

Dear Councillors

I am writing as a concerned Applecross resident about the recommended amendment to condition 5 of the draft report prepared by DBCA, regarding the installation of lighting towers at Applecross Tennis Club.

As you are aware, it has been recommended that Condition 5 be amended as follows:

*The floodlights are to be installed with a timer which ensures the lights do not operate between the hours of 9pm and 6am, Monday to Sunday.*

The DBCA has conducted thorough research and concluded that the 10:00 PM curfew is appropriate. Therefore, the current recommendation for a 9:00 PM cutoff is contrary to the expert advice and findings of the DBCA.

Additionally, the recommended amendment does not appear to take into account the overwhelming support from the community at large for the lights.

As you are aware, there was a total of 145 submissions received when the application for lights was advertised, with 13 objections, 131 in support and 1 neither supporting nor objecting to the proposal.

As elected representatives, the community expects that the council will prioritize the needs and interests of the ratepayers. Extending the lighting hours to 10:00 PM aligns with the desires of the local community who rely on these facilities for recreation and competitive play.

So, extending the playing time to 10:00 PM is crucial for the following reasons:

**Support for Pennants Players:** A number of players are involved in pennants competitions, which often extend into the later evening. The recommended 9:00 PM cutoff does not provide adequate time for them to complete their matches, particularly in closely contested games. Extending the lighting hours to 10:00 PM would ensure that all players can finish their games without disruption.

**Advice from the Swan River Trust:** Initially, the DBCA had contemplated imposing a 9:00 PM curfew. However, following advice from the Swan River Trust, it was noted that a 10:00 PM curfew for three nights of the week during the competition season, with a 9:00 PM cutoff on other nights, was reasonable and unlikely to result in any additional adverse impacts. This recommendation supports our request and highlights the feasibility of the proposed extension.

**Alignment with Other Clubs:** Our club is one of the few in the Perth metro area that lacks proper lighting infrastructure, and the earlier cutoff exacerbates this disadvantage. Extending the lighting hours would help bring our club in line with other facilities, allowing us to remain competitive and attract more members.

**Community Benefits:** The extension of lighting hours will not only benefit our pennants players but also the wider community. No doubt, many residents will use the courts for recreational purposes after work, and having an additional hour of lighting would encourage more participation in healthy, active lifestyles.

Following are the relevant extracts from the draft report;

“DBCA had initially contemplated the imposition of a 9pm curfew, however, following advice from the Swan River Trust it was noted that a 10pm curfew for three nights of the week when in competition season and 9pm otherwise, was reasonable and unlikely to result in any additional adverse impacts. The Swan River Trust acknowledges that operating the lights at ATC until 10pm from Tuesday to Thursday is consistent with other similar facilities operating within the Swan Canning Riverpark.”

“While the City of Melville recommended a 9pm nightly curfew for the lighting, DBCA considers that the revised lighting design incorporates appropriate management 7 Item UP24/45 - Attachment 1 Page 221 of 491 Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda 20 August 2024 measures to reduce light spill and glare to the river and residents. Operating the lights until 10pm on three nights of the week to allow for competition games is unlikely to present any significant additional impacts than a 9pm nightly curfew.”

“The installation of lighting towers at ATC can be managed to mitigate any potential adverse impacts to the vegetated foreshore and river, and adjacent residents.”

“While the City of Melville recommended a 9pm nightly curfew for the lighting, DBCA considers that the revised lighting design incorporates appropriate management 7 Item UP24/45 - Attachment 1 Page 221 of 491 Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda 20 August 2024 measures to reduce light spill and glare to the river and residents. Operating the lights until 10pm on three nights of the week to allow for competition games is unlikely to present any significant additional impacts than a 9pm nightly curfew.”

“On balance, the proposal provides an opportunity to improve the community benefits and amenity of the Riverpark while managing any significant adverse impacts to the environment and adjacent residents.”

“For these reasons, the proposal is recommended for approval, subject to conditions and advice.”

Thank you very much for considering my submission.