



Dear Community Members

## **SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO COUNCIL'S SYNTHETIC BOB CAMPBELL OVAL PLANS**

**A BIT OF GOOD NEWS AND SOME VERY EXASPERATING NEWS.**

**BCO COULD BE A TEST SITE FOR NEW (AND UNTESTED IN AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS) SYNTHETIC TURF TECHNOLOGY**

**GORE CREEK RESERVE IS TOO PRECIOUS TO BE THE SITE OF A TEST CASE.**

The agenda for Council's meeting on **Monday 17 May at 7 pm** is online  
[Agenda of Ordinary Council - Monday, 17 May 2021 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

A report on Bob Campbell Oval and proposed motions are Item 4 on the Agenda.

The report is not long and certainly worth a read.

### **The bit of good news.....**

The report to Council proposes a motion that Council will commit to complying with the outcomes of the Minister for Planning's current review of the environmental, social and economic impacts of synthetic sportsgrounds. This is welcome news, given the very strong contrary statement by the Mayor in Council's April meeting that *there was no suggestion* (in discussions between Council and Departmental officers) *that Council's project would be impacted (by the review) or that Council should delay its project.*

Whilst this news is welcome, we still do not understand why Council is so determined to rush the BCO process that it will not commit to waiting on the findings of the Minister's review before it finalises its plans for BCO.

And, even once the Minister has issued his findings, we expect our Council to go the extra mile and do what is right for the whole community (including, but not limited to soccer players) and right for the unique environment of the whole Gore Creek Reserve.

### **The exasperating news....**

Blackman Park.

**But it has not given up on its plans for a synthetic sportsground.**

A year after Council voted to proceed with the exhibition of its plans for a synthetic sportsfield at BCO, Council now proposes to use a new 4G synthetic turf technique that has never been mentioned in any previously published Council information.

It proposes to use a no performance infill 4G technology untested in Australian conditions, rather than explore natural turf techniques that have a proven track record.

The report to Council includes minimal technical information about the 4G turf technology:-

- the 4G product *has been tested in Europe and the Dutch Premier League Football (soccer) team, PSV Eindhoven have constructed a training field with this system for research and development. The system is being used in Switzerland, Scandinavia and the Netherlands. **Small trials have been undertaken in Australia, however Bob Campbell Oval would be Australia's first 4G synthetic field with no performance infill***
- the report provides minimal technical information about the efficacy of the 4G technology, particularly in terms of exactly how many fibres of synthetic grass will still migrate into the environment
- we have no detail as to the composition and depth of the sub-strata and its resultant heat impacts
- the report includes no independent assessment of environmental impacts of the technique in Australian conditions, let alone in an environment as sensitive as BCO
- we have had no Review of Environmental Factors and Council has refused to provide the environmental reviews that it has received to date
- we do know that insects and fauna will still lose their habitat with the new technology
- we have no information about the life span of the product, installation costs, maintenance costs and the very significant periodic refurbishment cost
- there is no information about how the product can be safely disposed of at the end of its life – though Council has “committed” to having the industry and ‘university’ research that.

In short, the same lack of demonstrable independent scientific approach that was used by Council to advocate for the rubber infills is now promoting the un-tested, “greener” product from the synthetic industry.

So, our Council is still proposing to apply \$3.62 million to a synthetic BCO that the community does not want (with the exception of some soccer players), using a technique that is untested in Australian conditions and about which so little is known.

The only time limits on the BCO process are those nominated by Council itself.

The Minister is unlikely to push Council to meet hasty deadlines when he, himself, has

Why the rush to proceed to tender documentation at this early stage?

Councillors should not allow Council officers to rush them on BCO.

There should be no talk of procurement processes until Councillors **and the community** have access to full design detail and had appropriate time to undertake their own independent assessments of environmental and health impacts, costs (now and future) and safe disposal options for the new product.

The consequences of a hasty decision will be the legacy of some current Councillors but could be a burden for future Councillors and the community.

### **And your chance to have your say on synthetic turf...**

As is increasingly evident in media coverage, Greenwich is not the only community fighting to keep open space naturally green.

The GCA has joined with other community groups (mainly based in the Northern Sydney Region) to form the Natural Turf Alliance.

The NTA is fighting to ensure that Sydney's ovals are not covered in synthetic turf and provides a resource for the sharing of information about the impacts of synthetic sports surfaces.

Lane Cove Council was not receptive to the petition signed by 1600 community members calling for a halt to the plans for a synthetic BCO.

Let us hope the Minister for Planning is more inclined to take notice of this one:-

[Petition · DON'T PUT SYNTHETIC TURF ON SYDNEY'S OVALS · Change.org](#)

### **GREENWICH WHARF UPGRADE**

Submissions have now closed but signs are good that the project designers are taking on board the comments and design options proposed by community members.

The GCA submission can be accessed on this link.

[Click Here](#)

We understand that Council did not make a submission.

### **PLANS FOR COCKATOO ISLAND**

The Harbour Trust has released a Draft Concept Vision for Cockatoo Island.

<http://link.harbourtrust.gov.au/m/1/16866153/02-b21124-e7875c695b174d63bf89da7951fa65f8/2/352/9ad93a89-4bdb-4e77-b712->

**Submissions close 11 June.**

A Mayoral Minute is on the Agenda for Monday's Council's meeting in which it is proposed that Council will make a submission on this draft.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

As was the case last month, the Public Gallery will be open to a maximum of 30 people on Monday night 17 May at 7 pm.

The Public Forum will hear registered speakers from the Public Gallery as well as online using the web platform Zoom. Please note all Public Forum participants must be registered to speak using the [online form](#), no later than midnight on the day prior to the meeting (i.e. Sunday 16 May 2021). Online speakers will receive a Zoom meeting link by email on the day of the meeting. A time limit of three minutes applies to all speakers in the Public Forum.

Kind regards

**Merri Southwood**

President

Greenwich Community Association Inc

M: 0412 361 331

*Copyright © 2021 Greenwich Community Association Inc, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

