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9 March 2016

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP  
NSW Minister for Sport  
Level 19, 52 Martin Place  
**Sydney NSW 2000**  
Email: [office@ayres.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@ayres.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister Ayres

**RE: RESURFACE OF THE ATHLETICS TRACK TO IAAF STANDARD AT  
THE SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT AND RECREATION, NARRABEEN, NSW**

This submission to the NSW Government is to acquire in the very short term, support for the resurface of the synthetic track, jumps and throws surfaces to IAAF standard<sup>1</sup> at the Athletics Track & Field Centre, Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen, NSW ('Athletics Centre').

The submission has been jointly prepared by the Sydney Pacific Athletic Club Limited operating as The Sydney Pacific Athletic Club, and Manly Warringah Athletics Centre Incorporated operating as Manly Warringah Little Athletics. Both organisations are long standing and year round users of the Athletics Centre. Collectively, we directly represent 1,100 active track and field athlete members ranging in age from 5 to 74 years.

The importance of this vital facility should not be underestimated. The benefit of the Athletics Centre upgrade is to a much wider community of track users than just our direct membership.

We estimate that year round 5,000 track and field athletes of all abilities, young to elite, train and compete at the Athletics Centre, and over 35,000 children from 75 primary and secondary schools use the facility for School Athletics Carnivals. In addition, the Athletics Centre is an integral part of the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation's offering to sporting organisations.

Whilst the last full upgrade of the Narrabeen Track occurred in 2008, the deterioration of the track over the last few years and in particular, the last six months has been rapid.

Manly Warringah Little Athletics worked collaboratively with the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in 2013/14 to repair the surface, co-contributing 60% of the \$24,600 cost.

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<sup>1</sup> IAAF: International Association of Athletics Federations [www.iaaf.org](http://www.iaaf.org)

A recent review of costs for further remedial repairs at \$92,750 is not considered economic for the extended life of the asset.

Further, the degradation in some areas is so severe, it is quite possible that concerns with the ongoing safety of athletes may force closure of the track in the second half of 2016, a state not befitting of the 'Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation'.

The Athletics Centre has been home to Manly Warringah Little Athletics since 1971. It is the principal training location for the Sydney Pacific Athletic Club which was formed in 1987.

Other regular users of the Athletics Centre include a range of Track & Field Coaches and their training squads, Sydney Striders, Warringah Triathlon Club members, Northern Beaches Surf Life Saving clubs, northern Sydney primary and secondary schools and other clients of Sydney Academy of Sport. Athletics NSW and Little Athletics NSW are long standing users of the Athletics Centre.

Included with this submission is correspondence from the Chief Executive Officers of Athletics NSW and Little Athletics NSW.

Over the past 3 years the contribution by us has been significant:

- Sydney Pacific Athletic Club athletes and coaches have contributed in the order of \$150,000 in entry fees to the Narrabeen Track & Field Centre for training sessions.
- Manly Warringah Little Athletics, Little Athletics NSW and their associated families have contributed an estimated \$378,000 to the Athletics Centre and Sydney Academy of Sport, through the annual Facility Use Agreement with NSW Office of Sport, hires, camps, Athletic Track memberships and ad hoc Athletic Track entry fees. The Facility Use Agreement enables our Little Athletics season (September to March) to operate in a safe environment that encourages repeat use of the facility outside of organised competition.
- In addition, Manly Warringah Little Athletics volunteers have contributed an estimated \$612,600 in the value of their time in organising and operating Little Athletics.
- During the 2013/14 season Manly Warringah Little Athletics led a repair program for the Athletics Centre in collaboration with Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation at a total cost \$41,094.
- Manly Warringah Little Athletics co-contributed \$31,094 after receiving a \$10,000 Community Partnership Building Grant from the then NSW Department of Education and Communities. The repair program included track surface, line-marking, public address system and permanent shade structures at the Athletics Centre.
- Around 75 northern Sydney Primary and Secondary Schools use the Athletics Centre for annual School Athletics Carnivals and zone and regional finals.

It is the understanding of both the Sydney Pacific Athletic Club and Manly Warringah Little Athletics that:

- The NSW Office of Sport recognises that the Narrabeen Track is due for resurfacing, including new substrate;
- That a scope and scale of works review is currently underway for the Athletics Centre and associated facilities; and
- The cost for this work will be in excess of \$600,000, and as such, becomes a Major Capital Works Project that will be considered in NSW Government 2016/17 Budget preparation discussions between the NSW Office of Sport and NSW Treasury Officials.

This cost is substantial for not-for-profit community sporting bodies. Without NSW Government assistance, the scale of necessary works cannot be funded.

In developing its strategic direction for 2015-19 the NSW Office of Sport has identified strategic priorities<sup>2</sup> that include:

- Provision of high quality venues and facilities
- Increased participation in sport and active recreation activities
- High performance sporting success and well developed pathways.

There are **nine locations in Sydney** that have Track & Field Centres with synthetic tracks. Only one of these is located in northern Sydney: The Track & Field Centre at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, Narrabeen. The population of northern Sydney<sup>3</sup> is 1 million which represents over 20% of Sydney's total population.

The Sydney Pacific Athletic Club and Manly Warringah Little Athletics, together with the North East Metropolitan sports oriented population of Sydney welcome your urgent consideration of this submission.

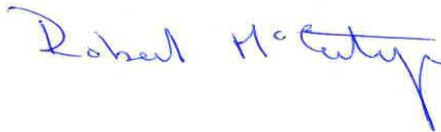
We will appreciate any guidance on the timeframe for this urgent upgrade to the Athletics Centre and its priority in the Program of Forward Works of the NSW Office of Sport's Total Asset Management Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/assets/pubs/annualreports/Office\\_of\\_Sport\\_Annual\\_report\\_2015.pdf](http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/assets/pubs/annualreports/Office_of_Sport_Annual_report_2015.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Local Government Areas of Pittwater, Warringah, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Ryde, Ku ring gai, Hornsby and The Hills; Office of Local Government NSW website <http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/local-government-directory>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert McEntyre".

Robert McEntyre  
President

For and on behalf of the  
Sydney Pacific Athletic Club Limited  
operating as Sydney Pacific Athletic Club

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicki Busse".

Vicki Busse  
President

For and on behalf of the  
Manly Warringah Athletics Centre Incorporated  
operating as Manly Warringah Little Athletics

**cc:**

The Hon. Mike Baird MP, NSW Premier and State Member for Manly  
The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, State Member for Pittwater  
The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, State Member for Wakehurst  
Mr Jonathan O'Dea MP, State Member for Davidson  
The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP, Federal Member for Mackellar  
The Hon. Tony Abbott MP, Federal Member for Warringah  
Clr Jacqueline Townsend, Mayor of Pittwater Council  
Clr Michael Regan, Mayor of Warringah Council  
Clr Jean Hay AM, Mayor of Manly Council  
Mr Matt Miller, Chief Executive, NSW Office of Sport  
Ms Rosemary Davis, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation, NSW Office of Sport  
Mr Philip Dean, Director, Asset Management and Procurement, NSW Office of Sport  
Mr Duncan Tweed, Chief Executive Officer, Athletics NSW (ANSW)  
Mrs Kerry O'Keefe, Chief Executive Officer, Little Athletics NSW (LANSW)