

1 March, 2021



To whom it may concern,

**Re: Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection - SUB-15406920**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed sporting facilities at the Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Connection.

AFL NSW/ACT is fully supportive of the AFL opportunities that will stem from the northern entry into the Beaches Tunnel Link.

Over the past five years, Australian Rules Football (AFL) has experienced double-digit growth in community club players; double the rate of any other state and territory in Australia.

Following the introduction of the elite AFL Women's Competition in 2017, female football continues to flourish with 223% growth (from 2016-19), making NSW second only to Victoria in terms of female Club participation nationally and AFL Sydney is now the largest community football competition in Australia.

Attached is a detailed submission (SE-15356352) from the Balgowlah Suns Junior AFL Club. The club have addressed two fundamental aspects of the proposal very well.

1. Staging – we support the club's suggestions of mitigating the playing/training impact on the club during site preparation, construction and site remediation upon completion.

2. Final layout – we support the partnership with field hockey and cricket and endorse 'Final Configurations A and B' in the attached Balgowlah Suns submission. Given the ongoing growth of Australian football on the Northern Beaches, a two oval configuration is critical. AFL's preference is 'Final Configuration B' (as accompanied). We fully realise that if staging to minimise disruption for the Balgowlah Suns suggests configuration A is best (leaving them in the south/east corner throughout) then it also has the AFL's support.

Australian football is very healthy in the Northern Beaches but constrained by current facilities.

We fully support the project, and upcoming consultation process, requesting that we be consulted during the process about to be jointly led by Transport for NSW and Northern Beaches Council. We also request to be included as a member of the Community Reference Group.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Brooks'.

Anthony Brooks  
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