

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW 2001
Email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au



Date: 18th May 2012

Attention: Director, Infrastructure Projects

Submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding the North West Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement 1

Application number: SS1-5100

Dear Sir/Madam

As Secretary of Beecroft Netball Club with 276 current members, I confirm our conditional support for the North West Rail Link project and the proposed impact on the Cheltenham Oval area.

The support is conditional on the basis that suitable interim facilities are provided to allow Netball and other sports of Beecroft Sports Club (Football and Cricket) to be played safely and effectively in the local vicinity of Beecroft and Cheltenham for the period of development.

History of the Beecroft Netball Club

The Beecroft Sports Club has been involved in providing various sports to our local community for over 50 years. The Beecroft Netball Club has been active in the local community and was incorporated into Beecroft Sports Club in the late 1960's. 1968 was the year that the Hills District Netball Association (HDNA) was formed with the Beecroft Netball Club being one of the founding members. Since this time the Club has played with the HDNA every year, typically fielding 30 teams. At its peak, the Club has up to 40 teams participating.

Club contribution to the local community and the HDNA has been significant and this has been the result of guiding principles of a long term, successful club where players, coaches and supporters work and play together to foster friendships whilst enjoying the most popular female sport in Australia.

The strength and sporting abilities within the local community can be assessed by the calibre of players, coaches and umpires who have come through the Beecroft Netball Club to achieve greater success in their sporting careers. Of memorable note are the following achievements:

- Louise Blackshaw played for NSW in 1976.
- Bev Watson was the HDNA President in 1975-76 and moved onto the role of Vice president of Netball NSW in 1980. Bev was also the manager of NSW teams in the National Championships for more than 20 years.

Beecroft Netball Club (a division of the Beecroft Sports Club)

Convenor: Di Benham 94818542 di@themarketingfactor.com.au

Registrar: Greg Ellem 96301246 gregellem@optusnet.com.au

Secretary: Barbra Wynn 99809457 b.wynn@optusnet.com.au

Postal Address: 89 Malton Road Beecroft

- Margaret Coe was and still is, the only HDNA member with National Scoring & Accreditation and was provided the opportunity to be on the scoring bench at National and International Games.
- Julia Symons played for NSW from 1999 to 2004 and she was a member of the NSW Swifts
- Catherine Cox played for NSW in 1992 and has played through to 2011 for the Swift. She has been the Captain of the Australian Diamonds. Thanks to a Holden Cruz Player of the Match performance from Catherine Cox, Beecroft Netball Club was presented with a cheque and goal post padding prior to the NSW Swifts home game against the Adelaide Thunderbirds in 2010 and again in 2011.
- This year local high school students, Lauren Stephenson and Lauren Fornasaro, have been selected into the Sydney Netball Academy
- Every year Beecroft players are selected in the HDNA Representative teams

A critical component which has provided the foundations of success has been, and must continue to be, access to sporting facilities within the local vicinity of Beecroft and Cheltenham allowing members to train safely and effectively.

Facilities used at Cheltenham Netball Courts

- 4 training courts
- Lights
- Wet weather area for parents or children
- Toilets (male and female)
- Storage Room – in use through winter and have the ability to holds equipment kits bags when not in use during the summer season
- Meeting room – used for training nights, briefings, equipment working bees, managers meetings, club committee meetings
- Playground – typically in use by the younger brother or sister who comes to watch training
- Car Parking for parents and players for training

Training courts Usage in 2012:

- 5 nights per week by Beecroft Netball Club
- 1 night per week the courts have a shared training night by the St Gerard's Netball Club
- Pre-season usage of the courts occurs prior to the start of the Netball season to allow grading of players and necessary umpire training.

Membership in 2012

Total Team numbers	28
Total Players	233
Modified:	5 teams/42 players
Juniors:	14 teams/113 players
Cadets/Seniors:	9 teams/78 players
Coaches/Umpires/Committee	43

Integral to the development of the Beecroft Netball Club has been access to local courts with lighting for week night training. A loss of training facilities for the period of construction would mean that the Club will lose players to other teams within the Northern Districts. The following table details current Netball Clubs participating in the HDNA for Saturday competition and their training grounds. Nearly all Clubs have access to sporting facilities within their local community nurturing the development of their players, coaches and umpires.

Club Name	Current Training Facility within the Local Community
Asquith	✓
Beecroft	✓
Carlingford	✓
Cherrybrook	✓
Galston	✓
Hills Representative	✓
The Hills Grammar School	On the school grounds
Hornsby Lions	✓
Loreto Normanhurst	On the school grounds
Mt St Benedict	On the school grounds
North Epping Rangers	✓
Normanhurst	✓
North Rocks	✓ at North Rocks
OLHC	✓ On the school grounds
Pennant Hills	✓
Ryde Sapphire	Not known
St Leo's	✓ On the school grounds
St Patricks	Not Known
Thornleigh	Not known
West Pennant Hills	✓ as part of the Club facilities

There are several other locations of Netball Courts within the Hornsby Shire and the following list details the current usage as per the 2012 Councils Winter Allocation – all courts are used more than 75% during the week as no training occurs on weekends due to the scheduling of competition and representative games.

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- Berowra Waters – used by the Rebels Club – 5 nights per week
- Dunrossil Netball Courts – Carlingford Comets, Roselea Ladybirds & St Gerards Netball Club – 4 nights per week
- Galston Netball Courts – Galston Club – 4 nights per week
- Greenway Park Netball Courts – Cherrybrook United Netball – 5 nights per week
- Montevue Netball Courts – Hornsby Lions Club & Hornsby Heights Sports Club – 5 nights per week
- Normanhurst Netball Courts – Normanhurst Netball Club – 5 nights per week
- Pennant Hills Netball Courts – HDNA – 5 nights per week and all day Saturday
- Storey Netball Courts – Asquith Netball Club – 3 nights per week
- Warrina Street Netball Courts – Rebels Netball Club and Berowra Netball Club – 5 nights per week

Additional Usage of the Cheltenham Netball Courts

In addition to the Beecroft Netball Club, Beecroft Primary School and Arden Anglican Primary which utilise the courts for training and playing. The Primary School Sporting Association (PSSA) Beecroft Zone, which includes 11 schools, conducts competition Netball and Soccer games at the facility through term 2 and 3 of the school year.

Additional Usage of the Cheltenham Oval Facilities

In addition to the requirements of the Netball Club, the Cricket and Football Clubs have requirements that must be met to ensure these Clubs meet their Association Playing requirements and have a viable future. All divisions require access to Changing rooms, toilets, equipment rooms, meeting room, playground, parking and no encroachment on the playing surface of the Oval.

- Cricket - specific requirement for training nets which supports the integrated training of both Junior and Senior Players
- Football - replacement of the Canteen which is a mandatory playing requirement with their Association.

Potential Opportunities for the Temporary Relocation of the Require Facilities

Through consultation with the local community plus the Sports, Football and Cricket Clubs, there are four viable alternatives worth considering for the temporary or permanent relocation of the Netball Courts and required facilities.

1 On site at Cheltenham Oval

- placement could be on the opposite side of the oval – this has been used previously for overflow car parking
- Installation of netball courts, cricket training nets, playground, parking, amenities and lighting
- This will have the advantage of keeping all facilities within close proximity of the Oval and has a high likelihood of reducing the make-good costs after the North West Rail project concludes.
- Potential for increased off street parking in the area of the make good worksite.

2 Cheltenham Recreation Club

- Upgrade of existing free space on site with the installation of netball courts, cricket training nets and lighting
- There several tennis courts currently with no lights and there is open space and unused bowling green's that could be converted into playing areas
- The site is zoned for use as a sporting facility

3 Cheltenham Girls High School

- Upgrade of the tennis courts, use of existing courts and the installation of lighting
- This option does not provide a solution for the cricket training nets and has logistics impacts on security of the school

4 Lyne Road Reserve

- Installation of netball courts, cricket training nets, parking, playground, amenities and lighting

In summary, Beecroft Netball Club requires access to local training facilities during the construction phase of the North West Rail Link, as such, the Club conditionally supports the North West Rail proposal and looks forward to working with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure safe and suitable facilities are provided for the Beecroft and Cheltenham communities.

Regards

Barbra Wynn
Secretary – Beecroft Netball Club