



Mr George Koshy  
Director, Land Release  
Department of Environment and Planning  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Koshy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the North West Priority Growth Area – Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan. The document identifies the need to plan for an additional 20,000 dwellings. This brings the total number of dwellings to 90,000 across the North West Priority Growth Area.

### **The importance of sport and active recreation**

Community sport and relevant infrastructure is essential to building well connected and healthy communities. Sport provides the capacity to increase social cohesion whilst providing a broad range of physical and mental health benefits. Research demonstrates that communities with good access to a range of sporting facilities have higher participation rates.

As our population continues to grow, so too does the demand for well planned, located and designed sport and active recreation facilities.

The Office of Sport is working in close collaboration with a variety of organisations, including the Department of Planning and Environment to ensure community sport facilities are well planned for our current and future communities. This has a direct link with key Premier priorities, specifically 'tackling childhood obesity'.

### **Summary of Office of Sport recommendations:**

The Office of Sport suggests the following amendments to the North West Priority Growth Area - Land Use and Infrastructure Plan:

1. Include greater reference to sport facilities throughout the document.
2. Clearly identify the shortfall of open space including sport facilities required to meet the needs of the additional 20,000 dwellings.
3. Incorporate key facilities that address community sport and recreation needs across multiple precincts, specifically aquatic/leisure facilities including indoor sports.
4. Amend Table 8 of the document 'Land use and infrastructure' to identify key sportsgrounds that will address high growth areas within the North West.
5. Provide further solutions on funding of sport and active recreation facilities. Specifically, in relation to the timing of funding availability with the aim to deliver facilities where and when communities begin residing in these new suburbs, not 5-20 years later.

**Other key points:**

Further to the above recommendations, the following key points are noted:

1. There are various statements in the plan that relate to open space including sport and active recreation facilities. These include:
  - a. Pages 3 identifies a key objective to “identify additional open space to support a high growth housing capacity scenario, as well as improved links to regional open space”.
  - b. Page 5 states through Action 8, that “the Department will also address any shortfalls in open space provision for the projected growth following the review of planned open space in light of the projected housing growth”.
  - c. Page 17 states that “the Implementation Plan identifies additional open space requirements needed to support new communities”.
  - d. Page 12 states “A review of the demand for open space against the housing projections identified in Part 5.2 of this report has found that additional open space will be required to support the incoming population”.

Whilst these statements are supported, the plan lacks detail on critical information such as:

- How much open space is required?
  - Does this include an analysis on the quantity of sport facilities required?
  - Where will the open space including sport facilities be provided?
2. Table 8 titled ‘Infrastructure required to 2026’ does not list any sport facility projects. Given the pace of population growth in the North West, there will be the need to provide sport and recreation facilities prior to 2026.
  3. Table 9 titled ‘Infrastructure required beyond 2026’ does not list any sport facility projects. It is anticipated that beyond 2026 that aquatic/leisure facilities that incorporate indoor sport will be required.
  4. Page 37, Open Space – we support the concept of the Green Grid and linking open space destinations. However, it is important to acknowledge that this is only one piece of the open space network. Given the increase of 20,000 dwellings, land is required to be dedicated to for sport, indoor, and aquatic facilities.
  5. Page 12, Figure 5 - The map requires updating to indicate the recent release of the entire West Schofields precinct.

The Office of Sport looks forward to our continued collaboration with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in planning for current and future communities in the North West Priority Growth Area.

Should you require further information on this submission, please contact Mr Brad Billett, Principal Advisor, Facilities Strategy and Planning on Ph: 8754 7967.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of John Egan and the date 8/6/17.

John Egan  
**Director, Facilities Strategy and Planning**