

Major Projects Assessment,
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY
NSW 2001

Attention: Director Infrastructure

Via e-mail: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au
Via Fax: (02) 9228 6355

Dear Sir,

**Budokan Judo Club Inc Response to the Transport for NSW
“Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 1” dated April – May 2012
for the North West Rail Link Project**

EIS Response Requirements:

1. Name and address: Rob Katz representing Budokan Judo Club Inc., Horticulture Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground; Postal Address 15 Grasmere Ave, Northmead, NSW 2152
2. Name of our application: “Budokan Judo Club Inc Response to the Transport for NSW “Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 1” dated April – May 2012 for the North West Rail Link Project
3. The application number: SSI-5100
4. Statement on whether we support or object to the proposal: Budokan Judo Club Inc objects to EIS1 In its current form and for the reasons outlined below.
5. The reasons why we object to the proposal: As detailed below
6. I declare that I have not made any reportable political donations (including donations of \$1,000 or more) in the previous two years. I acknowledge that Under section 1152(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, the Director-General may provide copies of submissions received during the exhibition period, or a summary of the submissions, to the proponent, and that it is the Department of Planning’s and Infrastructure’s policy to also place a copy of our submission on the department’s website.

Overview

- Budokan Judo Club Inc. has been operating out of the Horticulture Pavilion of the Castle Hill Showground for over 15 years. The proposed Site Layout for Site 6, the Hills Centre Station in EIS1, indicates that the Horticulture Pavilion will be demolished with vacant possession required at about September 2013.
- **EIS1 makes no provision for replacement of the Horticulture Pavilion and makes no provision for the timely relocation of facilities.** There are a number of other facilities currently utilised by the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society, such as the Sheep Pavilion, Cattle and Donkey Rings, Cattle Pavilion, Horticulture Workshop, Animal Nursery and Trotting Stables, that are similarly affected.
- In conjunction with the Committee of the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society, assessments were undertaken and it has been determined that there are no suitable current alternative venues available (outside the construction zone) within the Castle Hill Showground.

- **Consequently, unless a suitable permanent replacement building is constructed within a timeframe which will allow Budokan Judo Club Inc. to provide its services in a seamless way to its membership, the future viability of the Budokan Judo Club is threatened.**
- Budokan Judo Club favours the NW Rail Link Project and the development of a train station at the Hills Centre. The NW Rail Link and location of Budokan Judo Club in the Showground / Hills Station precinct would facilitate greater community access to and benefit from the superior training and coaching services offered by Budokan Judo Club. This would generate increased community benefit of the site and enhance the benefits proposed for delivery by the NW Rail project to the Hills community.

Community Services and Contribution (Who we are)

- Budokan Judo Club together with sister clubs, Makotokan Aikido, and Universal Combat Academy, provide training and competition facilities and coaching for *200 athletes* and their families and operate *6 days per week, 49 weeks per year*.
- Budokan Judo Club is Incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act as a *non-profit club*, with a constitution and active volunteer committee, that operates on limited revenue and relies heavily on *the current relationship with the Committee of the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society and our long-term arrangements for use of the Horticulture Pavilion as our home*.
- Budokan Judo Club operates through 5 qualified coaches (2 of whom are currently Australian Team Judo coaches) to provide the following services and benefits to the community:
 - Provides a *training and competition venue for the Olympic sport of Judo*;
 - Provides high level training and coaching to athletes aged from 5-65 years, primarily drawn for the Hills Shire (80%), but to which athletes travel from the mountains, inner west, northern beaches and Central Coast.
 - Facilitates the development of children and young people into *responsible and disciplined young adults* via one of the most physical and challenging sports available, through a holistic approach to planning and life-balance. Budokan Judo club has one of the *highest ratio of juniors (65%)* of any Judo club in NSW. The club provides tailored age-appropriate training at the child, teenage and adult age groups through 6 permanent sessions each week. The venue is also used by the NSW Judo team for monthly training sessions throughout the year.
 - Trains *athletes with disabilities*, such as those with hearing and sight impediments, and with developmental disorders like ADHD and Asberger Syndrome. Some of our athletes who fit into these categories have represented Australia at World Championship level. Parents of these members have reported that the club has improved their focus, provided their children with a greater level of self-confidence and self-worth, and has *improved their ability to cope* with their condition and achieve integration into the community, and therefore *their quality of life*.
 - Provides *females with confidence and assertiveness* as a first-line defence if faced with confrontational situations. Budokan Judo club has one of the *highest ratio of female athletes (30%)* of any Judo club in NSW.
 - Runs Judo programs within the *physical education system of local schools*, providing a benefit to students and a service to the local schools.
 - Provides *physical skills useful to professionals* involved in policing, fire, ambulance and military services (amongst others) with a number of our members belonging to these services.

- Promotes *active and healthy lifestyles within the Hills Shire* and beyond via regular media coverage in local newspapers, community radio, and at sporting award functions. Athletes from Budokan won the NewsLocal Young Achiever Award in 2010, and the Junior Sports Star Award for the Hills Shire in 2011. In 2010, a Budokan athlete was a finalist in the NSW Sports Federation Young Athlete of the Year and one of our coaches was a finalist in the NSW Coach of the Year.
- Provides a service to over 15 families with multiple family members in the club. This means that the club is more than just a child-minding facility but represents a *source of quality family time*, and a strong social network between member families. Budokan Judo club also has a *culturally diverse membership, with a demographic profile* including professionals ranging from lawyers, doctors and engineers through to specialised tradespeople such as electricians, plumbers and builders. Its membership includes a broad range of nuclear, extended, blended and single parent and financially challenged families.

Achievements of Budokan Members

- Budokan Judo Club offers *avenues for state and national representation through to Commonwealth and Olympic level*. The club is a conduit for athletes with drive and motivation to achieve greatness by representing their country. Since 2002, Budokan athletes have won 48 National Titles and represented Australia on more than 100 occasions including over 20 selections to Olympic Games, World Championship or Commonwealth events.
- Since commencing the annual *Judo NSW Awards* in 2010, Budokan Judo Club athletes have won 8 of the 24 individual awards available to nearly 50 clubs across NSW for best athlete in an age category, including best overall athlete in NSW in 2010. Budokan also won the NSW Junior Development Club of the Year in 2010 and the NSW Club of the Year in 2011.
- Since implementation of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) sponsored *National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) Squad* in 2007, Budokan has had at least 1 and sometimes 2 athletes on the 20 strong National Squad plus at least 1 reserve (in the top 30).
- In 2011, Budokan achieved 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals at the Oceania Continental Judo Union (OJU) Championships in Tahiti. This improved in 2012 with 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze medals, a medal in every contested division. Each year the NSW Team to the National Championships has representation in the order of 20 athletes from Budokan. At the 2011 Nationals, Budokan athletes won 4 Gold, 8 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals, more medals than any other club in NSW. In 2011, 4 athletes were selected to the Cadet World Championships in Ukraine, 2 athletes to the Junior Men/Women World Championships in South Africa, and 2 athletes to a Senior Olympic qualifying event, the World Cup in Samoa. In 2012, Budokan has qualified 25 athletes to the NSW team to the Nationals.
- In 2012, Budokan obtained our first international medal in a Senior Category event in some years, with a Bronze at the Commonwealth Championships and 2 Gold medals at the Indonesian Open.
- Budokan's international standard coaching services are provided by highly experienced and qualified coaches who include: current State and National Coaches, former Olympic competitors and coaches, the NSW National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) Coordinator, the NSW National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) Coordinator, NSW Black Belt Register (BBR) Instructor, National judge, a recipient of the International Judo Federation (IJF) Medal of Merit for services to Judo during the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and 3 Life Members of Judo NSW. These represent *significant contributions to the Judo and sporting communities and promotes the community spirit and 'can do' culture prevalent in the Hills Shire*.

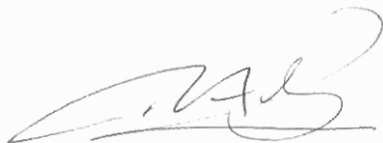
Budokan Judo Club - What we need to survive

- The absolute priority for Budokan Judo Club Inc. is to be able to *provide assurances to our athletes as well as their parents*, that their (and our) current plans and training activities will *not be adversely impacted* by the NW Rail Link Project. We are already fielding numerous inquiries and concerns about the potential adverse impact on the training availability and programming for a number of elite athletes in the club because of the effect that this may have on athlete performance and future selection to such competitions as the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2016 Olympic Games. There is a current risk of losing membership including some of the club's elite and high-profile athletes because of the uncertainty. **Budokan's ongoing viability is at risk now and assurances as to Budokan's future are required now in order to halt the uncertainty for our members.** Whilst the NW Rail Link Project staff have been open and informative fostering a consultative approach to knowledge exchange which has been appreciated, they are unable to provide the assurance that we require. Another 5 to 6 months has been indicated to be able to advise Budokan of any decision regarding venue replacement.
- **Seamless availability of a permanent suitable alternative venue relocating Budokan Judo Club** and its 2 tenant clubs to ensure minimal impact on club membership, quality of club activities, and athlete performance. Budokan Judo Club's strong preference is to remain within the Showground / Hills Station precinct both in the short, medium and long terms. Community amenity is enhanced on site by having a permanent on ongoing operating community club which operates primarily in the afternoon / evening and reduces the risk of anti-social behaviour on site. The alternative venue would need to cater for the following:
 - be single level, open plan, concrete slab, with insulated roof and ventilation, and with disabled access.
 - accommodate a 200m² field of play training surface (mat area) on a sprung sub-floor and satisfy all safety regulations of the sport
 - accommodate approximately 450m² of usable floor space in the main building, kitchen plus the storage areas, change-room facilities (inclusive of male and female toilets reducing the risk to athletes especially during the construction period)
 - be sufficiently distant from the construction zone to allow *unimpeded and safe access by users* of the facility free from construction hazards including dust and noise and meeting standards well above minimum WH&S / OH&S requirements. Ideal location is on the terraced area north-west of the Pavilion Theatre near Showground Rd and Gilbert Rd with access via a gate near Gilbert Rd to *avoid the entire construction zone and related access roads for construction traffic*
 - be in situ and complete *allowing a minimum 3 week move-in period* prior to the Horticulture Pavilion being zoned within the construction site, with 3 months notice to effect the required planning for the relocation.
 - allow for *the move from building to building to be effected in the second half of 2013* to be determined after the 2013 International Judo Federation calendar is available. The competition Judo calendar is extensive and any disruption to training would need to be planned during a period where there is the least amount of impact.
 - be assured by the successful contractor that the construction *footprint will not expand beyond that currently identified in the EIS* so that there is no further impact on any relocated site for the club

Budokan Judo Club – CONCLUSION

- **Budokan Judo Club is very much in favour of, and will actively support the NW Rail Link Project provided that a suitable and appropriate permanent replacement building is constructed within the Showground precinct and in a timeframe which will allow the Club to provide its services in a continued and (as near as possible) seamless way to its membership.**
- EIS1 makes no provision for replacement of the Horticulture Pavilion.

- There are no alternative facilities available within the Castle Hill Showground and outside the construction site, which are suitable for use by Budokan Judo Club Inc.
- The timing required for Budokan to be able to provide the assurances required to both mitigate the risk of a loss in membership and to minimise any adverse impact on athlete performance, is within the next 1-2 months, significantly less than the 5-6 months advised by the Project team. It should be possible within a 1-2 month timeframe for the Department to guarantee Budokan a permanent replacement venue to the standards and requirements described in this document.
- With the relocation of Budokan Judo Club within the Showground precinct, the club and the NW Rail Link project could leverage off the higher profile for the Hills Shire that the relocation would generate in addition to the desirable image represented by the spirit of cooperation and a "win-win" outcome. The community respects partnerships between key community stakeholders and major infrastructure projects which yield optimal outcomes. Continuation of the valuable services and contribution to the community that has been provided by Budokan Judo Club for over 15 years will be well received. **On the condition that our basic requirements as indicated in this response will be met, Budokan would be pleased to support the second EIS.**



Rob Katz

President and Coaching Coordinator

On behalf of the Committee

Budokan Judo Club Inc.

Ph: 0411 409 632

katzfamily@accc.net.au

rob.katz@defence.gov.au

<http://www.budokan-judo-club.com/>

21st May 2012