

[council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au)

Subject: Wyatt Park – Draft Plan of Management

Dear Cumberland Council,

YOUR FULL NAME

YOUR HOME ADDRESS

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

I am a member of Neo Cycling Club, a long-term user of Lidcombe Velodrome.

I have a number of concerns with the Draft Plan of Management (PoM) which I wish to record.

I note that the velodrome has been continuously in operation since the 1930s and Lidcombe Oval has been 'shared' between cycling clubs and rugby league clubs, over that time with cycling clubs taking priority in the Summer months, and rugby league having priority in the Winter months.

Lidcombe Oval is the undisputed spiritual home track cycling in the district, and is one of only three operational outdoor velodromes left in the Greater Sydney Area.

Track cycling is an Olympic sport that Australia has won numerous Gold medals in.

Importantly, Lidcombe Oval velodrome remains the breeding ground and training venue for current National level riders, as well as the next generation of Olympic stars.

Depending on how Council decides to proceed with the PoM and the resulting EOI for a long-term lease holder for Lidcombe Oval, this proud heritage is at grave risk.

I am deeply concerned that the cycling clubs stand to lose out with the award of a 21-year lease arrangement to an anchor tenant (such as Wests Magpies) and have our access to the venue further reduced, by design, or by stealth, inadvertently, or otherwise.

I acknowledge Council's desire to reduce the financial burden of maintaining Lidcombe Oval, however I ask – at what cost to not-for-profit community based cycling clubs that have continuously used the venue for 90 years?

Whilst the dollars on offer will no doubt help Council, practically, this does not in fact achieve the shared access or multi-user aspiration of the Plan of Management.

It risks being the meaningful end of track cycling at the venue, or at very least, the beginning of the end.

### **90 year heritage of cycling at Lidcombe Oval not adequately acknowledged or protected in the PoM**

I am concerned that the 90 year heritage of track cycling training and racing is not adequately acknowledged in the PoM.

Nor does the PoM explicitly provide any real protections for the continued access of the cycling clubs, other than general references to the continued 'shared use' of the venue.

### **Master-planning principles – Increased shared use of park areas**

The PoM calls out 'increased shared use' of park areas as being a key master-planning principle, yet in practice, the EOI already issued by Council for Lidcombe Oval (including the Velodrome) does not provide any real protection for the cycling clubs, nor does it guarantee or mandate their continued access to the venue.

I am concerned that the issuing of a 21-year lease, to say Wests Magpies, will in practical terms reduce the 'shared use' of the venue, which has been in place for 90 years.

### **Equal legal footing for all long-term users – leases vs licences**

I am concerned that not all long-term users will be on the same legal footing. This is inequitable. The PoM and resulting EOI foreshadow a 21-year lease, for say West Magpies, yet the cycling clubs will be offered a licence arrangement, at best.

The cycling clubs also ought to be offered an equal long-term lease arrangement, that preserves the heritage of track cycling at Lidcombe Oval and guarantees adequate and fair access to the venue, for years to come.

### **Development of the under-utilised Wyatt Park oval – a win/win for all users**

I suggest that the PoM be amended to provide for the upgrading the surface of the under-utilised field at Wyatt Park, installing lights and building changing rooms (that could be accessed from both Wyatt Park and Lidcombe Oval), that would meet the training needs of users like Wests Magpies.

This would provide a long-term win/win for all park users, and would significantly minimise the disruption to the cycling clubs associated with Wests Magpies (or another anchor tenant) wishing to train on Lidcombe Oval on week-nights. Under this scenario matches would be played on Lidcombe Oval.

I ask that Council strongly consider this far less disruptive alternative, the costs of which could be offset by any funds committed by the long-term anchor tenant.

Regards,