

I was unable to make the council meeting in person but caught the live stream.

There appears to some confusion regarding the need for changes to the current lighting. To clarify, the Leeming Strikers Soccer Club supports Option 2 as it has been presented by City officers in Council Item CD26/62, inclusive of floodlighting to cater to the proposed pitch amendments.

The proposed John Connell Reserve extension (Option 2) is a tremendous opportunity for our soccer club to provide for continued soccer growth in the City of Melville. Please note that leaving the existing light towers *in-situ* would leave no space for a senior soccer pitch between the proposed western most cricket pitch and the club room. The only space available for a senior soccer pitch would be between the 2 cricket pitches. Thus, the consideration by the cricket club and a councillor not to include floodlighting immediately as a part option 2 would leave us with a single senior size pitch, a considerable distance from the club room and change rooms. This seems counter-intuitive to meet the current demands for increased soccer space, not to mention the devastating impact this would have on our soccer club.

LSSC club has grown from 3 to 11 teams in 2 years addressing the highest growth demographics; junior girls and masters (over 45s and 55s). Our plan is to continue our growth trajectory targeting these growth areas, with plans for 3-4 more teams for 2027, and even with additional space created by the extension, we will need to play more games under lights to accommodate the increased fixtures. Not only do the light towers need to be moved, they will need to be capable of providing lighting to the appropriate standard for evening matches, aligned to the Option 2 proposal, that has been presented in Council Item CD26/62.

Please note the LSSC withdraws its support of option 2 if the existing light towers remain *in-situ*. To reinforce the clubs' position, we support Option 2, as presented by officers in Council Item CD26/62, inclusive of floodlighting.

Please forward this email to the appropriate people within the council and beyond

Many thanks

Best regards

David

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