



Health

South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

12 August 2019
T19/49764

Submission response to

Mr David Glasgow
Principal Planner Officer
Environmental Impact Statement
Sydney Swans High Performance Sport and Community Facility
Royal Hall of Industries
Sydney Swans Limited

Dear Mr Glasgow

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sydney Swans High Performance Sport and Community Facility on behalf of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD).

We would like to commend Urbis Pty Ltd for the comprehensive document produced that takes into consideration a range of impact aspects of the development of the Royal Hall of Industries.

SESLHD has examined the document and will solely comment on the health impact of the development on both residents and visitors to the facility and its surrounding areas.

With the above in mind, key priorities for health in the built environment are to influence use of robust public and active transport routes, ensure equitable access to social infrastructure and contribute to plans to increase tree coverage as per the Eastern City District plans.

Our submission includes comments relating to the period of construction and beyond the completion of the project.

2.4 Site access- page 17

SESLHD encourages the provision of a good balance of quiet outdoor relaxation areas and public entertainment areas where noise levels are higher to cater for older and younger populations equally.

3.1 Overview: Food and drink premises

Evidence suggests that people's food choices are strongly influenced by the type of food available. SESLHD strongly encourages that food and drink premises that will be accommodated in this proposal takes future note of the importance of providing a higher proportion of healthy food and drinks to improve the health of visitors and residents in the area using the precinct. The Healthy Food and Drink Framework NSW ¹ strongly suggest that everyday food and drink carry at least a 3.5 star rating or above. A recommendation is

that food retailer(s) offer nutritious affordable food and avoid an overabundance of fast food restaurants²(Booth, 2001). In addition, where relevant, providing access to free filtered water is recommended to promote health behaviours.

7.1.3 Interface with Public Domain - page 58

SESLHD would encourage to address seating for senior citizens, the provision of water fountains and shade in the interface.

The public domain presents an excellent opportunity for Swans and Swifts to promote healthy behaviours to all. In particular, this would be an ideal location for staff, players and visitors to access a water refill station to encourage active transport and promote water as a drink, and adequate built and/or natural shade to encourage people to connect outdoors whilst avoiding harmful ultraviolet rays. The Cancer Institute has called to “improve access to adequate shade” to reduce the incidence of skin cancer in the population and “to ensure that shade principles are included in relevant planning documents and policies so it becomes an increased priority when upgrading outdoor spaces”³

7.3.3 Air Quality – Page 63

SESLHD encourages measures and monitoring to safeguard the health of visitors to the outdoor area of the venue and people residing in surrounding areas along Cook Rd (i.e. 1.3km from the intersection of Lang and Driver Rd) in relation to PM_{2.5}, which is known to travel greater distances and remain in the air for longer periods of time.⁴

SESLHD would like to note that some populations may be affected:

- Older citizens and young children
- Persons who have a diagnosed allergy or respiratory conditions residing in the adjacent Cook Rd and Moore Park Rd residential areas
- Persons who visit the surrounding areas during the week, particularly during school holidays

The recommendation is that Air Quality Index (AQI)⁴ be sourced and monitored from the nearest collection site to the proposed development at frequent intervals to account for AQ in the vicinity of the construction site and that residents/visitors be informed if levels become unsafe.

7.4 Trees and landscaping - page 64

SESLHD would like to note that trees are an encouraged planting due to their double benefit of shade provision and contribution to the increase in the urban tree canopy and connection of the Green Grid as per the Eastern City District Plan. Recent evidence from NSW suggests that neighbourhood tree cover, rather than green cover, is associated with better community mental wellbeing and general health⁵

7.5 Transport and Accessibility – page 65

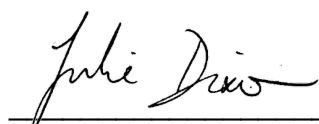
SESLHD commends the consideration of the NSW Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling in your proposal. SESLHD stresses the importance of supporting pedestrians and walkers to the venue by providing comprehensive wayfinding in line with Walking Sydney Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy encourages legible consistent and easily understood signage. ⁶Walking is linked to lower incidences of poor mental health and may help alleviate stress and anxiety related disorders. ⁷

7.5.2 Parking - Page 66

SESLHD would recommend the allocation of drop off parking spaces for people with a disability and as recommended in the Disability Access Report/Access Impact Statement (Appendix Y), the allocation of at least one accessible car parking space and one accessible bicycle parking space. This will enable equity of access to the facility. Despite the results of the Staff Travel Survey, the facility is in an area open to an extended number of visitors during special events.

7.5.4 Pedestrian and Cyclist Assessment

SESLHD agrees that pedestrians and cyclists who live locally may know the area very well however with the emphasis on active travel there may be a number of pedestrians and cyclists who are cycling or walking from Central station into the area from Greater Sydney. It is important to provide clear wayfinding signage for cycling and pedestrian visitors both during construction time and beyond.



Julie Dixon
Director Planning, Population and Health Equity
12 August 2019

References

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3. Cancer Institute NSW. 2017. NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy, Working to lessen the impact of skin cancer in NSW
4. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. Understanding air quality. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/understanding-air-quality-data/glossary-of-air-quality-terms#pm2.5pm10>
5. Astell-Burt, T & Feng, X. Association of Urban Green Space with Mental Health and General Health Among Adults in Australia. Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open. 2019; 2 (7):e198209. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.8209
6. Walking Strategy NSW. Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2030.
7. C3 Collaborating for Health, The Benefits of Regular Walking for Health, Wellbeing and the Environment, 2012. United Kingdom. www.c3health.org