

Flemington Road Oval works

12 May 2015

Presenter: Rob Adams, Director City Design

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee's approval to proceed with the installation of sports lighting at Flemington Road Oval, Royal Park, and note the construction of a pavilion at the same site.

Key issues

2. The upgrade works at Flemington Road Oval, incorporating the reconstruction of the playing field, installation of sports lighting and construction of a pavilion, were specified in the 'Sporting Facility and Relocation Works Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) agreed by Council and the Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA) in December 2013. These works were agreed to as a result of implications arising from the proposed East West Link project. The reconstructed playing field was reopened for public use in February 2015. The pavilion and sports lighting works are still to be completed.
3. The total funds of \$2.72 million required to complete the Flemington Road Oval works as agreed under the MoU have been paid to Council by the LMA.
4. The current Royal Park Master Plan was approved by Council in 1997. Section 48 of the Royal Park Master Plan considers the construction of a small pavilion at Flemington Road Oval (note there were two ovals on site at the time), but states that night lighting at this site should not be provided.
5. Since the Master Plan was developed in 1997, many factors have changed external to and directly on the park, including but not limited to increased demand across the municipality for use of sporting facilities all year round, and the permanent loss of the other Flemington Road Oval for the development of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). Given these changes, the addition of sports lighting will enable an increase in use of the remaining oval, and the pavilion will provide basic amenities required to support users of the oval, albeit in a different location from that considered in the Master Plan. The pavilion will cater for junior and senior sport and recreation for both males and females. Royal Park has a long history of recreational use, including sporting activities. The Master Plan states that "Royal Park is widely known for its diverse range of sporting facilities". The plan further states that future provision of sport in the park should be guided by the following objectives:
 - 5.1. The range of sporting opportunities provided in the Park be complementary to those provided elsewhere in the City of Melbourne.
 - 5.2. A balance be provided between the different types of sporting activities in the Park, ranging from highly organised use of national standard facilities, competitive sport, through to casual and social games.
 - 5.3. Priority be given to facilities that benefit several visitor groups rather than single uses and, where possible, facilities designed to cater for shared use by related activities to ensure economies of scale.
 - 5.4. Sporting activities be managed to minimise the impact on other Park values and other user groups.
6. In October 2014 Royal Park was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. A permit has subsequently been issued by Heritage Victoria to construct a pavilion at Flemington Road Oval. The proposed sports lighting was endorsed by Heritage Victoria prior to the formal listing as a heritage site, however a formal application for heritage exemption or permit will need to be submitted to gain approval for the sports lighting.
7. At the time of writing the report, Council had received 31 petition letters from the community opposing the proposed Flemington Road Oval works. See Attachment 2 for a copy of the petition letter.

Recommendation from management

8. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 8.1. Subject to approval from Heritage Victoria, approves the installation of lighting at Flemington Road Oval, noting however that this is not consistent with the direction of the 1997 Royal Park Master Plan.
 - 8.2. Endorses the construction of a pavilion at Flemington Road Oval to proceed as contemplated by the 1997 Royal Park Master Plan.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Petition

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. Whilst no direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management, legal advice will be provided as required in respect to the relevant works.

Finance

2. Total funding for this work is \$2.72 million which has been provided by the LMA. There is no cost to Council.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Stakeholder consultation

4. These proposed works have been discussed in detail with Heritage Victoria as part of the heritage registration process for Royal Park and since the MoU was agreed between Council and LMA in December 2013.
5. Further information provision and consultation has occurred on the proposed Flemington Road Oval upgrades with a variety of stakeholders, including nearby residents, key interest groups, and the RCH. Methods used include project boards on site, letter drop to nearby residents, and direct email to key interest groups. No significant feedback was received from these communications. A number of meetings were held with officers from the RCH, along with the provision of further details relating to the proposed sports lighting. The RCH have confirmed that they have no issues with the proposed upgrades, including the sports lights.

Relation to Council policy

6. The proposed works are consistent with the Current Council Plan, Goal 1: A City for People.
7. The 1997 Royal Park Master Plan contemplates the construction of a small pavilion at the Flemington Road Oval site, however does not support night lighting.

Environmental sustainability

8. Consistent with Councils zero net emissions by 2020 target, the pavilion design incorporates a number of Environmental Sustainability Design (ESD) initiatives to minimise its environmental impact during construction and over the life of the building. An integrated approach to ESD has been adopted to reduce power demand, recurrent energy cost and greenhouse gas emissions.
9. In order to create a comfortable indoor environment, simple, passive building strategies are a key component of the design, including;
 - 9.1. Optimising the building thermal performance by addressing issues of insulation, shading, daylighting, glazing, thermal mass and natural ventilation.
 - 9.2. The main social space includes large volume ceiling fans rather than air conditioning, and an efficient hydronic panel radiator system for heating.
 - 9.3. Double glazed glass and shaded windows to the east and north to enhance the overall thermal performance of the building

- 9.4. Utilisation of the north aspect of the building to incorporate a large photovoltaic panel array that will generate electricity to offset the that used by the building and the sports ground lighting.
- 9.5. Gas heated water supply to cater for the short, sharp high volume demands of the pavilion rather than a large electric system.
- 9.6. Rainwater collection and storage from the roof to supply water for toilet flushing in the building.

Royal Park Protection Group Inc

Petition

To the LORD MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS of the CITY OF MELBOURNE

I/~~We~~
full name
of
address and postcode

- **OBJECT to the development of the newly constructed sports ground at the Flemington Road Oval in Royal Park, and**
- **STRONGLY OPPOSE Council's intentions to further develop the site by erecting sports' light towers; building a pavilion; fencing the ground; maintaining the temporary road from Elliott Avenue; and any other associated works in view of the likely destructive impact on the environment, wildlife habitat and cultural identity of Royal Park plus the anticipated light spill and excessive noise impact on the Royal Children's Hospital next door.**

Sign

Sign

Date: 23.2.15

1. Please complete, sign and date this Petition and email it to the Lord Mayor and Councillors or forward them a hard copy:

The Lord Mayor and Councillors
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
MELBOURNE 3001

Email: lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au

2. Please email me a copy of your signed Petition to the City of Melbourne to joe2edmonds@yahoo.com.au or send me a copy c/o PO Box 197, Parkville 3052

Contact: Joe Edmonds, Royal Park Protection Group Inc. Mobile: 0439 455 522