

Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

245

Request to be heard?: yes

Full Name: Stanley Bruce Bourke

Organisation: Camberwell Golf Club Incorporated

Affected property:

Attachment 1: CGC_NE_Link_-_E

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: From : Bruce Bourke - President - Camberwell Golf Club Submission is contained in the attached document.

FREEWAY GOLF COURSE



The Freeway Golf Course, situated in Balwyn North, is an important public 18-hole community golfing facility servicing the residents of the North-East Region of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs. It is a vibrant and thriving community sporting and recreational facility which is home of the Camberwell Golf Club and the Harp Golf Club, as well as providing access for the North-East Region golfing community.

The Camberwell Golf Club looks forward to working with the North-East Link project in maintaining the Freeway Golf Course as an 18-hole golf course while allowing for the development of this important infrastructure project.

1. Freeway Golf Course – Maintain Access to PUBLIC golf facilities

- Redevelopment of Freeway Golf Course to be maintained as 18-hole facility
- 55,000 rounds of golf played each year (2018 figures)
- Only Golf Australia recognised 18-hole Public Golf Course in Boroondara
- Well recognised as the best Public Golf Course in the North-East region
- Most other golf courses in the region are Private Golf Courses
- Maintained in excellent condition by Boroondara Council over many years
- Provides important refuge for native flora and fauna
- Freeway Golf Course is a site of State biological significance

2. Success Story of Camberwell Golf Club

- Established in 1979, now operating in its 40th year
- Public Golf Club open to Men and Women; wholly managed and funded by volunteer members
- Public Golf offers affordable Membership and Green Fees for all, including Seniors and retirees

- 37% membership growth over last 5 years (2015 = 240 → 2019 = 330)
- Membership catchment : Boroondara 35%, Manningham 30%, other North East 25%
- Club Competitions organised for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday every week
- Competitions provide golf access for all members – includes Juniors to Veterans
- Successful member of the Victorian Golf League Pennant (VGL) competitions and participants in statewide VGL Bowls and Salvagers.

3. Community Associations - Boroondara and Manningham

- Strong affiliation with the Veneto Club, Bulleen.
- Camberwell Golf Club have organised the Veneto Club Charity Golf Day over the last 4 years, raising \$30,000 for local Doncare Charity.
- A further \$1,500 - \$2,000 is raised annually by Camberwell Golf Club for charities including Breast Cancer
- Local schools – coaching and clinics provided by Freeway Golf for Kew High School and Holiday Clinics
- Harp Golf Club uses the Freeway facilities to play regular Sunday competitions
- Freeway Golf Course provides an important facility for players affected by the closure of the Eastern Golf Club and the likely closure of the Yarra Valley Golf Course.

4. Social Connectedness

- Loneliness and community isolation are serious public health issues for young people as well as the elderly. Statistics show that 10% of those aged 60 and over experience severe loneliness (Dept of Health Feb 2019 dhs.vic.gov.au/ageing). It is also a particular problem for men who have retired or have full time family responsibilities (Vic Health.vic.gov.au) .
- The most effective way to reduce loneliness is to make people feel connected to their community. Suburbs need to be planned to be walkable and include social spaces where people can meet up, such as, gardens, sporting facilities and recreation centres. Freeways can divide communities and reduce recreational space.
- The City of Boroondara is committed to being age friendly through its membership of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. As part of this network council should be continuously assessing and improving age friendliness by creating an Age-Friendly Boroondara Strategy 2014-2019. This was endorsed by Council in 2014.

5. Conclusion

It is crucial that the Freeway Golf Course is maintained as a Golf Australia recognised 18-hole golf course, and that the impact of the North East Link Project does not fracture the social importance of the Golf Club and public access to golf. We believe in leaving an ongoing legacy for future generations.