

Camden Residents' Action Group

Incorporated

Camden – Still a Country Town

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General Manager
Camden Council
Oran Park NSW 2570.
Email: recreationofficers@camden.nsw.gov.au

25 January 2019

Dear General Manager,

Re: Premier cricket facility, Fergusons Land

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Fergusons Land Masterplan for the above proposed facility as referenced in Council's *Matters on Exhibition* and in its media release¹.

The media release states that the draft masterplan was developed by Council in consultation with Cricket NSW and Camden Cricket Club. Unfortunately, a search of Council's website failed to bring up the draft plan. Therefore, this submission is limited to and based on the available diagrams entitled *Landscape Concept Master Plan - Stage 1 Layout* and *Landscape Concept Master Plan - Ultimate Layout* as provided in Council's *Matters on Exhibition*.

At the Council meeting of 25 March 2014² and as part of the Recreation Demand and Camden Sportsground Strategy 2014, Ferguson's land was quarantined for use by Camden Cricket for a period of five (5) years as a specialised facility and to be investigated for other complementary activities such as criterion cycling. Following the decision, the Mayor stated that Camden Cricket Club's plans for Ferguson's land would allow the facility to be used by other sporting codes, and that there was scope for multi-use facilities in conjunction with possibly AFL and cycling.³

¹ Camden Council 6 December 2018 *Media Release Have your say on proposed premier cricket facility* at <https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdfs/Media-and-News-Desk/media-releases/2018/Media-Release-Have-your-say-on-proposed-premier-cricket-facility.pdf>

² Camden Council 25 March 2014 *Business Paper* https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdfs/Council/Business-Papers/2014/25_March_2014_-_Business_Paper.pdf

³ Community 8 April 2014 *Ferguson's expansion* Camden Narellan Advertiser at <https://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/2205086/fergusons-expansion/>

Without the draft plan it is not possible to comment on the investigation into the potential for other sporting activities or indeed to know if the land is to be dedicated to cricket use only. If the latter was the case, the draft plan would address a very substantial investment of public resources towards infrastructure used by a small section of the greater community, especially if Council did indeed use public monies to acquire the Ferguson land, as has been stated on social media.

The land in question forms part of the Bicentennial Equestrian Park which has approximately 50,000 users per annum and includes the Camden RSL Memorial Walkway, Camden Men's Shed and venues for hire as well as providing for recreational riding and equestrian events and recreational walking and dog exercise.

What is evident from the proposal's history and self-evident is that no-one has any intention, nor should have any intention, of disrupting or curtailing the activities of existing users, including other sporting clubs.

It would seem at least that access to the proposed facility has created concern within the community. In particular, the Pony Club⁴ is upset because proposed access involves relocation of its clubhouse, loss of space and disruption to its activities. The Club has issued an open letter and conducted a community survey for inclusion in its submission on the issues it faces.

The proposed entrance near the site of the Pony Club would seem unnecessary and possibly uneconomic. An examination of google maps certainly suggests the possibility of a more direct and less disruptive route into the proposed facility.

Without access to the draft plan this submission cannot comment on to what extent, if any, that the proposed cricket facility would impact on other clubs and general community use of the Park.

We therefore respectfully request that:

- **the community be informed of the potential impacts of the proposed premier cricket facility on existing uses of the Park and be given the opportunity to respond;**
- **a less disruptive means of accessing the proposed facility be found.**

Yours sincerely,



Glenda Davis, President

⁴ Cobbitty Pony Club 10 December 2018 *News* at <http://www.cobbittyponyclub.com.au/news>
Open letter and survey at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeENxNCLBNkn5OGHsJ7H_v9XM15fqFpM4jp-P1BrqGkynRIoA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3jMNFewAPgdG9mX9om8mkZpNqkv-HahtmlD0tRuroQnNuvKU6dSbxWsZU