



## NSROC PRESS RELEASE – 1 March 2011

### NO MORE ROOM TO PLAY?

### SHORTAGE OF NORTH SHORE SPORTGROUNDS

A new approach to managing sportsgrounds and their users is being proposed by the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC).

NSROC, which represents seven north shore councils, has released its 'DRAFT Regional Sportsground Management Strategy' for public exhibition today.

*"Our member councils recognise the 'business as usual' approach to sportsgrounds is not sustainable. The number of future players far outstrips our existing sportsgrounds in the region. We need to have a fresh look at council management and sporting clubs activities"* said the President of NSROC, Mayor Nick Berman of Hornsby Council.

Councils are faced with shortages of open space but greater demand for facilities. Costs for maintenance are increasing and upgrades are needed. Monies contributed by sporting groups through ground fees represent only 20% of the actual sportsground costs so councils have to look at innovative management to increase capacity in the region.

*"We recognised that sport and sporting groups are a great contributor to community life and we have spoken with many groups in preparing this DRAFT Strategy. I welcome feedback from these groups and the community generally about this new approach"* said Mayor Berman.

The Draft Strategy spells out a new regional approach to sportsground management, maintenance and expansion of facilities. **Comments from the public and sporting groups are sought until Monday 4 April 2011.** Comments may be submitted in writing or by email to [lridley@lanecove.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lridley@lanecove.nsw.gov.au)

For a copy of the "Draft NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy" visit our website [www.nsroc.org](http://www.nsroc.org) or call NSROC for a hardcopy – ph 9911 3651.

NSROC Councils : Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby

End : [www.nsroc.org](http://www.nsroc.org)

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