

MEDIA STATEMENT

NSROC REPORT WARNS OF SPORTSGROUND SHORTAGE

Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) will launch a report which has identified a major shortfall in the supply and capacity of sportsgrounds on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 11 am at Northbridge Oval.

Launching NSROC's Regional Sportsground Strategy Review Report which covered the LGAs of Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby, NSROC President Cr Pam Palmer said demand would far outweigh supply in coming years.

"Sportsgrounds in the region are already over capacity and within 20 years an additional supply of 40 per cent will be required to support the needs of our region's projected population," Cr Palmer said.

"Councils are working hard to do what they can but we need the partnership of State Government to help plan and deliver initiatives which are beyond the capacity of local government.

"Councils require resources and funding while working in partnership with the State Government so that our valuable sportsgrounds can match the intensification of population growth.

"We need to work closely together with government, sporting bodies, community groups and neighbouring councils so that people can keep playing the sports that they enjoy, which will bring better health, social, community and economic benefits."

The report identified for the first time the shortfall in the supply and capacity of sportsgrounds for the NSROC region, which will experience population growth of 200,000 (or 36.4%) to 752,600 by the year 2036:

- By the year 2026, an extra supply of 26% will be needed (105 hectare/Ha in total land area or equivalent to about 78 standard rectangular fields).
- By the year 2036, an additional supply of 40% will be required (163 hectare/Ha in total land area or equivalent to about 120 standard rectangular fields).

The report also identified initiatives to increase the supply and capacity of sportsgrounds such as using synthetic fields, lighting and the new and increased use of school facilities, however, the initiatives could only increase supply and capacity of sportsgrounds by 18% to 20%, which is around half of what is required by the year 2036.

The report recommended 15 actions with those needed from State Government including:

- Sport be incorporated into active healthy living and 'liveability' measures;
- Sportsgrounds and open space be provided as essential infrastructure;

- Planning to ensure delivery of spaces that are not compromised by other outcomes; and
- New or upgraded community sport and recreation facilities to meet the population growth.

The launch at Northbridge Oval will be attended by the Minister for Local Government and for Environment and Heritage, local MPs, Mayors, councillors and NSROC Board delegates, General Managers of local councils, key sporting associations and government departments and agencies.

The report will be available on the website of NSROC shortly after the launch at nsroc.com.au.