfield District Cricket Club.**