

24 April 2015

Kim Ellis
Director and Chief Executive
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust
info@centennialparklands.com.au

Dear Kim

Robertson Road Synthetic Field

I write to object to the planned multi-purpose synthetic field for Moore Park.

The new field will result in a significant and unacceptable loss of green open space.

Moore Park is part of Governor Macquarie's 1811 Sydney Common bequest to provide 405 hectares of land for Sydney's outdoor recreational needs. Less than a third remains open public land, significant grasslands were recently lost for the Tibby Cotter Bridge and massive losses will shortly occur for the CBD and South East Light Rail Project. There is widespread community opposition against any further alienation of green open space.

Information on the project webpage does not clearly indicate the extent of the loss of green open space, merely stating that it will be "minimised". The community is entitled to know details of how much green space and trees will be removed. Members of the Centennial Park Residents Association estimate that the loss of green open space will be equivalent to two netball courts, with seven trees being removed. This is significant and unacceptable.

While sporting facilities are open to the community, providing a sports hub is not the primary function of the parklands: the core function is to provide for passive recreation.

The existing netball and basketball courts provide passive recreation and additional community benefits because they are regularly used informally for shooting hoops without bookings or fees. These opportunities will be reduced with loss of 10 netball and basketball courts. The remaining courts will have more bookings and not be available for informal use. The multi-purpose field is unlikely to be available for passive or informal community use.

No significant changes should be made to Moore Park until the Moore Park Master Plan has been finalised. The master plan will ensure that the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust achieves the community's long term vision for Moore Park and protects it into the future. The master plan will also provide opportunities for the trust to get community feedback and for the community to contribute to future park outcomes. The multi-purpose synthetic field should have been proposed through the master plan and tested for community support prior to approval.

The project webpage image indicates that the field will be paved around the border, which is unnecessary and further alienates green open space.

The Robertson Road Synthetic Field should not proceed without community approval.



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I also raise concerns with you on behalf of residents that significant amounts of grass at the entrance to the Kippax field on Driver Avenue is being removed and replaced with gravel. There is no information about this and I share widespread community concern over the ongoing loss of grassland at Moore Park.

Could you please withdraw plans for the Robertson Road Synthetic Field, provide opportunity for community consultation on any proposal to change the courts through the Moore Park Master Plan process, cease removal of grasslands at Driver Avenue and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AG', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney