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Subject: Online Submission

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RE: DA2020/1063 - 2 / 0 Bennett Street CURL CURL NSW 2096

To Whom It May Concern

As the President of the Manly Bombers Junior AFL Club I and our committee felt it important to reinforce the importance of this DA and the construction of the lights to the local junior sporting community.

Our club is one of several clubs and codes that use the facilities for which this DA is being submitted. At present we rely solely on Weldon Oval as the only ground of the three (Frank Gray and Mike Pawley Ovals being the other two) that has any facility to train during winter, our sporting season, as nightfall prohibits any use of other grounds for any training activities.

Our club currently has 700 members ranging from the age of 5 through to 16 years of age. In recent years our growth has predominantly come from the take up of footy from girls playing along with an increasing number of kicks in our under 8 Auskick program.

As it stands we have a very narrow window of time each week that spans around 9hrs on one ground (Weldon Oval) to run training for the participants. Beyond the logistical issues of trying to train 90 kids in hour time slots on one ground, we are facing a growing concern around the ability of one ground, Weldon, to withstand the rigors of so many kids training plus then the senior football club.

The lights project for the two grounds planned is critical to being able to spread the load, to make available time for the seemingly growing number of kids in our community who want to participate in sport. This applies not just to those wishing to play AFL but other codes as well who will no doubt benefit from the project.

We are very happy to work with council on making sure our use of the ground is done so in a way that is not intrusive for both neighbors and other codes and feel that this can easily be balanced against the need for some more field time that will facilitate the growing appetite of kids wanting to get out and play sport.

As the President of the club I am available at any time to discuss any questions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely
Andrew Varasdi