

RESPONSE by Basketball NSW to Sydney Olympic Park Authority Master Plan 2030 (2016 Review)



NSW Basketball Association Ltd

Basketball NSW (BNSW) is the officially recognized authority in NSW for the organization and conduct of basketball, the recognized State Sporting Organisation (SSO) by NSW Office of Sport and is a member Association of Basketball Australia, as recognized by the Australian Sports Commission.

BNSW currently has 55,000 registered members actively participating in 87 Associations across NSW.

BNSW is located on its own premises, on Underwood Rd, Homebush (Adjacent to Sydney Olympic Park) with a full time staff of 25 employees together with three subsidiary Companies, one being Sports Stadium Management (SSM) which currently manage two multi sports indoor centres in Minto and Coffs Harbour and the second being BNSW Education, which provides a viable option for young basketballers seeking a career in basketball, facility management and event management. A third company operated by BNSW is a sports/education tours group, Horizon Sporting Events. It manages inbound and outbound tours and it is the inbound tours by large US Universities that will assist in staging high level basketball games.

BNSW, with financial assistance from the Office of Sport (NSW), has recently received a comprehensive report – NSW Basketball Facilities Strategy, prepared by highly regarded sports infrastructure consultants, Otium Planning Group P/L.

This Report highlights the dramatic shortage of indoor multi use sports venues across NSW, particularly in the Sydney Metropolitan area, that are available for the conduct and promotion of basketball.

There is significant demand with very few facilities available in the Central Metropolitan area, which is facing dramatic increases in population growth in and around the Sydney Olympic Park precinct.

BNSW supports strongly the principles included in the SOPA Master Plan which includes provision for the retention of the Olympic Legacy and to be regarded as the “Home of Sport” in NSW and indeed in Australia.

Basketball seeks a permanent home in Sydney Olympic Park where basketball has been played since the State Sports Centre first opened in October, 1984.

Olympic basketball games and Paralympic basketball games played in Sydney Olympic Park was one of the many success stories of the Sydney 2000 Games.

The Sydney Kings National Basketball League Team, a Foundation Member of the NBL in 1979, home venue is the QUDOS Arena, SOP, regularly drawing crowds in excess of 7,000 spectators.

The potential exists for the Australian Men’s and Women’s National Teams (Boomers and Opals) to play regular international matches in SOP annually from 2017 when the FIBA World Cup Qualifying matches will be hosted in Australia with major Asian countries such as China, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia etc.

The Master Plan reference to ‘SOUTHERN SPORTS PRECINCT’ will be a welcome addition to SOP, and in particular, “A new site design over P7 car park to accommodate future Sports halls when located” would serve as an admirable option for the much needed “BASKETBALL CENTRE of EXCELLENCE” (BCE).

This would position the BCE adjacent to Netball Central and the NSW Tennis Centre, creating a remarkable community recreational hub serving the needs of the immediate community including the many schools in close proximity.



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The BCE would provide a stimulus to sports participation within SOP and would provide the increasing thousands of residents, a viable option to pursue the indoor sport of their choice.



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Managed by Basketball NSW, the BCE should include 10 indoor courts including a Show Court with a seating capacity of 3-4,000, Headquarters for Basketball NSW, High Performance support facilities eg strength and conditioning, massage, sports medicine and educational facilities for athlete education, officials education, training of volunteers etc.

The 10 indoor courts would provide recreational opportunities for the thousands of residents living within and nearby Sydney Olympic Park, operating on a 7 days/nights per week, providing the financial capacity to support the operation of the total BCE facility and services.

Basketball NSW is committed to working closely with SOPA to achieve these positive outcomes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. A. Elphinston".

Bob ELPHINSTON OAM
Chairman
Basketball NSW



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