

Sport Taranaki Public Statement

Yarrow Stadium

9 April 2019



Sport Taranaki advocates on behalf of the sport and active recreation sector for an active and healthy Taranaki. As such Sport Taranaki supports investment in facilities that maximise participation in community sport and active recreation for all Taranaki residents.

The Yarrow Stadium proposals are focussed on the development of a facility for delivering commercial events. These events include spectator sporting events and therefore fall outside of our focus.

However Sport Taranaki is interested in the components of the preferred 'Reinstate' (Option 2) which includes some community sport upgrades (a multi-sport turf on Field 2 and a new administration and gym block for rugby). There is a need, however, for these upgrades to be considered alongside other community sport priorities identified in the Taranaki Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy.

Sport Taranaki is aware that sports such as basketball, volleyball, netball, football, cricket and hockey have pressing facility concerns in New Plymouth that are negatively impacting hundreds of participants each week. If ratepayer funding is to be utilised for sport facility development, Sport Taranaki strongly recommends that this is utilised for facility development that maximises participation in line with the Facility Strategy and as a consequence will grow healthy, vibrant communities.

Sport Taranaki has real concerns that investment in the Yarrow Stadium re-build will limit future opportunities for investment in other sports in the region.

Sport Taranaki is leading the implementation of the Taranaki Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy on behalf of the Steering Group. The Strategy provides regional oversight of facility development with an aim of creating a sustainable network of sport and active recreation facilities across the region to achieve maximum impact with limited resources. The Strategy Steering Group, includes members from the three District Councils, the TSB Community Trust, NZCT, TET, Sport NZ, and Sport Taranaki. The Steering Group is responsible for reviewing all sport facility development proposals and making recommendations to potential funders to ensure alignment to the Strategy.

*From Sport NZ: "The Taranaki region has worked hard to create a Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy, and Sport NZ believe that any future development of Yarrow Stadium should be aligned with the principles of this strategy. This approach will provide the best outcome, and help to achieve our joint goal of more New Zealanders having better places to play sport and participate in their chosen physical activity"*

Sport Taranaki has been facilitating a forum of sport and recreation codes in gathering information and developing a shared response to the consultation process. For more information please contact

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