

Natural Grass at Bob Campbell Inc (NG Inc)

Lane Cove Council cancels its environmental approval of synthetic turf at BCO

In response to a letter of demand threatening legal proceedings issued on 12 June by solicitors for NG Inc, Lane Cove Council has revoked its own environmental approval for its plans for Bob Campbell Oval, including the synthetic turf sports ground, and has undertaken not to rely further on this approval.

Since 2020, Council has been warned in very clear terms, in hundreds of detailed written submissions from its community, of the need to address the significant environmental impacts of the use of synthetic turf in an environmentally sensitive location.

Council's mandatory environmental approval of its plan for Bob Campbell Oval was released on 24 May. It was immediately apparent that the approval had failed to consider a number of significant environmental impacts, chief of which is the risk of pollution of the harbour and tidal mud flats.

On its website, Council states that its decision to revoke its approval was prompted by the fact that the approval contained a technical error as to management of contaminated land.

Whilst the contaminated land issue is important, it is just one of many serious environmental questions that were not addressed in the original approval and were clearly outlined to Council in the 5 page letter from the solicitors for NG Inc.

The complex issues that remain to be addressed by Council require detailed and careful consideration – something that should not be rushed.

The General Manager's letter states that in the coming weeks *"the Council will be making a fresh decision on whether or not to approve the carrying out of the redevelopment of Bob Campbell Oval"*.

NG Inc expects Council to acknowledge the environmental risks of synthetic turf

and cancel its plans for a synthetic ground.

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