

Please accept this email as a written submission on behalf of the Leeming Spartan Junior Cricket Club in relation to Item CD26/62 – John Connell Reserve Field Extension Proposal.

The Club continues to support Option 2 as the only practical option that meaningfully addresses the urgent need for additional playing field capacity at John Connell Reserve safely. We also note and welcome the continued support of the Leeming Strikers Soccer Club for Option 2 at John Connell Reserve, which reinforces that the project itself is the correct one and that the reserve is the right location for expansion for both clubs which supports senior and junior players.

However, there is a major concern around the lighting component within the current project scope and costings. From the Club's perspective, the key concern is that the inclusion of the additional playing field lighting as an immediate component of the project materially increases the upfront cost and risks discouraging elected members from supporting Option 2 at all. While lighting may be desirable as part of the longer-term precinct outcome, the concern at the moment is that it appears to be an immediate prerequisite without clear explanation as to why it cannot be part of staged progress and work.

Having reviewed Clearing Permit CPS 10237/1, the cricket clubs understanding is that the permit requires native vegetation clearing to occur by 23 July 2027, construction activities to commence no later than three months after authorised clearing, and the offset revegetation and rehabilitation works to be implemented within 12 months of commencement of clearing and no later than 23 July 2028. The permit itself remains in force until 23 July 2033, which appears to reflect the longer-term monitoring, reporting and remedial obligations associated with the offset works.

On that basis, the Club respectfully asks elected members to consider the following questions before determining whether the lighting component must be funded and delivered immediately as part of Option 2:

1. Can the area be cleared and the core oval extension works commence before any pitch is moved or any light towers are removed or replaced within the permit requirements? This will allow the teams to continue playing safely whilst works are under taken without losing any play space for cricket, soccer and the local community.
2. Can the existing four light towers remain in place on an interim basis while the main clearing, earthworks and field extension are progressed, with lighting addressed at a later stage? This will allow minimal disruption to training and playing on the fields.

The Club is not arguing against lighting as part of the broader long-term outcome at John Connell Reserve. Our concern is narrower than that. We are asking elected members to distinguish between what is genuinely essential to progressing the oval extension now, and what may be desirable to deliver at the same time but could reasonably be staged later. In our

view, that distinction is critical to affordability, timing and the overall prospects of Option 2 receiving support.

We respectfully submit before Council that Option 2 proceeds at John Connell Reserve as the most appropriate location for all the local clubs affected.

The question of lighting should not be a key factor that prevents the field extension itself from moving forward, particularly where there appears to be scope for staging and where the permit conditions do not expressly require all project components to be delivered upfront as one inseparable package.

Thank you for receiving this submission.

Regards

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Leeming Spartan Cricket Club – Since 1918

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