

<b>ITEM 13.3</b>	<b>PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF AMENDMENTS - OCEAN BEACHES PLAN OF MANAGEMENT TO FACILITATE NETBALL COURTS AT AVALON BEACH</b>
<b>REPORTING MANAGER</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2019/224513</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>1 <a href="#">⇒</a>Final Concept Plan Avalon Beach Netball Courts (Included In Attachments Booklet 4)</b> <b>2 <a href="#">⇒</a>Avalon Beach Draft Plan of Management (Included In Attachments Booklet 4)</b>

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### SUMMARY

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#### PURPOSE

To seek Council approval for public exhibition of the required amendments to the Ocean Beaches Plan of Management to facilitate the installation of netball courts at Avalon Beach Reserve, Avalon Beach.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has identified a service gap in fit for purpose hardcourt facilities for netball players in the northern peninsula. Two clubs, Pittwater Peninsula and Newport Breakers have over 500 members between them without fit for purpose hardcourts. The Northern Beaches Sportsfield Strategy identified the need to fill this service gap with the development of hardcourts and Australian Standard sportsfield lighting in Avalon.

After consultation with key stakeholders including the two netball clubs, Avalon Public School, members of the Avalon Place Plan Working Group and the Avalon Beach Surf Club, the preferred location has been identified as the grass area between Barrenjoey Road and the dunes in Avalon Beach Reserve, bordered by the fenced off leash dog area to the north.

To facilitate the construction of these courts the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to amend the Ocean Beaches Generic Plan of Management to facilitate a re-categorisation of the land from Park to Sportsground. A concept plan of the proposal is attached. Key features include four hardcourt netball courts with a green surface, half-court basketball court, bridge across Careel Creek to connect the two sets of courts and lighting to Australian Standards.

Council has been successful in obtaining \$562,000 in Grants from the State Government to fund the courts.

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#### RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR TRANSPORT AND ASSETS

That:

- A. Council publicly exhibit the draft Plan of Management amendments and concept plan for the proposed netball courts at Avalon Beach Reserve, Avalon Beach for a period of 42 days which is to include a mandatory public hearing chaired by an independent facilitator.
  - B. The outcomes of the public exhibition and public hearing be reported back to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting in August 2019.
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**REPORT**

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**BACKGROUND**

The Northern Beaches Sportsground Strategy, adopted in 2017, identified a critical shortfall in capacity for sport on the Northern Beaches. Sport is a critical component of the Northern Beaches community. Not only does it encourage members of the community to engage in physical activity, it also provides an important conduit for the community to come together. Both of these outcomes are becoming increasingly important as society's behaviour becomes more sedentary and isolated.

The Sportsground Strategy specifically identifies the need for additional hardcourts to service the needs of netball users in the northern end of the Pittwater Ward. The two clubs that operate from here have over 500 members combined and currently have to use grass courts or car parks to train without Australian Standard floodlighting. Higher level teams travel as far as Curl Curl to find appropriate facilities.

Council proposes to address this situation through the installation of four hardcourts at Avalon Beach Reserve. A concept plan is attached to this report. The selection of this location follows a technical review of available sites, including Old Barrenjoey Road Netball and Careel Bay, and consultation with key stakeholders.

Key stakeholders consulted during the site selection and key details of the proposal includes, but is not limited to:

- Pittwater Peninsula Netball Club
- Newport Breakers Netball Club
- Avalon Surf Lifesaving Club
- Avalon Public School
- Manly Warringah Netball Association
- Avalon Place Plan Working Group, which consists of representatives of the following community groups:
  - Clareville Avalon Beach Residents Association
  - Palm Beach Whale Beach Residents Association
  - Avalon Chamber of Commerce
  - Avalon Preservation Society
  - Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The table below summarises the key outcomes of consultation:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Response</b>
Netball courts need to be close together	Council will construct a bridge across Careel Creek to connect the two sets of courts
The site for the eastern courts is used as overflow car parking on Avalon market day	The eastern courts will be built to carpark standard to be able to facilitate overflow car parking
Asphalt will appear to be ugly from Barrenjoey	Council will ensure the courts are green in colour to blend better into the surrounding

Issue	Response
Road	environment
Netball/basketball combination posts are too heavy for netball coaches to rotate safely	Netball courts will have dedicated posts that can be removed for major events that need the space for parking.
There are no basketball courts in the area	Council will include a half basketball court as part of the proposal
The courts need to be well lit	Lighting will be to Australian Standards.
Competition on Saturdays is not appropriate at this location	Council does not determine where competitions are played, this is the responsibility of Manly Warringah Netball
Helicopters land on the proposed netball courts for emergency evacuations	The netball courts will have removable posts to allow for helicopters to land. The Avalon Surf Life Saving Club and Council's Beach Services team have been consulted and are satisfied with this arrangement. An alternative landing point is also available in the north of Des Creagh Reserve 350m away at the other end of the 'Yellow Brick Road' shared path. This compares favourably to many other beaches such as Bilgola, Palm Beach or Whale Beach where the nearest helicopter landing area is several kilometres away.

Council is required to amend the Ocean Beaches Plan of Management. The principal change is to recategorise the land from Park to Sportsground, to facilitate its use for sport and allow development of the netball courts. Council is also undertaking minor housekeeping on the Plan to reflect current legislation. The Plan of Management amendments are attached in attachment 2.

## CONSULTATION

Council will be undertaking the statutory 42-day public exhibition period for the project, including a mandatory public hearing chaired by an independent facilitator. Council will advertise this community engagement process through its Community engagement register, advertising in local print media, signs on site and through its social media platforms.

## TIMING

Community engagement will commence on 1 June 2019 and conclude on 14 July 2019. Once the exhibition closes, Council will issue a tender for design and construction of the netball courts. Both the proposed Plan of Management changes and the tender will be considered by Council at the August 2019 Council meeting.

## LINK TO COUNCIL STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome Places for People Goal 9 – Our community is healthy, active and enjoys a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The estimate for the project is \$540,000 including contingency, which is within the budget of \$562,000. A condition of the State Government Grant is that the project is completed by 31 December 2019.

**SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Sport plays a vital part in the physical well-being of the Northern Beaches Community and also the social fabric of the community. Facilitating fit for purpose netball facilities at an appropriate location will not only benefit the netball clubs but will also provide other potential users an opportunity to play and connect rather than pursuing more isolated sedentary pursuits.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Council will manage the environmental risk of pollutants from construction entering the Careel Creek catchment through the use of appropriate erosion and sediment controls. The undesirable Norfolk Hibiscus plants will need to be removed as part of the works as their spores can cause respiratory and eye distress. They will be replaced with endemic species.

**GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

Council is undertaking community engagement and procurement in accordance with Council policy.