



Dear Community Member

The vote on the award of a contract for the synthetic ground at BCO has been deferred until 2 August.

Important information below - with a deadline of **Wednesday 21 July – either tomorrow night or tonight, depending on when you read this email.**

#### **A bit of background.....**

On Monday night 19 July, Council was asked to vote on the award of a contract to Synergy Turf Manufacturing Pty Ltd for the sum of \$3,623,062 to construct the synthetic ground at BCO plus ancillary works including lighting.

The final tender figure is remarkably close to the total value of the DPIE grant to Council of \$3,623,023.

Based on figures submitted by Council, the DPIE grant of \$3,623,023 was to cover contract administration and design preliminaries, the new amenities block, the Shared User Path to St Leonards South and the synthetic pitch with all ancillary equipment.

If the contract had been approved on 19 July, the shortfall in DPIE funds of \$1.6 million would have had to be covered, after 4 September, by a new Council, members of which may have had no role in approving the BCO project in the first place.

The Council report talked of \$500k in supplementary funding from DPIE and \$125k from Northern Suburbs Football Association - but there was no supporting documentation.

And this on top of the un-costed elements that were always going to be funded by Council – the playground, car park and BBQ area etc.

By the time Council met on Monday night, Natural Grass at Bob Campbell Inc had circulated to the Councillors Dr Mick Battam's report on an improved natural grass option for BCO and Dr Battam's rebuttal of the criticisms of his report in Council papers for Monday night.

We have already circulated Dr Battam's first report and here is his rebuttal. [Click here](#)

Councillor David Brooks-Horn moved an amendment as follows:-

- Council's consideration of the BCO contract postponed until 2 August 2021
- Council to convene a workshop on 26 July to discuss Dr Battam's natural grass proposal and Council's synthetic turf proposal
- the attendees at the workshop will be Dr Battam, a representative of Council's preferred tenderer, Synergy Turf Manufacturing Pty Ltd, Councillors, Council staff, Frank Hamersley for the Greenwich Sports Club and Martin Cunningham for Natural Grass at Bob Campbell Inc.
- **Councillors can submit questions to be asked at the workshop to the General Manager by midnight on Wednesday 21 July – either tomorrow night or tonight, depending on when you read this email**
- Council will then produce a report to Councillors based on the 26 July workshop before the Council meeting on 2 August.

Councillor Brooks-Horn's motion was supported by the Mayor, Councillor Palmer, and by Councillors Bennison, Brent, Morris, Strassberg, Vissel and Zbik.

**If you have questions that you wish to have discussed at the workshop, please email them to [southwood@bigpond.com](mailto:southwood@bigpond.com) by no later than 6 pm tomorrow and we will forward them to Councillors by the midnight deadline.**

Kind regards

Merri Southwood

**President**

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