

Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

495

Request to be heard?: yes

Full Name: Shane Hocking
Organisation: Macleod Junior Football Club
Affected property: Winsor Reserve - Somers Ave Macleod 3085
Attachment 1: MJFC_SUBMISSIO
Attachment 2:
Attachment 3:
Comments: Pls see attachment

The Macleod Junior Football Club

The Macleod Junior Football Club (MJFC) is a junior sporting club that has been part of the local community since 1968, celebrating 50 years in 2018. MJFC has 222 players participating across 13 teams in age groups ranging from under 8s right through to under 17s (colts). MJFC is home to 2 all-female teams and prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive club.

MJFC also conducts a local Auskick program for up to 150 registered participants, and has a MOU with the Macleod Senior Football Club to allow a pathway for players from junior to senior football.

MJFC is a winter tenant of 2 Banyule City Council Ovals:

- Macleod Park
- Winsor Reserve

Macleod Park is the home ground and major training base for MJFC, however, Winsor Reserve plays a vital role for the club as a second training and competition ground. Given the clubs continued growth (particularly in female participation), both ovals are currently used at a high capacity and MJFC requires two ovals to service our members.

Submission overview

The MJFC thanks the North East Link Authority for the opportunity to present this submission on our recommendations on the best way forward to limit the impact of the North East Link construction so that we can continue to provide participation opportunities for junior sportspeople in Macleod and surrounds.

We are committed to working with the North East Link Authority, local Council and other local sporting clubs in a supportive and collaborative manner to achieve the best outcomes for everyone and make our contribution to the success of the North East Link Project.

Upon review of the Environmental Effects Statement released on 10 April 2018, MJFC has concerns about the possible relocation of the club from Winsor Reserve for seasons 2021-2027 during the North East Link Construction to play competition matches at De Winton Reserve and training to a new shared facility at Greensborough College.

The MJFC believes the development of a new shared sporting facility at Macleod College would be a better alternative option and this submission outlines the reasons and rationale for the Club reaching this position.

Environmental Effects Statement Position

Greensborough College is located too far from our membership

MJFC has concerns with potentially being relocated from Winsor Reserve to Greensborough College for training purposes. We believe our families will not travel to Greensborough College and this places MJFC at the risk of losing players and kids not participating in sport in general.

A breakdown of the MJFC membership statistics highlights the lack of alignment Greensborough Secondary College has with our membership:

- 58% of MJFC players come from Macleod and Rosanna
- 71% of MJFC players are from Macleod, Rosanna, Watsonia & Bundoora
- **Less than 1% of MJFC players live in Greensborough**
- **No MJFC players attend Greensborough College**
- 73% of MJFC players attend schools in Macleod, Rosanna, and Heidelberg

85% of players come from following suburbs (189 of 222)

Macleod	81
Rosanna	48
Watsonia	15
Bundoora	15
Yallambie	7
Heidelberg	6
Viewbank	5
Heidelberg Heights	4
Eaglemont	4
MILL PARK	4

Currently a significant number of our member families either live in close proximity to Macleod Park or Winsor Reserve, this includes a number of juniors who either walk or ride to training or home games. These junior members could not travel to a home ground and/or training this way if we were to be moved to Greensborough Secondary College; were they to attempt to travel in such a way they would have to cross a number of busy roads which raises significant safety concerns from our point of view and would increase the distance they are required to travel.

The move away from Macleod to Greensborough Secondary College will significantly limit the ability of a large percentage of players and their families to attend training/games and result in lower participation rates.

A significant attraction of the MJFC is that it is a locally based club that serves its community with easy to access facilities. With time poor parents and their children potentially being faced with a difficult and potentially dangerous commute to Greensborough Secondary College, we fear many will cease to participate. The ramifications of this are significant for the MJFC.

Macleod JFC has a close relationship with a number of small businesses within the Macleod Village Shopping strip along Aberdeen Rd, Macleod. This includes financial sponsorships to the club, and other support through good and services. Relocation outside the local area would impact the club's appeal to local sponsors, thereby impacting sponsorship, and our ability to promote local businesses to our membership.

Macleod JFC enjoys a close relationship with the Macleod Senior Football Club. Whilst the clubs share the same colors, they are independent entities with home grounds in different suburbs and membership of different leagues. North East Link Project has indicated that matches played at

Winsor Reserve may be moved to the Macleod Senior FC's oval, De Winton Reserve, now called Get Wines Direct Oval under a sponsorship arrangement the club has. MJFC has reservations sending children to play in an environment where we can no longer control messaging to children through signage, particularly around gambling and alcohol.

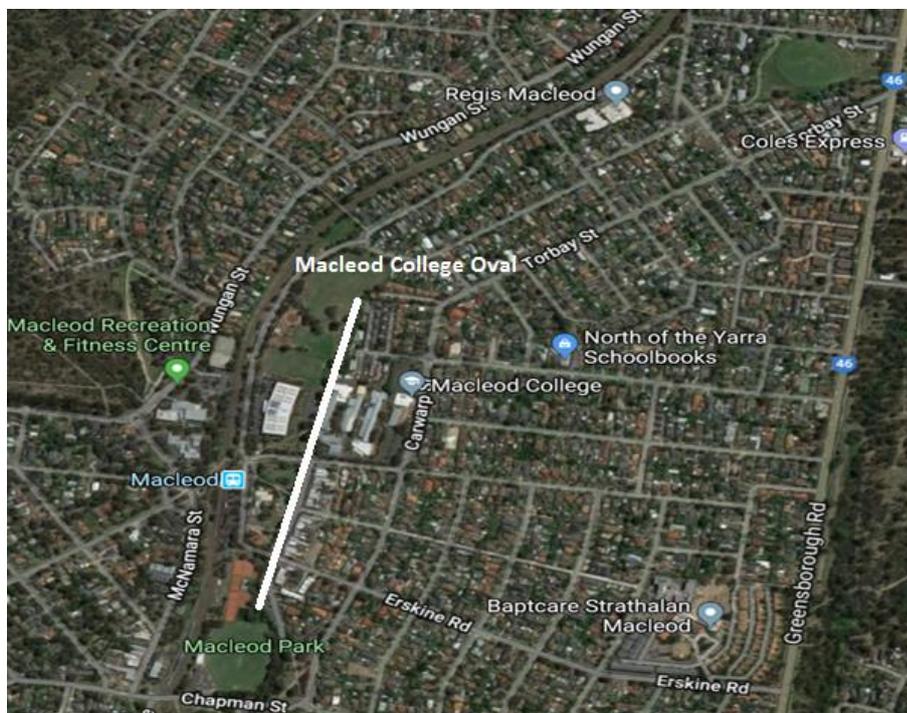
MJFC supports the development of a new shared sport facility at Macleod College

The MJFC strongly believes there is an opportunity to develop a new shared sport facility at Macleod College that would be a better alternative option than moving competition matches to De Winton Reserve and training to a new shared facility at Greensborough College.

Macleod College is a practical and innovative solution that benefits both local sporting clubs and students. MJFC has been in discussions with the Macleod Cricket Club and Macleod College to develop the alternative solution concept and we are all committed and excited by the opportunity it presents to develop a fantastic new community sporting asset. As the original home of Macleod JFC when founded in 1968 with a single under 12 school team, returning to training at matches at Macleod College helps maintain and grow a historic link to the site.

Logistically Macleod College is significantly closer to Macleod Park than Greensborough Secondary College and would allow both the MJFC and Macleod Cricket Club to develop a home precinct.

The development of facilities at Macleod College would also assist the MJFC to enhance its relationship with Macleod College. We have over 12% (and growing) of our membership attend Macleod College and can also proudly boast that the School is starting its first female AFL team, which features several MJFC players.



The current school ground at Macleod College is in poor condition and in need of development. Any development would benefit the local area and the school.

The development of the ground creates a valuable opportunity to increase the number of sports facilities available within the Banyule City Council region and help to alleviate current sports facility supply and demand issues. At present the ground is not used to its full capacity.

MJFC is committed to working with the North East Link Authority, local Council and other local sporting clubs in a supportive and collaborative manner to investigate the opportunities to develop the Macleod College Oval. Ideally we would like to see the development of a facility that matches the current facilities provided at Winsor Reserve encompassing a full sized football oval, lights, scoreboard, multipurpose rooms and storage facilities, however, we are open to discussions about what facilities can be developed subject to available funding and site constraints. Our main concern is the location of a replacement ground at Greensborough College, so we would work with all parties to develop an alternative solution at Macleod College.

If Macleod College were to be developed, this would create a long term school and community asset that will benefit the community beyond the North East Link construction. As participation continues to grow rapidly for MJFC, even following the re-instatement of Winsor Reserve, it is anticipated that an additional ground would be required if participation growth continues as expected.

This proposal has been given the full support of the Macleod College at a recent school council meeting held on May 15, 2019.

Winsor Reserve

Winsor Reserve is the second ground of MJFC, however, it plays a vital role for the Club as a second training and competition ground. The role and importance of Winsor Reserve has been increased over the last two years as MJFC expands to accommodate 2 new female teams.

Winsor Reserve plays a vital role during the pre-season as our major training venue, whilst Macleod Park is used by Macleod Cricket Club. During the regular season our junior age groups (under 8s, 9s) play and train at the venue at least 5 days per week. As the home of the under 8s and 9s, Winsor Reserve is the introductory oval to the Club for our new families and it is important to have a well presented facility that provides change rooms, a canteen and social rooms, to provide a welcoming environment and positive experience.

We note that the current proposal for the use of Winsor Park during the construction period would see the whole of the ground used, the change rooms and social rooms will remain untouched.

The proposed reinstatement of Winsor Park as set out in the EES, would be acceptable for MJFC in that the ground would be re-sown, a new pitch installed, an irrigation system installed and lights would be placed on the ground (floodlights). The current lighting is unsuitable for full oval training, so floodlights would enable more senior youth to be able to train at the venue.

The current condition of the change rooms and social rooms is however, well below modern best practice for modern sports pavilion design. The rooms are old and require regular maintenance already. At the time Winsor Reserve is expected to be handed back to the Club (2027), these facilities will be further behind best practice facilities. In particular given the clubs growth in female participation, female friendly change rooms would be a minimum requirement.

MJFC would ask that consideration be given to either rebuilding the facilities at Winsor Park once construction has concluded or that a refurbishment of the existing facilities should occur.

Partnering with Macleod College and Macleod Cricket Club

MJFC has been in positive discussions with the Macleod Cricket Club and Macleod College to develop the alternative solution at Macleod College concept and we are all committed and excited by the opportunity it presents to develop a fantastic new community sporting asset.

MJFC and the Macleod Cricket Club have over a number of years developed a close working relationship and our clubs have a number of players/parents who play/contribute to both clubs.

MJFC have over 12% (and growing) of our membership attend Macleod College and can also proudly boast that the School is starting its first female AFL team, which features several MJFC players. MJFC recently presented to the Macleod College School Council, who were supportive of the development proposal.

We all share the view that Macleod College is a more viable and preferred option. We share many of the same concerns about the proposed site at Greensborough College.

Given the strong working relationship between all parties the MJFC is confident all parties would work together constructively as cotenants at a new facility.

Macleod JFC is currently working with Macleod College, Macleod Cricket Club, Banyule Council, and North East Link Project to prepare a master plan for the Macleod College site, incorporating the stated requirements of each stakeholder.

Summary

The MJFC strongly believes there is an opportunity to develop a new shared sporting facility at Macleod College that would be a better alternative option than moving competition matches to De Winton Reserve and training to a new shared facility at Greensborough College.

The reasons that MJFC has reached this position include:

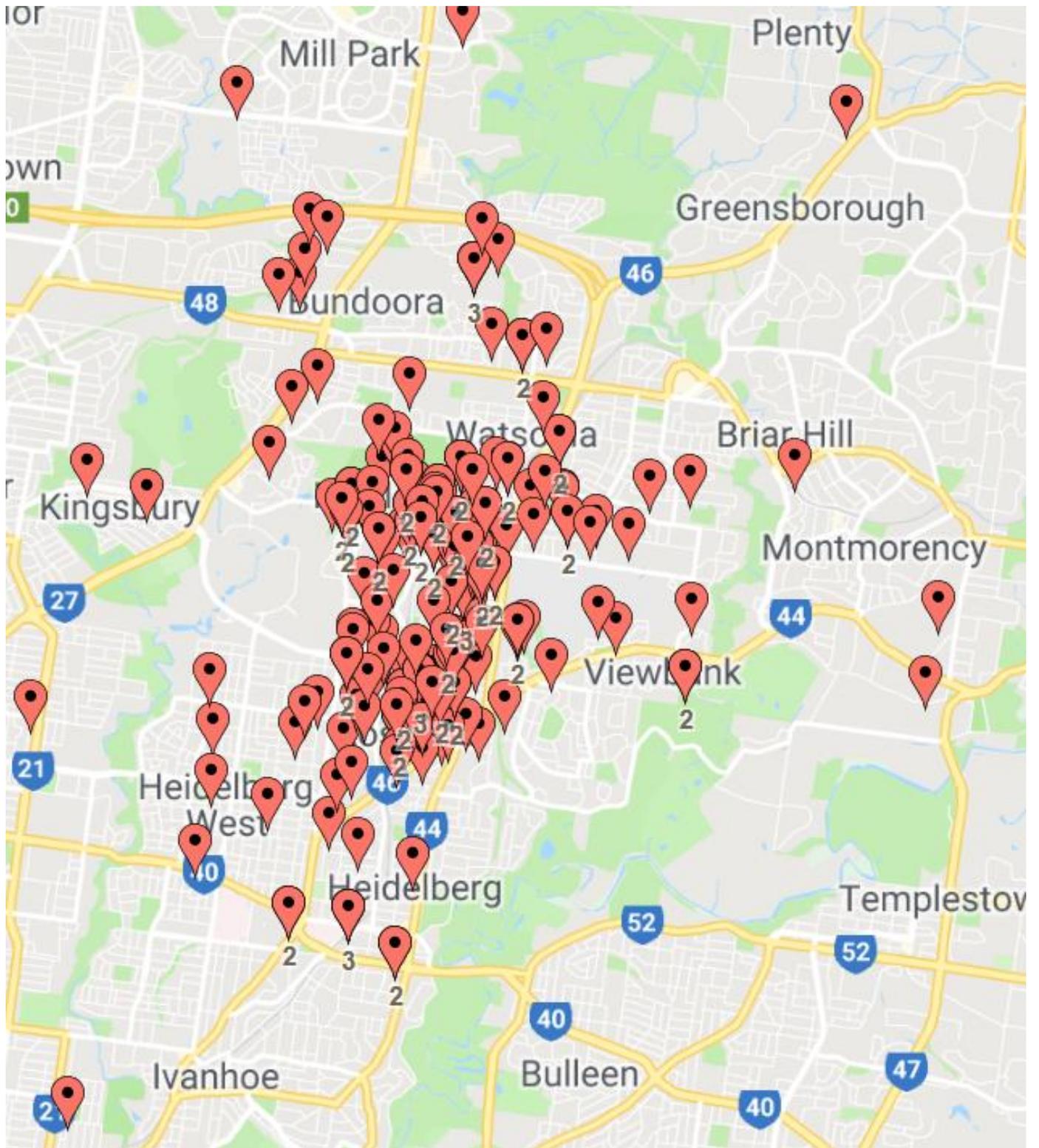
1. Greensborough College is located too far from our membership base and we believe our families will not travel to Greensborough College and this places MJFC at the risk of losing players and kids not participating in sport in general;
2. Asking our junior members and family (many of whom live close to existing facilities and walk, ride or travel by PT) to travel to Greensborough Secondary College requires they cross a number of busy roads which potentially raises significant safety concerns;
3. Logistically Macleod College is significantly closer to Macleod Park than Greensborough Secondary College and would allow both the MJFC and Macleod Cricket Club to develop a home precinct with the close proximity between Macleod Park and Macleod College and to foster stronger links with Macleod College;

4. The development of Macleod College creates a valuable opportunity to increase the number of sports facilities available within the Banyule City Council region and help to alleviate current and future sports facility supply and demand issues. At present the ground is not used to its full capacity and is in poor condition. Any development would benefit the local area and the school.

5. The proposed reinstatement of Winsor Park as set out in the EES, would be acceptable for MJFC in that the ground would be re-sown, a new pitch installed, an irrigation system installed and lights would be placed on the ground (floodlights). MJFC would ask that consideration be given to either rebuilding the facilities at Winsor Park once construction has concluded or that a refurbishment of the existing facilities should occur, so that the facilities can be brought up to current community sports facility standards.

MACLEOD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Appendix 1: Membership Map - Extended



Appendix 2: Membership Map – Macleod/Rosanna Cluster

