

Thursday, 6 April 2017

Director, Industry and Infrastructure Policy
Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 39
Sydney NSW, 2001

To whom it may concern,

Re: Draft Education SEPP Survey.

At the NSW Facilities Unit, our job is to grow, develop and promote the game by building, protecting and enhancing sustainable football facilities.

Football NSW has put in place a detailed Facilities Strategic Plan 2014 – 2024 which sets out a number of key priorities for the game. Within these priorities, the role of facilities has been recognised as being critically important for everyone involved, whether as players, referees, coaches or volunteers. Building on this, Football NSW decided to set out in more detail the specific role football plays in the community by creating a report to the NSW Government outlining a facilities infrastructure solution for Football – 'Meeting the Future Needs of Football in NSW: A Partnership Approach', and – 'The Community Impact of Football in NSW: Economic, Health and Social.

The proposed Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) is important to consider when developing sports fields provisions and a joint arrangement policy is a promising opportunity for Football to service the needs of players within the school's community. A crucial part of the policies, is the support for planning of shared spaces. We are writing to you to outline our case for the inclusion of playing field spaces for Football to be considered in these policies.

The number of children and adults playing the game are soaring, making it the most popular team sport among young people in Australia. Football is the clear favourite team sport played by Australian kids aged 6 to 13, with 1.2 million participants across the country. There was a total of 325,481 participants, 293,083 player registrations, 15,287 coaches, 5,257 referees and 11,854 volunteers during the 2016 Football NSW season with 78% male and 22% female participants. We simply just don't have access to enough quality pitches for the sheer number of players in NSW.

In 2016, for the first time, more Australian girls are playing football than netball. Football has the highest female participation rate of any code – accounting for more than 20% of registered Australian outdoor players, or about 100,000 players.

No other sport has the reach or potential for growth that Football does. That's why we must do everything in our power to ensure everyone – young or old, male or female, no matter where they're from, no matter their level of ability – have a place that they are able to play at.

Football's strong growth in recent years has put extreme pressure on local community playing facilities from ground availability, quality of playing surfaces to unisex amenities blocks. Many Australian communities require better football facilities to support the current

demand and new facilities to boost participation, which will give more Australians a chance to play our great game.

Football NSW wants to ensure that Football facilities are created, developed and enhanced, as part of the proposed Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), so that Football can meet future demand within the education sector and local communities.

Our aim is to:

- Assist our associations, zones and clubs to enhance their facilities and access funding to provide the best possible Football experience.
- Build stronger relationships with LGA's, State and Federal MP's and relevant Government Agencies.

Football has taken a number of steps to address these challenges: -

- Support local councils to develop or update their sport and recreation participation strategy and sport and recreation facility plans.
- Work with The Office of Sport and Department of Education to support planning for shared spaces, including shared use of community and school facilities.
- Establishment of the NSW Facilities and Government Relations Unit
- NSW Football Facilities Audit
- A Free to all, dedicated Football Facilities website
- Football Facility Guides
- NSW Football Facilities Forums x 2

Football NSW, our nineteen affiliated Football Associations, clubs, players, coaches and volunteers that will be affected by this policy, look forward to working with you to grow, develop and enhance football facilities within the education sector, improve health and fitness, and increase community interaction across the various education sites.

Yours in Football,



Jas Virdee
Facilities Development Coordinator
Football NSW