

LCBCS Speech to Public Forum -LC Council Ordinary Meeting 19 May 2022
Sports and Recreation Facility ([DA64/2021](#))

Written by Shauna Forrest, presented by Catherine Briggs.

The Council has made a business case based on the need for netball, basketball and volleyball courts in the LGA, but the issue **is not what** is needed **but where** it will be built.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society recommends that in the interest of greater **TRANSPARENCY** that the entirety of the development impacts of the **Sports and Recreation Facility** on the natural environment be quantified in total and exhibited publicly, not into an Access road or Roundabout separated from the Sport & Rec. DA's as the development is surrounded on all sides by wildlife corridors, including for a variety of threatened species. Because they are not considered together, the overall degrading environmental and climatic impacts are obfuscated and must be exhibited with Reports covering the complete area.

We understand from **the Development Application** that **a total of 84 trees will be removed** from this DA site - a majority being indigenous to Lane Cove, at odds with the Control that it "not generally be permitted".

Not mentioned in this DA is that a possible 40+ more could be taken from Stevenson St. to facilitate a widened access road required for entry to the proposed Sport Facility, but approved in a separate DA for a Roundabout.

While the Landscape plan proposes 158 new trees, they take up to 20 years to be useful as wildlife habitat and up to 50yrs to form hollows for nesting.

Where will native wildlife go with the loss of so many mature trees?

With between 84 and possibly over 120 mostly mature trees lost just in this section, Council's commitment to its promise of Climate Emergency action is not upheld as the carbon sequestration services of mature trees are ignored.

We recommend :

- The great loss of mature native trees must be reversed

- that as there are THREE aspects inextricably interconnected that they be considered and exhibited together for their total, cumulative environmental impact:

- The Sports and Recreation DA, currently the Clubhouse building with social facilities
- The transport access into the Golf Club (the costs, location and impacts of a roundabout)
- The existing golf course, with its relationship to the S & R facility

- The Society wants alternative designs presented to the community that allow for a wider demographic and greater community uses facilitating, and better suited to the attractive location.

- The design itself has not satisfied criticisms that a major public meeting and entertainment space will be lost. It seems a waste of a particularly beautiful outlook and opportunity to have indoor courts at the site.
- Council engaged Colliers Strategic Advisory (Property) to investigate alternative sites and their conclusion was that Lane Cove West was not an optimal site for the proposed Sports and Recreation precinct, yet this remains to be clarified with the public. Council estimates the cost of the development at the Golf Course to be \$47million and the Lane Cove West site \$55 million but details have not been provided owing to the commercial nature of this matter.
- The Bushland Society is also concerned about the size of the proposed development and the impacts of the amount of traffic such facilities will require at a site that is precious open green space and bushland.