

The General Manager  
Ku-ring-gai Council  
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19 September 2019

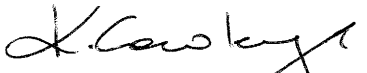
Dear Mr McKee

RE: Rofe Park Synthetic Turf Upgrade, Mimosa Road, Turramurra - SO 2617

We are writing to support the retention and upgrade of the natural grass surface and oppose Council's proposal to install a non-biodegradable synthetic grass surface on Mimosa Oval Turramurra for the reasons stated below:

1. The proposal is not ecologically sustainable or environmentally sound and is inconsistent with the management objectives of the area and therefore not in the public interest.
2. Synthetic turf is made of plastic and is an artificial surface which over time can be known to break down into smaller particles allowing run-off and plastic pollution to be emitted into the surrounding bushland. It is irresponsible for council to add more plastic and the waste it generates into the environment.
3. Recycled non-biodegradable tyre crumb rubber is used in the infill used as a base and which be topped up regularly to the base. There are concerns that over time that particles eroded from the base will leach lead and zinc through wind and rain into the environmentally sensitive bushland environment which borders the oval.
4. Synthetic turf being a plastic is a fire risk which should not be permitted in a fire buffer zone.
5. It is confusing that council would plan and permit a synthetic artificial surface to be laid knowing that council's bushland management plan rates Sheldon Forest 1<sup>st</sup> in importance out of all Ku-ring-gai's bushland areas and Rofe Park 6<sup>th</sup> when the surrounding bushland which border directly will be impacted by pollution and toxic run-off.
6. Synthetic surfaces are impacted by heat in the hot months of the year whereas natural grass surfaces absorb the heat and do not need regular replacement as do synthetic surfaces.
7. Rofe Park and Sheldon Forest are existing Biobanking/Biodiversity sites under council's management and stewardship and therefore must be protected and managed so as no harmful impacts occur to the bushland from non-biodegradable toxic materials which will detrimentally impact the integrity and proper management of the biobanking reserves.
8. The proposal will limit the variety of sports and activities that are currently played and enjoyed on the natural grass surface. The oval green space should remain available to all in the community not a single user group.

Yours faithfully

  
Kathy Cowley  
PRESIDENT  
cc Mayor and councillors