



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

LOW LEVEL LIGHTING ON SPORTING GROUNDS

Meeting: City Infrastructure Committee

Meeting date: 26 May 2021

Raised by: Lord Mayor Councillor Reynolds

Question:

Given that running and walking are the most popular activities in Australia as per the census, could the Director please advise how practicable, together with the cost associated with, the availability of lower level of lighting of Council owned sporting grounds for the safety of patrons undertaking these activities (especially during the winter months), and not encouraging more team based sports to use the facilities without a booking?

Response:

Many of the City's sporting facilities are heavily booked to accommodate the training needs of organised sport.

An assessment of those bookings will be undertaken to identify if opportunities exist for usage of the facilities by residents

Any additional usage of the grounds (particularly through winter) would need to be carefully managed. If large groups were to participate there could be issues regarding wear around boundary lines.

Given the popularity of the City's playing surfaces care would also be needed to manage usage. The availability of lighting may attract sporting clubs usage of the facilities without a booking. Experience has found that the provision of lighting to align with booking times is the only effective way to regulate such usage. The alternative would be the engagement of staff or security patrols to monitor usage at the grounds, this would be cost prohibitive.

The City's *Sustainable Hobart Action Plan* recommends minimising lighting in the City in order to reclaim the night sky and reducing the impact upon nocturnal wildlife by artificially lighting bushland areas such as the Queen's Domain.

The Soldiers Memorial is currently booked three nights a week for running groups who at times share the space with soccer training – with running being undertaken on parts of Soldiers Memorial Avenue as well as parts of the playing surface. This arrangement provides an opportunity for runners to use the space as part of an organised activity.

It is estimated the additional cost of operating lights at selected grounds for 5 days a week (for 2 hours per night for the non-daylight saving period) would be around \$2000.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Glenn Doyle
DIRECTOR CITY AMENITY

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