



The Greatest Game of All

Thursday, 10 November 2016

Nick Hubble
Acting Chief Executive Officer
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Sydney Olympic Park Authority
8 Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Dear Nick

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030.

The NRL and Rugby League have been long-time users of Sydney Olympic Park through the provision of content for ANZ Stadium. ANZ Stadium is the current home venue for four NRL Clubs (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, St George Illawarra Dragons, South Sydney Rabbitohs and Wests Tigers) and utilised for premium rugby league content including State of Origin matches, International matches, and the NRL Grand Final.

ANZ Stadium and its complementary facilities form an important part of the Sydney Olympic Park precinct. Accordingly, we believe it is imperative that the master planning work that NSW Department of Planning and Environment and Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) is undertaking is done in coordination with the design for the redeveloped ANZ Stadium, so that an integrated master plan can be developed for the broader precinct. In any design for the redeveloped ANZ Stadium, we would encourage priority be given to the preservation of a plaza area outside the stadium where the NRL and Clubs can provide fan activations. In addition, it is our desire that direct and undercover pedestrian access is provided from the stadium to train and bus stations, P1 car park and the central precinct area of Sydney Olympic Park.

The plan to provide for 10,700 dwellings, 23,500 residents, 34,000 workers and 5,000 students is commendable and highlights our view that the best stadiums are part of a dense working and residential population. We acknowledge that this increase in residential and employment density will be further enhanced by the surrounding Carter Street and Wentworth Point urban regeneration projects. We encourage any increase in residential population to be offset with sufficient active greenspace that can be utilised by local sporting teams and the community. We want to ensure there is adequate space for local rugby league clubs to operate and produce tomorrow's heroes who will one day play at ANZ Stadium.

As you know, accessibility to the broader precinct is a major challenge on event days. Heavy rail, buses, taxis, private vehicles, cycling and walking all contribute to the massive task of moving the large

National Rugby League Limited

Rugby League Central, Driver Avenue
Moore Park NSW 2021

Locked Bag 5000
Paddington NSW 2021

T +61 2 9359 8500
F +61 2 9359 8555

nrl.com
ABN 23 082 088 962

number of event goers at any one time. Light rail and the Hill road on/off ramp connecting the precinct to Westconnex will go some way to addressing the challenge, however further investment and improvement is needed. In particular, we are concerned that there is no plan for heavy rail improvements to the precinct. We note that the Western Sydney Rail Options Scoping Study provides some options for heavy rail investment to service the precinct, however this is at a significant cost and will take a long time to implement if it proceeds.

We feel that the simplest and quickest option would be a rework of the train timetable to permanently provide direct Sydney Olympic Park services, not just on major event days. The current bus services to the precinct on major event days' work well and should be maintained. Continued coordination with SOPA, Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Service and the event providers is essential to enable a coordinated and integrated public transport solution to be developed for the precinct.

We are concerned about the removal of parking spaces within the precinct, especially given the lack of heavy rail improvement and the improved private motor vehicle connectivity through enhanced motorway integration. We appreciate the desire to enhance commercial opportunities within Sydney Olympic Park, however removing parking could make it more difficult for our fans and members to access the precinct, thereby detracting from their game day experience. We believe alternate parking solutions within the precinct need to be found before there are any moves to remove parking spaces from within the precinct.

We compliment the plan to increase entertainment, hospitality, retail and commercial offerings within the precinct. We have always held that view that if Government was to invest in ANZ Stadium and make it the centrepiece of the Sydney Stadia network, a vast improvement in pre and post-match entertainment options was needed. This development will allow our rugby league fans and members to enjoy an enhanced experience when they come to games, and importantly it will help address some of transport issues faced within the precinct as people arrive and depart the precinct in a more gradual manner.

Again I commend the proposals to improve the facilities and amenities across Sydney Olympic Park and the NRL would welcome the opportunity to have ongoing engagement in the process.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Fraser
Head of Strategy and Investment