



STEP Inc

Community-based Environmental Conservation since 1978

7 September 2018

The General Manager

Hornsby Shire Council
PO Box 37
HORNSBY NSW 1630

Email - hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

HORNSBY SPORTSGROUND STRATEGY

STEP Inc is a local community-based environmental group, with a membership of over 400 in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area. Our main objective is to preserve natural bushland in northern Sydney from alienation or degradation and ensuring proper management of this bushland including ensuring its role as habitat for animal species. Our group has considerable experience in environmental issues and regenerating and preserving natural bushland and native vegetation.

STEP strongly supports adequate sport grounds for all sports in Hornsby Shire. STEP is however concerned that development of sporting facilities has often resulted in damage to bushland and the natural environment. STEP will therefore only support new fields, expansion of fields, upgrading and lighting as long as there is no impact on the natural environment.

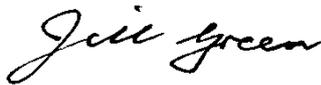
Specific comments

1. We want any reference to Schofield Parade Pennant Hills removed from the list of sites for potential development of sportsgrounds. STEP has vigorously opposed this suggestion since 2015. The Council web page contains erroneous information "this area sits within Berowra Valley **Regional** Park". It sits within Berowra Valley **National** Park, a completely different level of protection.
2. We are unsure exactly where the vacant land at Pacific Highway, Cowan is located but we have concerns about development impacting the bushland in this area.
3. STEP supports upgrading and installing lights designed to have minimal impact on wildlife on sports fields that are not adjacent to bushland. Lights near bushland should be avoided as they can have a detrimental impact on wildlife (Newport, Shorthouse, & Manning, 2014).
4. We therefore **object** to new lighting at Pennant Hills Archery, Cowan Park, James Henty and other sites adjacent to bushland.
5. STEP considers that synthetic surfaces should only be installed after an assessment of impact on the environment. Turfed sporting grounds provide an increasingly important feeding resource for birds such as Magpies, Sulphur-crested

Cockatoos, Galahs and Corellas as household yards are disappearing. These areas are of particular importance in times of drought. A decrease in these birds may well impact on apex predators such as the Powerful Owl

6. STEP is opposed to converting existing open space to sportsgrounds. Existing open space is frequently used by people who are not members of clubs and the demand for this use is often under estimated.
7. We have long supported Council partnering with schools and other institutions to use existing and new facilities.
8. STEP supports the development of Westleigh Park for sporting facilities as long as there is no clearing of bushland and stringent environmental controls in place to prevent environmental damage from water, nutrients, weeds, light etc.
9. STEP reluctantly supports the development of a single oval at Hornsby Park as long as it is available for informal play when the oval is not in use for practice and formal games

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Green
President

Newport, J., Shorthouse, J., & Manning, A. (2014). The effects of light and noise from urban development on biodiversity: Implications for protected areas in Australia. *Ecological Management & Restoration* , 15 (3), 204-2014.