

Peter Nimmo

Convenor, Beecroft Football Club

205 Copeland Rd East

Beecroft NSW 2119



Submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding the North West Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement 1, Application number SS1-5100

Attention: Director, infrastructure Projects

### **Conditional Support for Proposal**

As Convenor of Beecroft Football Club with 579 active players, 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 football and other sports of Beecroft Sports Club (Netball and Cricket) to be played safely and effectively in the local vicinity of Beecroft and Cheltenham for the period of development.

### **Background**

Beecroft Football Club (the "Wombats") has been operating since at least 1956 and currently has 579 active players. During the football season, Beecroft Football Club trains on Cheltenham Oval each week night (Monday to Friday inclusive) with matches as a minimum on Saturday and often also on Sunday.

Teams range from U6's through teenagers to All Age's, Premier League, Over 35's, Over 45's and Women's teams from U8's to Over 35's. Players' ages vary from 4 years old to over 60 years old.

With this quantity and diversity of teams, Beecroft Football Club is an integral part of the local community. As an example, children wearing Wombat jerseys are visible through the winter months in the local shops and often wear their club colours to school during sport. And many of our senior players provide income to the various physiotherapists and chiropractors in the area.

### **Requirements**

From my understanding of EIS #1, Cheltenham Oval playing surface will not be affected. The facilities at Cheltenham Oval that we understand would be impacted and are necessary for football to continue to operate safely and effectively include:

- Canteen,
- change sheds,
- toilets,
- Equipment room,
- Club room
- And parking.

I believe also that Hornsby Council has facilities in the amenities building although I'm unsure of these details.

In discussions with Cecilia Densham of NW Rail, our understanding is that demountable sheds will be provided for the period of work for existing facilities including canteen, change sheds, toilets, club room and equipment room. This leaves only parking to be resolved to ensure a safe and workable solution for football.

Netball and Cricket requirements will be greater, requiring interim facilities for the four netball courts and three cricket training nets that we believe will be removed.

Due to the integral nature of Beecroft Football Club and the other clubs within Beecroft Sports Club to the local area, I believe it is imperative that any alternatives for facilities are provided locally to the Beecroft / Cheltenham area.

## Alternatives

There are four alternatives that I believe are worth considering. In order of preference, they are:

1. Extend to the South West of the current Oval. This area has been used in the past as parking although it is currently blocked. By providing interim facilities here, it will have the advantage of keeping all facilities local to Cheltenham Oval and has a high likelihood of reducing make-good costs after the NW Rail project completes. This option is the strongly preferred option.
2. Cheltenham Recreation Club. There may be opportunities to work with Cheltenham Recreation Club to provide a netball court(s) and or cricket nets for training.
3. Cheltenham Girls High School. By providing lights for Cheltenham Girls High School, current facilities for netball may be able to be utilised during the week. There would be numerous logistical issues to resolved though around access and security for a high school outside of school hours.
4. Lyne Rd is a reserve at Cheltenham that could be repurposed, but it again presents numerous difficulties such as permission for it to be changed, narrow streets and restricted parking.

In summary, Beecroft Football Club conditionally supports the NW Rail proposal and looks forward to working with NW Rail to ensure safe and suitable interim facilities are provided for the Beecroft and Cheltenham communities.

Regards

Peter Nimmo

Convenor, Beecroft Football Club