

**NOM ITEM 5: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - 24/5/16 - SOCCEROOS
WORLD CUP QUALIFER 2017**

REPORT BY: PLANNING AND REGULATORY

CONTACT: ACTING DIRECTOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY

DIRECTOR COMMENT

Newcastle City Council is a proud supporter of events in our community and recognises the role of events in building social capital, encouraging community participation and enhancing tourism opportunities.

In 2012, 2014 and 2015, Newcastle received the International Festival and Events Association Event City Award for cities under one million people. These accolades recognise our ability to produce and host world class events, combined with our superb climate and natural and urban attractions. This recognition has come from our capacity to host and deliver a diverse portfolio of sporting, cultural and leisure events.

Events deliver a range of benefits in the community. These include:

- economic benefit through increased visitation, accommodation and other spending;
- promotion and advertising of the area through traditional and social media, attracting further flow-on visitation;
- social benefit through community participation and engagement;
- exposure to new experiences, skills and knowledge for residents and visitors, and for some, this becomes the inspiration for new sporting or cultural pursuits;
- build and raise cultural awareness;
- build local pride and identity;
- opportunities for local businesses and local entrepreneurs;
- creates employment particularly in the hospitality and retail sectors, along with artists and art providers;
- capacity building and practical experience for volunteers;
- service and infrastructure upgrades.

Newcastle has the capacity and enthusiasm to host the Socceroos World Cup qualifier match in 2017 and the bid should be supported.

RECOMMENDATION

That Newcastle City Council support the call to grant Newcastle the rights to host an upcoming Socceroo's World Cup qualifier match in 2017.

That Council write to both the Premier and Football Federation Australia siting our support for Newcastle in the negotiations for the qualifier match.

NOM ITEM 6: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - TIME RESTRICTED OFF LEASH AREA FOR NOVOCASTRIAN PARK, NEW LAMBTON

REPORT BY: INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTACT: ACTING DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

DIRECTOR COMMENT

Presently Council has 17 identified off leash areas and locations within the Newcastle LGA. Of these identified areas, three are within a 6km radius of Novocastrian Park being West End Park Adamstown (2.5km), Acacia Avenue North Lambton (4.3km) and Michael Street Reserve Lambton (6km).

The draft Community Land Plan of Management (PoM) currently being developed will supersede the previous Sportslands Plan of Management. Novocastrian Park is currently included in the Sportslands Plan of Management. Novocastrian Park is currently not a designated off leash area because it's current use is as a sportsground.

Sportsgrounds have previously not been designated as off leash areas. Reasons for this include:

- Council staff received weekly complaints from cricket clubs during the 2014/15 season regarding dog faeces consistently being left on many sportsgrounds;
- Due to the volume of faeces continually being left at Tighes Hill Reserve, Council is no longer licensing this area as a sportsground and is intending for the new Community Land PoM to recategorise this area as park;
- Increased health risks to players, and the inability for Council to effectively enforce responsible dog ownership at numerous existing sites;
- Numerous children's sporting groups use of the sportsgrounds with associated health concerns; and
- Novocastrian Park is one of Council's most heavily used sportsgrounds in the LGA. It is currently used by sporting groups and schools seven days a week throughout the year. Its current categorisation of sportsground will remain in the new proposed Community Land PoM.

As stated in an Internal Memo addressed to all Councillors dated 5 May 2016, Novocastrian Park is not currently a designated off leash dog area. Although the current Neighbourhood Parks and Sportslands PoMs have listed the designated off leash areas' new PoMs being developed to supersede these PoMs will no longer include prescriptive items such as designated off leash areas. This is because PoMs are high level documents and provide little flexibility for prescriptive items subject to regular change and/or revision.

It is proposed that the new Community Land PoM will identify that the community land categories of park and general community use can broadly permit off leash areas (subject to site approval through a separate process), but not the sportsground category due to issues including those outlined in the previous paragraphs.

Any changes required to existing designated off leash areas should be completed through a separate process after the adoption of the Community Land PoM.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Considers the broader item of dog off-leash areas within community lands as part of the strategic Community Land Plan of Management currently being developed.
2. If further specific dog off-leash areas are then considered necessary, the specific process required for individual sites be undertaken after the adoption of the Community Land Plan of Management by Council.