



# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Mr Campbell Pfeiffer  
Director Transport & Assets  
PO Box 1336,  
Dee Why, NSW 2099

Dear Campbell,

We are writing this letter in an act of utmost support for the Newport Bowling Club to be given approval by Northern Beaches Council for the installation of a synthetic green to replace the existing grass green. We have been talking to Councillor Michael Gencher and he suggested directing this letter to you.

The current grass green (No 1) is being impacted by shade and root growth from a massive stand of Port Jackson fig lining the road boundary, to such an extent that now this green's grass cover has been decimated. A synthetic green is the only solution for this green to be effectively used for bowls play. The new green would be entirely funded by the Club.

The club's greens are on leased Council land and the conversion requires "owner's consent – minor works" from the local Council. Council staff dealing with the matter are advising the club needs to conform to the guidelines from the draft Synthetic Turf in Open Public Space Study and is delaying consent. They said they are risk adverse about approving synthetic turf projects until the Synthetic Turf Study guidelines are finalised. This may not be until the end of the year. While it is envisaged, the club can comfortably meet all guideline criteria it is submitted the assessment process should be in proportion to the identifiable risk involved.

It is further submitted the draft Study clearly focussed on sports fields and a 37m x 37m (about 1% of the area of a football field) bowling green was not its target. Lawn bowls was not mentioned in the draft Report nor were the peak bowling bodies of Bowls NSW or Bowls Australia listed as being consulted in the study process.

Interestingly two council owned tennis courts adjoin the club's greens to the east as part of the Newport Community Centre. These Community Centre courts have a bigger footprint by about 140% compared to the club's no1 bowling green.

The club submits that the absolute minimal risk posed by a synthetic bowling green is at the bottom of any risk assessment scale compared to open public space synthetic sports fields

We have attached a copy of a letter from Bowls NSW in support plus we have added a couple of photos of the very successful 2024 Anzac Day community event which is held annually. You will note in one of the photos the degraded surface of the bowling green (they

are no longer able to bowl on it). The No 1 green is immediately in front of the club and is the prime barefoot bowling & community event green.

The club will be at a huge disadvantage if it cannot proceed with the synthetic replacement as soon as possible and be able to host more tournaments, have a close and good surface for barefoot bowls. Community events will not be impacted by a new surface but enhanced. The club is going to fund the total replacement cost so there is no cost to council. The club is anxious to get approval as soon as possible which will allow for a commencement in August this year.

We would appreciate any assistance you could give for the club to get approval for the synthetic green installation.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Butler  
President

