

Vincent Connor

President - Beecroft Cricket Club

118 Sutherland Rd

Beecroft NSW 2119

Re: Northwest Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement

SS1-5100

Support

As the President of the Beecroft Cricket Club I would like to state our conditional support of the Northwest Rail Link project and the proposed impact on the Cheltenham Oval area. We support this on the basis that we are provided with the necessary support, and where appropriate, funds required, to provide alternate facilities that the club and its teams use.

Justification

The Beecroft Cricket Club is one division of the Beecroft Sports Club that also has football and netball divisions. We have 4 age group teams as well as 1 senior team competing in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gui and Hills District Cricket Association competitions. We have over 85 members from the area that are involved in cricket activities at Cheltenham Oval 4 nights per week and on Saturday and Sundays during the period from August to March each year. In addition Cheltenham Oval is also used for representative cricket matches where teams representing the Hornsby Ku-ring-gui and Hills District Cricket Association play other representative teams from throughout the Sydney and Newcastle areas.

With the proposed changes to Cheltenham Oval this will impact cricket in the Beecroft Cheltenham area in a number of ways.

1. With the proposed loss of the 3 cricket nets at Cheltenham Oval this will mean there are no suitable cricket practice facilities in the Beecroft Cheltenham area. This will mean that we will not be able to practice effectively and will risk losing players to clubs in neighbouring suburbs. We already compete with very large clubs in our area for players including West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook, Normanhurst Warawee and Epping YMCA. As a small club we could not sustain losing more players to other clubs through a loss of adequate training facilities for a period of a minimum of 2-5 years. This could result in the club losing sufficient players so that it may have adequate numbers to field any junior teams meaning that work that the club has put in over the last 10 years in building its junior base up could be lost. This would set the club back significantly and may even result in its closure. We would propose the following options in order of preference:

1. Provide 3 replacement practice nets at Cheltenham Oval located in the south west corner of the oval as shown in the figure below. There is currently a kick board located in this area but in consultation with the football club they do not use this area and would not object to it being removed or displaced. This is the preferred option for the cricket club as it preserves our training ground at a site with adequate space for fielding drills and if designed and built in the appropriate way the nets could be located here permanently and would not require to be replaced following the construction period.



2. The next best option would be the building of the nets at Booth Park Sutherland Rd. Booth Park is currently used for cricket on for younfer junior teams on Saturdays. It is also used for mini football matches on weekends during the football season. This location is less desirable as the park is much smaller than Cheltenham Oval. The nets would take up a much larger proportion of the park and may encroach onto the cricket and football playing surfaces. There are a number of houses much closer to the ground than Cheltenham Oval and as such this makes this ground unsuitable for senior cricket practice
 3. Option 3 are nets located at Lyne Park. Lyne Park is even smaller than Booth Park and is not used for any sport at all. Neighbouring properties and roads are quite close. There is a greater risk of stray cricket balls causing damage.
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2. The loss of toilet and change room facilities would impact on our training and playing facility. We request that temporary facilities be supplied until the end of construction.

3. The next impact that the proposed changes will have on the Beecroft Cricket Club is the removal of our storage and meeting facilities. The current amenities block has a meeting/club room that also has storage facilities within it as well as toilets, showers and change rooms. The Beecroft Cricket Club in conjunction with the Sports Club and the other member clubs spent \$17,500 on new storage facilities within the last 12 months. These facilities are used to store training equipment, club records and playing equipment throughout the year. A loss of these facilities would mean that we would need to spread this equipment amongst our members and these will not be available on hand at the ground as and when required. We request that temporary facilities be made available to the Cricket and other member clubs for the duration of construction. The current amenities block also provides shade and shelter for players and spectators during the hot summer months when storms are prevalent. We request that shelter be provided for this purpose.
4. We would also request that these temporary facilities do not encroach on the current oval as this would impact on the available playing area of the oval for cricket. The oval is used for junior, senior and representative cricket and the current oval footprint is perfectly suited for this, but to have temporary buildings encroach on this space would render the oval unsuitable for anything other than junior cricket. This would be a concern as the number of grounds available for senior cricket is limited in the area. This would force the senior team to play its home games out of the Beecroft Cheltenham area.

In conclusion, the Beecroft Cricket Club support the proposed change to the Cheltenham Oval area contingent upon the amenities, facilities and training areas currently used by the club are adequately replaced for the duration of the construction period.

Sincerely

Vincent Connor

President – Beecroft Cricket Club.