Future use of Western Springs Stadium

Written Feedback

Regional Organisations

June 2025

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Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#4891

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Baseball NZ

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I don't have a direct connection, but I am interested in how the space is used

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Auckland should build a multi-use stadium that can house much larger crowds

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#5335

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Padel New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.



PADEL NEW ZEALAND INTRODUCTION 2025

PADEL NEW ZEALAND

5335

We are the governing body for the sport of padel in New Zealand as recognised by the International Padel Federation (FIP).

INTERNATIONAL PADEL FEDERATION



Our role is to promote, support and educate to assist in the growth of padel in Aotearoa

Mission

To establish padel in New Zealand, enhance its visibility, and support its development through clubs, participants, coaches, and officials.

We strive to foster inclusivity by ensuring that padel is accessible to individuals of all ages, genders and skill levels – from recreational players to professionals.

Vision

Our vision is to create an ecosystem where the sport will grow by promoting both amateur and professional play.

Padel New Zealand seeks to become the central hub for connections and resources, enabling padel to thrive in Aotearoa.

Our areas of focus

Places

Support the development of clubs by education and facilitation to assist in the growth of new venues.

People

Inspire more people to participate in padel to retain and develop players, officials and volunteers.

Engage with clubs, sports organisations and the wider community.

Partners

Align with partners to accelerate growth and achieve common objectives.

Promotion

Raise the visibility of the sport to grow participation.

Governance

Govern all aspects of padel within NZ using best practices in compliance with NZ law and the International Padel Federation(FIP) by-laws and regulations.

In the future:

- **Tournaments**
- **Programmes** coaching, referee, junior and FIP Promises
- **Pathways to performance** elite players, national team

Team



Wictoria Markula

President

Wictoria, with a career in advertising and television as a Producer, manages the running of the federation.

In 2020, she learned about the rapid rise of padel in her home country of Sweden and decided to explore the possibility of introducing and expanding the sport in New Zealand.

She plays multiple sports and loves the impact sports have on people's wellbeing.



Philip Steven

Secretary

Philip is experienced in sports governance, including disability sport.

He is a former structural engineer and project manager.

In 2020, he co-founded Padel New Zealand, making him one of the founding members of the federation.

Philip is passionate about sports in the community.



Jonny Errington

Strategic Consultant

Jonny has 25 years international business and legal experience.
He has led key commercial and strategic partnerships with sporting bodies domestically and overseas.

A keen sports fan, Jonny is eager to support the growth of padel in NZ from the grassroots and to witness success internationally by Kiwi players.

Team



Greg Nicol

High performance & Coaching

Greg, a Head coach of the NZ Men's Hockey team and an ex-Olympian(x2), has been involved in high performance sport for most of his life.

He has a huge passion for sport and really value how sport can impact people and communities.

Greg believes strongly in the potential padel could have in New Zealand.



Nick Hogan

Referee development

Nick is an experienced sports administrator with over 10 years' experience working in a range of sports including Cricket, Rugby, Basketball and Gymnastics.

He is an international rugby referee having refereed at the Olympics 2024 for 7s and recently on the World Series.

Nick is excited to be involved in getting involved in padel in its set up stage here and finds it fascinating to be able to build a sport that has no traditional constraints or history in New Zealand.

Team

5335

PADEL NEW ZEALAND



Clint Austin

Tournament Management

Clint is eager to contribute to the growth and success of padel tournaments within New Zealand, an area he is deeply passionate about, having accumulated extensive experience over the years particularly in his role as Domestic Competitions Manager at New Zealand Rugby.

Clint is a recent padel convert and can't stop playing at his local club in Wellington.



Duard Ferreira

Communications & Promotion

Duard, a Marketing Communications professional with a broad range of experience and skills, is passionate about padel and is committed to helping grow the sport.

He also brings a strong background in sport, currently coaching the Wellington U17s cricket team and holding a New Zealand Cricket Level 2 coaching qualification.

His expertise in communications and stakeholder engagement, combined with his love for padel, positions him as a key advocate for expanding the reach and impact of this exciting sport.

Team



Riccardo Schena

Treasurer

Riccardo is Italian, but has lived in Portugal, Belgium and Spain before moving to Auckland in 2024.

His background is in Financial Consulting, with a particular focus on accounting and IT.

He has a track record of contributing actively to communities he is a part of, having served as treasurer for basketball clubs and roles in other not-for-profit organisations managing digital development projects and finances.

Riccardo has been a padel player since 2018 and is eager to contribute to the growth of padel in New Zealand.



Jim Martin

Community Development

Jim is an experienced marketing consultant with more than 15 years' experience.

He first played padel in 1989 in his home country of Argentina.

He came to New Zealand 2012 and currently runs a digital marketing agency.

Jim has built a network of over 100 padel players in Auckland, United Padel, playing regularly and plans to expand this network to other regions where padel is set up.

Jim is very excited to help grow padel in New Zealand by promoting it in communities and digital platforms.

Team

5335

PADEL NEW ZEALAND



Julie Derrough

Tournament and Events consultant

Julie, with an extensive background in large scale sports events such as the World Padel Tour, FIFA World Cup, Olympics and Paralympics of Paris 2024, consults for the federation remotely.

Julie has played padel since 2015 and has been ranked Top 30 in France.

She resides in Paris with her Kiwi boyfriend.

She is thrilled to be a part of the journey of padel in New Zealand.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#6277

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Sterling Nominees Ltd

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

Other (please specify):

Own commercial property in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

This option will benefit the wider community and the provide valuable economic activity to the businesses in the surrounding area as visitors to the stadium access nearby retail and hospitality. This option is preferred due to reduction in need for public funding.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#6843

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Basketball Auckland Incorporated

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I live in the area (Waitematā or Albert-Eden local board),I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs),I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Please see attached document submission from Basketball Auckland.

Submission to Auckland Council on the Future Use of Western Springs Stadium

From: Basketball Auckland Incorporated
Date: 30 May 2025
To: Auckland Council – AK Have Your Say
Re: Strong Support for Auckland Arena (Option 1) – Enabling Basketball Infrastructure Growth

Overview

Basketball Auckland strongly supports the Auckland Arena proposal (Option 1) for the redevelopment of Western Springs Stadium into a 12,500–15,000 capacity multi-purpose venue. We believe this initiative is critical to addressing the chronic shortage of indoor courts and high-performance basketball infrastructure in Auckland and will significantly enable the growth and development of basketball at all levels in the region.

The Need for Basketball Infrastructure

Auckland currently faces a **critical shortfall in indoor basketball courts**, which limits participation, disrupts competition schedules, and prevents the delivery of consistent training and development opportunities across junior, youth, and senior levels. Multiple independent studies, including council-commissioned reports and Sport New Zealand research, have confirmed that basketball is one of the fastest-growing sports in Auckland, yet court availability has not kept pace.

This lack of infrastructure affects not only grassroots participation but also talent development, coaching pathways, and community engagement. Schools, clubs, and social leagues all struggle to find venue access, resulting in capped team numbers and long waitlists. Investment in a high-quality venue with dedicated basketball courts would help reverse these limitations.

Support for Auckland Arena (Option 1)

We endorse Option 1 as outlined in the council's consultation document for the following reasons:

- **Dedicated Indoor Basketball Courts**: This proposal includes **state-of-the-art indoor courts** accessible for community, club, and elite-level use. This aligns with our long-term vision to provide safe, inclusive, and accessible playing spaces for all Aucklanders.
- **High-Performance and development Facilities**: The venue would offer training hubs and development infrastructure to support representative programs, coaching academies, and youth development pipelines. This could directly support the growth of regional and national-level talent.

- **Accessibility and Co-Location Benefits**: Co-locating courts alongside football, health, and commercial amenities will foster cross-sport collaboration, community vitality, and efficient year-round usage.
- **Sustainable and Scalable Solution**: With private investment and a long-term lease model, this option represents a sustainable solution that future-proofs Auckland's capacity to meet rising basketball demand.
- **Equity and Inclusion**: Providing more local court access, particularly in central and inner-west Auckland, ensures that sport is more inclusive and reduces barriers related to travel, cost, and accessibility.
- **Alignment with Basketball New Zealand:** The inclusion of high-performance and development facilities supports not only Basketball Auckland's pathway programs but also aligns with Basketball New Zealand's strategic goals for talent development and regional representation.
- **Economic Benefits** The venue could serve as a regional training hub and host national tournaments, bringing both sporting and economic benefits to Auckland.

Why Other Options Fall Short

- **Option 2 (Western Springs Bowl)**, while enhancing music and festival capability, does not deliver new indoor court facilities or address the acute demand for basketball infrastructure.
- **Option 3 (Do Nothing/Explore Ideas)** prolongs the status quo, which is not a viable strategy given current unmet demand. It risks missing a generational opportunity to invest in sport and youth wellbeing.

Conclusion

Basketball Auckland urges Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to advance Option 1 – Auckland Arena. This initiative will deliver transformational benefits for the city's basketball community and support wider goals of sport participation, community health, and facility resilience.

We are ready and willing to collaborate with other stakeholders and partners to ensure the success of this proposal and to maximize its impact for our tamariki, rangatahi, and wider basketball whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

Board Member (and interim chair)
Basketball Auckland

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#8303

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Strong Pilates

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Great option for supporting local businesses and the wider Auckland community in many ways

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#8892

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand Tag Football Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I live in the area (Waitematā or Albert-Eden local board),I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs),I work or volunteer at Western Springs Stadium or nearby,I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area,I don't have a direct connection, but I am interested in how the space is used

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 2: Western Springs Bowl

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

I support Ponsonby Rugby Club

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#8896

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Three Quarter Midget Assn Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

The history of the Auckland TQ Midget Association is a vibrant tapestry that mirrors the evolution of speedway itself. The roots of TQ racing were planted in 1950 when Johnny Missen built the very first TQ car—a pioneering achievement that led to the birth of this unique and challenging class. By 1951, the TQ class was officially established at Western Springs Speedway, with the first official meeting held on March 6, 1951. This meeting marked the start of an era that would soon capture the hearts of local racers and fans alike.

Over the years, the Association has grown into much more than an small club—it has become the nurturing ground for talent, a community where aspiring drivers cut their teeth in incredibly close, wheel-to-wheel racing. The TQ Midget class, known for its pocket-rocket agility and spirited

action, has served as a vital stepping stone for numerous local drivers who later advanced into more powerful classes like Midgets and Sprintcars. Many of these racers began their journeys here at Auckland, carrying forward the lessons, techniques, and the indomitable spirit of TQ racing into every subsequent challenge they encountered.

I wish to discuss the proposal put forward by the Western Springs Speedway Association regarding the future use of Western Springs. This proposal, which has been carefully developed with our community's best interests at heart, is by far the most long-term and viable option for the stadium. With the Association as the leaseholder, the proposal not only safeguards the future of this historic venue but more importantly does so in a way that minimizes cost to the ratepayers. In exploring sustainable and community-focused alternatives, this proposal clearly stands out as the best means of preserving a key component of our city's cultural and sporting heritage.

Let's consider a broader perspective. Across New Zealand, approximately 60% of registered speedway tracks operate on land leased from their respective councils. These partnerships underscore the value that local governments place on fostering community sports and the benefits they bring to social cohesion and local identity. Here in Auckland, our very own motorsport facilities—many of which operate on council-leased land and have even received support via the Auckland Council Sports and Recreation Facilities Grant—exemplify how such collaborations can thrive, creating a durable model that is both community-friendly and fiscally responsible.

Western Springs Speedway is far more than a venue for high-octane racing; it is a landmark deeply entrenched in our local history. With roots stretching back to the first motorcycle races on December 30, 1929, and the pioneering midget races in 1937, the track has seen international midget racers and world-renowned talents grace its dirt. It has been the proving ground for legends and the meeting point for families for nearly a century. Here, generations have gathered—families picnicked on the terraces as they cheered for their favourite drivers long before the invention of social media and live streaming, forging bonds and memories that define the spirit of our community.

The Auckland TQS club further exemplifies the vitality of speedway culture in our city. As one of the country's largest single-class clubs—with over 30 members and race cars valued at more than 1.5 million dollars stored in members' sheds—it not only fosters competitive excellence but also serves as a beacon for community engagement and youth development. Every member represents a future filled with ambition and resilience, inspired by the adrenaline of race day and the legacy of those who came before. When we speak about the future of Western Springs, we are talking about the future of these families, their dreams, and a community that thrives on the unique blend of heritage, passion, and progress.

The proposal before you today is more than a document of mere logistics or finance—it is a profound statement about our commitment to preserving the cultural integrity and historic significance of Western Springs Speedway. It is a pledge to continue a tradition that has woven together family, community, and sport in a way that benefits all of Auckland. By endorsing this proposal, you are choosing a path that reinforces our cultural identity while remaining sensitive to the fiscal responsibilities we share as ratepayers. It is a strategic measure that aligns with the practices across New Zealand, where similar leases have supported and sustained vibrant motorsport communities.

I understand that decisions regarding public land use demand careful scrutiny, and you must weigh many factors—from economic feasibility to community impact. However, supporting the Speedway Association's proposal is not merely about maintaining a racetrack. It is about endorsing a legacy that spans nearly a century; it is about investing in a venue that has been, and will continue to be, a gathering point for families, a symbol of local pride, and an engine powering both economic and cultural vitality. It is the embodiment of how public assets can serve the community while preserving our shared heritage.

When I stand before the track, preparing an engine for a race, I feel an indescribable connection—a tangible link to every driver who has taken that same path, to every family who has gathered on the hills, and to every child who dreams of one day hearing the roar of the crowd. This connection is not mere sentimentality; it is the lifeblood of our community. Western Springs Speedway is a place where talent is nurtured, where local economies are bolstered, and where the spirit of Auckland is celebrated in every lap and every cheer.

In closing, I urge you to recognize that the proposal from the Western Springs Speedway Association is the only long-term, cost-effective, and culturally enriching option available for the future use of Western Springs. By supporting this proposal, you are not only making a fiscally prudent decision on behalf of ratepayers, but you are also affirming your commitment to a legacy that has shaped our community for generations. You are choosing to invest in a future where history, heritage, and community come together—a future where the thrill of speed and the warmth of communal support continue to inspire and uplift every Aucklander.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your shared commitment to preserving the spirit of Western Springs Speedway. I stand ready—with my family, my mates in the pits, and every community member who cherishes this historic venue—to work with you in driving forward a future that honors our past and propels us confidently into tomorrow.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#10268

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): AUCKLAND VINTAGE SPEEDWAY CLUB (Patron)

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I work or volunteer at Western Springs Stadium or nearby

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Auckland Vintage Speedway was established at Western Springs Stadium in 1978, it was formed by former Competitors and supporters, who wished to remain involved in the sport after retiring from competition,and to demonstrate the older vehicles.

It is our preferred option to remain at Western Springs

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#10329

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Western Springs Speedway association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

Other (please specify):

Members everywhere

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

We would like speedway to remain at western Springs

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#11769

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): NZ Eid Day Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I live in the area (Waitematā or Albert-Eden local board),I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs),I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

We have been organizing NZ Eid Day for the Eid events twice a year for 13 yrs, and there are not many venues that can accommodate us.

We believe a stadium in Western springs will be of value to the Muslim community for Eid Day and other communities for festival events.

A covered stadium is valuable in Auckland with the weather changes.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#14205

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Western Springs AFC

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I live in the area (Waitematā or Albert-Eden local board),I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs),I work or volunteer at Western Springs Stadium or nearby

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

We need a proper arena facility this side of Auckland to be able to support the growth of sports.

Western springs AFC is bursting - no ability to take on new players as they only have 4 fields.

A new facility with more artificial turf would be able to grow the sport and get more people off the sofa and into sports.

An intimate 12,000-15,000 seater stadium would be amazing for Auckland FC and their growing fanbased

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#14984

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Copeland Associates Architects

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I live in the area (Waitematā or Albert-Eden local board),I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Option one will enable the Western Springs facility to be used to full advantage at the earliest opportunity, and at no cost to the ratepayer. It will provide the most exciting, vibrant use and attraction at this central urban location

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15031

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Aktive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

See attachment

AK Have your Say
Future use of Western Springs Stadium

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Future use of Western Springs Stadium.

About Aktive

Aktive is a charitable trust with the vision of making Auckland the world's most active city. Our purpose is to unite and inspire leaders and organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau to enhance the wellbeing of Aucklanders and create more connected communities through sport and physical activity.

Aktive's Strategic Plan has a key outcome to increase opportunities in sport and physical activity participation for tamariki and rangatahi.

Aktive has a strategic focus on Active Environments and advocates for fit-for-the-future facilities that make it easier for Aucklanders to be active are delivered, and public and natural environments for sport and physical activity are protected and strengthened.

Our feedback

We have reviewed the consultation document and comment as follows:

We support **Option One – Auckland Arena**

We support Option 1 as we believe it will generate the best outcomes for community sport and active recreation.

The National Indoor National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy (2023) identified a shortfall of 73 indoor courts which will increase to shortfall of 117 by 2038 if not further facilities are developed or accessed. We know that this shortfall is impacting on the ability of many fast-growing indoor codes, including Basketball, to meet demand.

An analysis Aktive has undertaken indicates a current shortfall of six indoor courts, which will increase to a shortfall of 13 courts by 2028, in the Waitematā and Albert-Eden Local Board areas which will be served by this proposed facility.

We submit that rather than being dedicated basketball courts the proposed facility should include multi-marked courts that enable a wider range of indoor codes to be played.

Another important aspect of Option 1 is the significant level of private investment which ensures the current level of Council's funding for community-led facility development is not impacted.

We believe that the 50-year lease period is appropriate given the substantial level of private investment involved.

We also ask that if Option 1 is preferred by the Governing Body the sustainable future of the Ponsonby Rugby Club is assured and that the Club is supported to find a solution that works for the Club, its members and the wider community.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Active Environments Manager
[redacted]

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15038

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Blues Rugby

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

To whom It may Concern:

My name is Don Mackinnon, I am the Chair of Blues Rugby, the Super Rugby Pacific franchise based in Auckland, and make the following short submission on behalf of our club.

Blues Rugby wholeheartedly supports any initiative that would lead to the creation of a fan friendly, fit for purpose rectangular stadium in Auckland, suitable for crowd sizes of circa 15,000, which could potentially be used for matches for several of the Auckland based sports clubs/franchises.

One of the great frustrations of the recent stadia debate in our city is that the needs of the main users/hirers of those stadia often seem to be entirely overlooked. That is somewhat ironic given the success of any stadium is intrinsically dependent on whether it will attract high utilisation. That will only occur if Clubs such as ourselves support the concept.

In the case of our club, we host anything from 7 to 10 home fixtures a year. Those fixtures can attract anything from 6,000 to 42,000 people depending on a wide range of factors including team form, weather, the quality of the opposition and which competing fixtures/events are taking place in the city that particular weekend. We also host home matches for our professional Women's team.

Eden Park remains an outstanding venue for top tier matches/finals with large crowds – but, despite the best endeavours of many people, it is simply not suitable for matches which attract a far smaller crowd. As a Club, we believe out city desperately needs a smaller stadium working alongside Eden Park and, if placed in the right location and with modern amenities and services, we have no doubt such a facility could service multiple users throughout a calendar year, including a number of home games for the Blues.

To the best of our knowledge, Western Springs stadium is the only potential option in this regard – with other options requiring substantial Council investment.

As such, the Blues do support the potential re-development of Western Springs and would seriously consider using it for some of our matches throughout the season.

We would add as an important footnote however, that Ponsonby Rugby Club is a hugely valued and much loved part of the rugby community in our region (and something of an icon in Auckland and New Zealand) and looks after a massive junior section and has a passionate volunteer base – and we would expect that if the redevelopment of Western Springs was approved, any such move would be accompanied by a strong level of support for Ponsonby RC including the certainty of a future home suitable in all material respects for their requirements. This aspect is very important.

I would be happy to provide any further information if required.

Kind regards,

Don Mackinnon

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15066

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Joint Management Ltd

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I attend events at the stadium or its sports fields,I participate in nearby activities (e.g. community sports, performances, MOTAT, Zoo, Western Springs)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 2: Western Springs Bowl

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Western Springs is an amazing concert venue and we have a great lack of musical venues for such a large city. It will help make Auckland a more vibrant international city.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15107

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Rugby Union

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 2: Western Springs Bowl

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

To Auckland Council,

This submission is made on behalf of the Auckland Rugby Union.

- Auckland Rugby Union is New Zealand's largest Regional Sports Organisation.
- Auckland Rugby has over 22,000 registered participants and facilitates over 10,000 rugby games every year.
- Ponsonby Rugby Club is a member of Auckland Rugby Union.

o As the oldest club in Auckland, established in 1874, the Ponsonby Rugby Club celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2024.

o Ponsonby is also the largest club within Auckland with over 1,000 registered participants, including more than 400 senior participants and over 600 junior participants.

- The Auckland Rugby Union boundaries are geographically constrained, bordered by Counties Manukau and North Harbour provincial unions. Within our boundaries, rapid population growth continues to put pressure on existing green spaces.

o As a result, there are no greenfield sites available to develop new sports fields. Therefore, it is imperative to preserve sports fields and, in our circumstance, playing fields for rugby and for the Ponsonby Rugby Club and their participants.

Auckland Rugby Union's position is that the people of Auckland, will benefit (both economically and socially) from having a family-friendly smaller-scale, boutique stadium which is fit for purpose to host sports fixtures on a rectangular field.

Auckland Rugby supports the benefits of Proposal 2 – Western Springs Bowl.

- It retains Western Springs as the home of the Ponsonby Rugby Club and importantly retains the club's access to playing fields within Western Springs.

o Ponsonby's requirement for playing field access is approximately 220 hours per week during the rugby season (April to August); this excludes their requirements for field access for pre-season (Jan–Mar) and the Rugby Sevens season (Sept–Nov).

Junior Trainings = approximately 113 hours per week

Junior Games = approximately 42 hours per week

Senior Trainings = 51 hours per week

Senior Games = 16 hours per week

o Based on weekly field use benchmarks for sand-carpeted fields being 30 hours per week, this equates to Ponsonby needing access to at least 7 playing fields per week through April to August.

- It also enables a family-friendly boutique stadium which is fit for purpose to host sports fixtures on rectangular field.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15108

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Eden Park Trust

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

-

Gate G Reimers Avenue, Kingsland, Auckland 1024, New Zealand
Private Bag 56906, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446, New Zealand
P: +64 9 815 5551 F: +64 9 815 0138

14 June 2025

Western Springs Stadium
Auckland Council
via email: westernspringsstadium@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Subject: Eden Park Submission on the Future Use of Western Springs Stadium

Tēnā koutou,

We trust this correspondence finds you well.

As New Zealand's national stadium and the Main Stadium for Auckland, Eden Park has a strong interest in the strategic planning and optimisation of the region's venues. Our submission regarding the Future Use of Western Springs Stadium is made in the spirit of collaboration, with the aim of supporting a sustainable, integrated, and complementary stadium and high-performance venue network that best serves Aucklanders, ratepayers, and the broader events sector.

1. Strategic Network-Based Stadium Strategy

Eden Park strongly encourages Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) to adopt a network-based strategy when considering the future of Western Springs Stadium.

Auckland's major venues represent significant public investment. To ensure the long-term viability of this network, it is critical that future decisions are guided by a venue-of-best-fit strategy that avoids duplication, supports efficient use of public assets, and delivers value to ratepayers.

This approach should include:

- Coordinated planning to avoid calendar clashes and optimise event scheduling.
- Understanding of each venue's capabilities and limitations.
- Promotion of venues in a collaborative, rather than competitive, manner.
- Long-term asset management aligned with strategic investment.

2. Collaboration and Co-Promotion

Eden Park is committed to working proactively with Auckland Council, TAU, and other venue operators to develop a cohesive calendar of events and jointly promote the city's infrastructure. Rather than dispersing event opportunities across an excess of facilities, we believe Auckland can benefit from:

- Specialisation among venues, where each serves a unique role within the wider network (e.g. high performance/training, major event delivery etc.)
- Cross-venue collaboration, including shared marketing and planning resources.
- A collective focus on delivering an exceptional experience for event promoters, artists, sports codes, and attendees.

3. Integrated Sports Hubs and City-Shaping

Eden Park supports the concept of integrated sports hubs that consolidate training, high-performance,

administrative, and match facilities in strategic locations; this model aligns with the city's aspirations. We believe this model, whereby the city has designated hubs for sports such as football, rugby, cricket, netball, hockey, tennis and league, should guide future decisions about the use of public venues, including Western Springs.

For example, opportunities exist to co-locate community sport, elite development, and commercial uses on shared sites, creating greater efficiencies and unlocking broader social, health, and economic benefits.

4. Consideration for Ponsonby Rugby

We acknowledge the historical and community connection that Ponsonby Rugby Club has with Western Springs. Any proposed changes to the use of the stadium must ensure that Ponsonby Rugby is adequately considered and has access to comparable facilities that meet their current and future needs.

5. Role of Eden Park and Council Endorsement

We also note the recent endorsement by Council of Eden Park as Auckland's Main Stadium. This direction supports Eden Park's future development as a multi-purpose, hybrid stadium capable of hosting a broad range of events, from sport to global entertainment acts. This endorsement should be a key consideration when evaluating the merits of any proposals to the broader stadium network.

Should Council make investment available from ratepayer funding for a Western Springs project, either for sports or concerts, it would be our position that this funding should be contestable and assessed against any potential deliverables of Eden Park. We acknowledge the value of securing private funding, as this would reduce the requirement for Council investment and enable a greater focus on optimising existing assets.

In regard to both proposals, further work is required to align them with a network-wide venue strategy—one that considers high-performance and training facilities alongside existing event venues. It is also important to ensure robust financial and/or operational modelling, and engage with affected stakeholders, such as neighbouring communities, sports clubs and local iwi (noting that this engagement is currently underway).

6. Conclusion

Eden Park supports the repurposing of Western Springs Stadium in a way that complements Auckland's broader venue strategy, considers existing community uses, and ensures ratepayer investment is maximised. We see value in being part of this process and contributing our experience and expertise toward an integrated vision for Auckland's event infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. We look forward to continuing to work positively with Auckland Council, TAU, and other stakeholders to deliver a resilient and world-class event network for our region.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

Chair
The Eden Park Trust Board

[redacted]

Chief Executive Officer
The Eden Park Trust

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15109

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Greater Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 2: Western Springs Bowl

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

About Greater Auckland:

Greater Auckland was established in 2015 to provide evidence-based commentary and encourage informed debate on transport and urban form issues. The Greater Auckland website began in 2008 as the "Auckland Transport Blog", later simply "TransportBlog".

We provide commentary and encourage informed and intelligent debate about transport and urban form issues, in order to create a Greater Auckland. Our vision for Auckland is founded upon three pillars: making our city a better place for people to ***live****, to* ***move around****, and to* ***connect*** *with others.*

Submission on the Future Use of Western Springs Stadium

Via the third pillar of our vision ('Connect'), Greater Auckland supports developing, enhancing, and using our public space as attractive places where people of any age or stage can gather, linger, chat, play, and enjoy life. We champion an Auckland that is safe, accessible, and welcoming for all.

Accordingly, for the future use of Western Springs Stadium **we strongly support Option 2, the 'Western Springs Bowl'.** This option will create a more attractive place for Aucklanders, by enabling more musical and cultural events while also enhancing community access and connection by supporting the Ponsonby Rugby Club. It would also retain and ensure public access to the space when not in use for events or sports.

For the same reasons, **we oppose Option 1, the 'Auckland Arena',** as it would result in the privatisation of the space for the foreseeable future, reducing community access and diminishing the general attractiveness of Western Springs as a public place. Additionally, it is not well thought-through in terms of access, and as proposed will jam the area with traffic. This would have significant negative impacts for the surrounding network.

Advantages of Option 2

Greater Auckland believes everyone should be able to truly take advantage of the creative energy that springs from the diverse and fantastic people a great city attracts. This happens when we bring people together, which Option 2 would demonstrably achieve.

A permanent stage at a centrally located venue, able to host acts of varying scales, will be an absolutely breakthrough asset for the city, enabling Aucklanders and the Auckland hospitality economy to enjoy acts we are currently missing out on. It will meaningfully reduce

operating costs for visiting acts (it can cost $500,000 to put up and take down a temporary stage here or at Eden Park or the Domain) and make it much more likely that all sorts of international acts visiting this side of the world will add Auckland to their itinerary.

We note the natural bowl venue is already largely fit for these uses, and is not nearly as constrained by noise restrictions as Eden Park. The central location in Western Springs is also ideal, with one caveat: enhancing public transport access will underpin the success of this venue. It is on three frequent bus routes, which do not currently have the capacity to handle the biggest events. However, we note there are plans for a Northwestern Busway station within easy walking distance of the venue – and when built, this will provide suitable high-capacity access via public transport, giving people congestion-free travel options.

Likewise, we note convenient access via micromobility. The stadium is within easy reach of the Northwestern Path (accessed via the St Lukes Road overbridge) which connects to the citywide cycle network. Likewise, the currently under-construction route along Great North Road ridge towards the city will make it attractive, safe and convenient for people to easily bike or scoot from central city accommodations, especially once Auckland Transport bridges the existing safety gap along Great North Road between the Bullock Track and Crummer Road. Sufficient parking for bikes and scooters at the venue will be vital.

On a social level, we strongly support the vision of Option 2 to pair major summertime cultural events with the ongoing wintertime use of the same area for rectangular field sports. This is both efficient and fitting: Western Springs Stadium is the longtime home of the massive (1000 members) and historic Ponsonby Rugby Club. There is no other viable central location for a club of this size and all of its myriad of social uses and benefits.

And on a community basis, we strongly support Option 2 for the way it enables free and unconstrained public access to the park between events. This provides valuable public access to greenspace and recreational space, and retaining this is a core council responsibility, especially as the city grows and intensifies. (Locking off public land for private profit is antithetical to this, which is one of many reasons we oppose Option 1.)

In conclusion, we strongly back Option 2 as the most community-minded, sustainable and creative approach to this key civic asset – keeping it in public hands while maximising the growing transport network, to ensure the healthiest balance of access for people, players, audiences, local and international acts and activities and sports teams, for the future.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15110

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Disabled Persons Assembly NZ Inc

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

I do not have a preference

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

June 2025

Ki te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland City Council

Please find attached DPA's submission on the Western Springs Stadium.

Noho ora mai,

For any further inquiries, please contact:

[redacted]
Policy Advisor – Auckland/Northland
Disabled Persons Assembly Aotearoa New Zealand
[redacted]

Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly

We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People's Organisation run by and for disabled people.

We recognise:

- Māori as Tangata Whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- disabled people as experts on their own lives;
- the Social Model of Disability as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the basis for disabled people's relationship with the State;
- the Aotearoa New Zealand Disability Strategy as Government agencies' guide on disability issues; and
- the Enabling Good Lives Principles, Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan, and Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

We drive systemic change through:

Rangatiratanga | Leadership: reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.

Pārongo me te tohutohu | Information and advice: informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.

Kōkiri | Advocacy: supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.

Aroturuki | Monitoring: monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD),[1] a foundational document for disabled people which Aotearoa New Zealand has signed and ratified, confirming that disabled people must have the same human rights as everyone else.

All state bodies in Aotearoa New Zealand, including local and regional government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of this convention. There are a number of UNCRPD articles particularly relevant to this submission, including:

- Article 5: Non-discrimination
- Article 7: Children with disabilities
- Article 9: Accessibility
- Article 13: Access to justice
- Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community
- Article 20: Personal mobility
- Article 29: Participation in political and public life.

[1] United Nations. (2006). *United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.* Retrieved from: https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf

Aotearoa New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016–2026

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the Aotearoa New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy[2] to guide the work of government agencies on disability issues.

The vision is that Aotearoa New Zealand be a non-disabling society, where disabled people have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and that all of Aotearoa New Zealand works together to make this happen.

The Strategy identifies eight outcome areas contributing to achieving this vision. There are a number of Strategy outcomes particularly relevant to this submission, including:

- Outcome 5 – Accessibility
- Outcome 6 – Attitudes
- Outcome 7 – Choice and Control
- Outcome 8 – Leadership

[2] Office for Disability Issues. (2016). *Aotearoa New Zealand Disability Strategy.* Retrieved from: https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/

The submission

DPA welcomes the opportunity to give feedback on the Auckland Council Western Springs Stadium.

Disability demographics

According to Statistics New Zealand's 2023 Disability Survey, Auckland had a disability population rate of 14 percent (n=242,000)[3] residing within the city's boundaries.[4]

This number is likely to increase further as the population ages as there is a strong correlation between ageing and disability.

In 2023, 219,750 people in Auckland were aged 65 or older, which is 13.3% of the total Auckland population.[5]

By 2030, it's projected that around 1 in 5 people in Aotearoa New Zealand will be aged 65 or older, with the number of people in this age group expected to increase significantly, reaching 1.2 million by 2034.[6]

The increasing number of disabled and older people is one reason why Auckland Council needs to plan and invest in the development of fully accessible, inclusive communities.

Accessibility for all

DPA highlights an approach of an 'accessible journey' which is a theoretical path of travel between the three primary components of the built environment (buildings, transport systems and public spaces).

[3] https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/news/news/17-percent-of-new-zealanders-are-disabled
[4] https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/auckland-population-may-hit-2-million-in-early-2030s/
[5] https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/auckland/census/drill-down/broad-age-group/65-years-and-older
[6] https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/national-population-projections-2020base2073/

Critical points in the “Accessible Journey” occur at transitions between these components, and if accessible features are not present at the transitions, then the accessible journey is broken for a user.

These critical points include but not limited to:

- Footpaths
- Kerb ramps
- Accessible public transport
- Parking
- Driveways
- Accessways
- Landscaping
- Passages between complexes:

Auckland Council has the benefit of access to the Disability Advisory Panel, the Auckland Design Manual and Barrier Free advisors but the examples above highlight that an overall approach needs to be considered for Western Springs Stadium to be accessible for all.

Recommendation 1: That Council collaborate with Barrier Free Advisors on the design for Western Springs Stadium.
Recommendation 2: That Council ensures that architects, landscape designers, engineering consultants, project management companies, placemaking agencies and infrastructure companies are all reminded of Council’s commitment to Universal Design.

New Builds

DPA advocates for Universal Design in all aspects of new builds including the Western Springs Stadium. It is unclear to us as to whether accessibility or Universal Design has been considered.

We have submitted on several new playground development sto be made more accessible and inclusive, especially for disabled children. Below are recommendations if the option chosen includes a playground:

Recommendation 3: That the following design features be included:

- That the playground has more inclusive play equipment installed with a mixture of nature-inspired play elements and themed structures, thereby giving every child the opportunity to participate in play.
- That seating be placed around the playground of varying heights (either higher or lower) and should include armrests so that people with mobility impairments, children and older people can easily get in or out of the seats.
- That accessible tables with seating to enable wheelchair or mobility device users to sit alongside people on benches be incorporated into the designs.
- That any pathways or walkways from the street to the playground should provide for universal accessibility, and this includes for people using wheelchairs, mobility aids, children's pushchairs, as well as blind and low vision people.
- That pathways have clear pedestrian access as bollards, seating, waste/recycling bins, bollards and artwork can create barriers for wheelchair and mobility aid users and blind/low vision people to navigate around.
- That Council provide sufficient mobility parking spaces in adjacent carparks and streets.
- That fully accessible public toilets be established on the park so that both children and adults can use such facilities when at the playground.
- That a wheelchair user friendly drinking water fountain be placed on the playground, and preferably at a medium height where both wheelchair and mobility aid using adults and children can access it.
- That a shade tarpaulin be installed so that more shaded play areas are available during the summer months.

Recommendation 4: That Universal Design is to be factored in the plan and design of any new build.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15116

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Independent Music Venues Aotearoa

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

Other (please specify):

Independent Music Venues Aotearoa (IMVA) is a national membership organisation representing grassroots music venues.

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 2: Western Springs Bowl

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

PO Box 90958
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142, New Zealand

June 15, 2025

Submission on behalf of Independent Music Venues Aotearoa

Introduction

Independent Music Venues Aotearoa (IMVA) is a national membership organisation representing grassroots music venues.

An incorporated society founded on values of collectivism and collaboration, IMVA works to enable independent venues - the spaces that host live music multiple nights a week - to continue operating and to be economically viable and sustainable.

Advocating for both its members and the sustainability of the wider live music sector, IMVA works towards a stronger and resilient future for Aotearoa's artists and audiences. With 20% of our members located in Tāmaki Makaurau, and the vitality of Tāmaki's music scene having nationwide impacts, we have a strong interest in the future of Western Springs.

Background

Despite its classification as a UNESCO City of Music, music and culture have often been afterthoughts in strategic planning for Tāmaki Makaurau. This consultation process, examining options for the development of Western Springs, is a rare opportunity for Auckland Council to make a long-term commitment to the city's music future.

The city needs more places for music, not fewer. And its communities deserve continued access to a site that ought not be locked up for private interests.

Grassroots venues are R&D labs for the music industry, and frequently feel the impact of high ticket prices set by international artists and multinational promoters. But we recognise that the local artists that build audiences at IMVA venues need stages to graduate to, and international support slots to further develop their fanbases.

Discussion

Of the options presented for consultation, and with some caveats, IMVA's preference is for *Option 2 - Western Springs Bowl*.

Developing Tāmaki Makaurau's valuable asset in this way would allow for many and varied community benefits. These have been well articulated by others, but to reiterate:

- Western Springs Bowl would be an extraordinary urban asset and cultural landmark.
- This world-class venue aligns with the city's recognition as a UNESCO City of Music - and commits to these values.
- The Western Springs Bowl proposal is respectful of Western Springs' history, the varied communities that use it, and looks to the future.
- Western Springs Bowl would provide positive financial impacts and audience development opportunities for the live music sector

But these benefits do not end with the modest proposed improvements to the site itself.

IMVA feels the development of the Western Springs Bowl and the Auckland Council support that will be required should be paired with mandatory policies that maximise the health of music in Tāmaki Makaurau (and Aotearoa):

- A commitment to the Spotlight Aotearoa campaign by Music Managers Forum Aotearoa for mandatory inclusion of New Zealand artists as opening acts for international tours (inspired by Australia's 'Michael's Rule,' a voluntary code proposed by the Association of Artist Managers (AAM))
- A commitment to address growing inequities and monopolistic business practices in the music industry by:
  (1) Preventing the signing of exclusive ticketing arrangements at Western Springs Bowl;
  (2) Allowing local promoters and artists the same access to concert dates and venue hire costs as dominant international market players

Without the support of the above policy framework, there is a real risk - now or at some point in the future - of the Western Springs Bowl becoming a net negative for the local live music industry. This is a given if Council were to proceed with Option 1, as there is no adequate alternative site to host large international musical events and festivals at this scale.

We're excited by the potential of *Option 2 - Western Springs Bowl*, and support this course of action. If *Option 2 - Western Springs Bowl* does not proceed, IMVA's secondary preference is *Option 3 – Neither option: Keep things as they are, or explore other ideas.*

The last thing Tāmaki Makaurau needs is another sporting stadium not fit for purpose after the city has only just recently gone through a costly and time-consuming stadium review by Council.

Considering that experience, the provision of rectangular sports stadia to cater to Auckland's needs are best considered strategically across the city, rather than on an ad hoc basis as is proposed by *Option 1: Auckland Arena*.



Chair
Independent Music Venues Aotearoa

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15117

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Bay City Basketball Club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

I am part of a cultural or community group with an interest in the area

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

I have been running the local regional club of basketball that is directly affected by this issue.

Our club covers encompasses all the local primary and intermediate schools directly within a 5-10km radius of Western Springs. This directly impacts our club and our members.

Our schools we service are:

Freeman’s Bay School

Richmond Rd School

Ponsonby Intermediate School

Ponsonby Primary School

Bayfield Primary School

Newton Central School

Mt Eden Primary School

Mt Albert Primary School

St Joseph's Grey Lynn School

Marist Catholic School (Herne Bay)

Westmere Primary School

Pt Chevalier Primary School

St Francis Catholic School (Pt Chevalier)

If you look at the geographical map you will see and know that our club and our community and it's members are directly impacted as we are the direct schools of Western Springs.

We have not had any chance to have our say, yet there are talks of basketball in both proposals. Yet not one person has asked us at all how we feel about this.

We have a rugby club saying they want to do basketball and a soccer club wanting to put in basketball courts.

We are the basketballs sporting hub for this region. Not Ponsonby Rugby and not Auckland Football Club.

This has directly impacted us and in many ways affected our community and our organisation as they are talking about our sport that they both have nothing to do with.

We service over 1000 children each year and our children have 2 parents so that's 3,000 persons we service each annual year. Our membership is larger than Ponsonby Rugby Club.

Our services is a full year all round sport that has more impact in delivery then either Ponsonby Rugby Club or AFC.

We operate all 12 months of the year.

Therefore, I think it imperative that our club has a chance to state our position in person and have a special case to be involved directly with any basketball decisions at every stage.

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15121

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Northern Region Football

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

Other (please specify):

Northern Region Football is the organisation responsible for the governance and leadership of football and futsal across Auckland and Northland

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 1: Auckland Arena

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

NRF support Option 1 -Auckland Arena for the following reasons:

• Capturing unprecedented and sustained growth in football participation

• Support of Council and Aktivestrategic goals to support more Aucklanders

• Maximising existing infrastructure is critical for Auckland's future

• Addressing limited indoor space for Futsal and basketball.

See attachment for more detail.

Western Springs Stadium

NRF Support Option 1 – Auckland Arena

June 2025

Northern Region Football

Executive Summary

Northern Region Football is the organisation responsible for the governance and leadership of football and futsal across Auckland and Northland. There are over 40,000 registered club members in our region and many more involved in alternative formats through summer. Over 37,000 of those are rate paying Aucklanders.

NRF support Option 1 - Auckland Arena for the following reasons:

- Capturing unprecedented and sustained growth in football participation
- Support of Council and Aktive strategic goals to support more Aucklanders
- Maximising existing infrastructure is critical for Auckland's future
- Addressing limited indoor space for Futsal and basketball

Northern Region Football

Unprecedented growth in football demand

Football is growing and our support of Option 1 reflects a broader community demand for access to inclusive, year-round football opportunities - whether that be playing or supporting. Importantly, football is growing rapidly and in demographics that other sports struggle, such as youth and girls and women

 # 15121



73 clubs

53 in Tāmaki Makaurau



41,000 members

37,000 in Tāmaki Makaurau



Twelve 1,000+ member clubs

Largest is circa 3500 members



36% of all NZF registered members

1 in every 3



4% per annum growth rate

Since 2019, higher than national growth



↑ 21% of youth members

Since 2019



↑ 46% in girls and women's participation

Since 2019

Northern Region Football

Supports Council and Aktive strategic goals

- Football contributes directly to Council and Aktive strategic outcomes:
  - Increased physical activity
  - Equity of access
  - Community cohesion
  - Activation of low participant groups including tamariki, rangatahi, and women/girls.

- Option 1 provides fit for purpose sport facilities enhance community access to Western Springs and support the broader vision of Auckland as the "World's Most Active City".

Northern Region Football

Maximises existing infrastructure

- Doing nothing to the space does not make the best use of existing infrastructure and ignores the demand of rate payers in Auckland.
- We believe Option 1 provides the best option for maximising the space for the benefit of Aucklanders.

Limited indoor space

- There is an identified lack of accessible, indoor sports venues across Auckland. Futsal, an alternative football format played primarily indoors, is remarkably popular with youth, however the ability to grow Futsal is limited due to lack of available indoor space. Particularly centrally located indoor space.

Purpose | "Thriving Clubs, Quality Competitions, Access for All"

NRF Strategy 2022-2026

	Thriving Club Communities	Quality Competitions	Equity of Access
Outcomes			
Measures 2026	Development of **4 Facility Plans** across the Northland & Auckland Region	**80%** Club Satisfaction with **Competition Delivery**	Football Clubs represent the diversity of their communities
	100% of clubs are **Healthy & Sustainable**	**300 Active Referees** per Season	**40% Girls & Women Coaching** Youth & Senior Teams
	80% Satisfaction with **Participation Experience**	**TBC** Growth in targeted Youth/ Rangatahi Participation	**10,000 girls and women** registered to play football
Key Activities	• **Creation of long-term facilities plans across Northland & Auckland** • **Deliver on the Health of the Club Network** • **Support implementation of the National Registration system change and ensure all clubs compliant with Incorporated societies change.**	• **Collaborate with clubs to continuously improve competition delivery** • **Focused referee recruitment and development plan** • **Roll our changes to the Whole of Football Plan**	• **Evidence based/data driven development of South Auckland Cluster Plan** • **Implement Gender Equity Action Plan 2024-2026**
How	**Effective and meaningful collaboration with clubs and their communities** **Partnering with New Zealand Football and other partners to achieve the shared outcomes in the Football NZ Strategy** **A commitment to upholding the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation**		

Note - NRF's strategy was refreshed mid-2024 to reflect progress and re-confirm measures

Northern Region Football

[redacted]

Thank You

For further comment or clarification please reach out to:

[redacted]

Head of Clubs and Community Engagement

[redacted]

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15122

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Speedway Supporters Club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Notes from ROIG Event:

- Representing speedway fans
- Advised they have 800 members
- No issue with the number of race nights but wants better allocation.
- Feels they could make speedway work economically at WSS with lower ticket prices and enabling more economic activity to encourage greater attendance.
- Highlighted that WSS is internationally renowned as a speedway track
- Unclear preference (but opposes relocation)

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15123

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Midget racing drivers club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Notes from ROIG event

o Feels that speedway is a safe sport and noting they don't need Police at their events

o Due to the high profile of WSS in the speedway community, the decision will have a national impact on the sport.

o Highlighted the impact on the local economy from building and running cars (estimated $1m spent per team running multiple cars)

o Raised concerns that speedway leaving WSS makes it less commercial which would lead to a loss of sponsorship.

o Noted that crowds aren't just speedway fans, but also casual/general fans which would be lost at Waikaraka Park.

- Unclear preference (but opposes relocation)

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15124

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): F2 Midget Racing Driver Club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Option 3B: Neither Option 1 or Option 2 - explore other ideas

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Notes from ROIG Event:

o Representing drivers and car owners

o Felt the short-term nature of the venue hire agreements in the past made it hard to plan long-term for the sport

o Said that 12 race meetings at WSS is sufficient, and that more races overall at Waikaraka Park would not fairly accommodate the classes of speedway from WSS

o Safety concerns with the new venue's design – stated open wheel and stock/saloon need different types of safety barriers

- Noted that dirt tracks are all slightly different each time you race due to the clay tracks (compared with tarmac tracks)
- Supports Option 3b (keep racing at Western Springs).

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15125

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): KiwiKidz Quarter Midget Club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Notes from ROIG Event:

- Currently 20 registered members. Good pathway for young people to learn racing, along with other elements such as securing sponsorship., marketing, life skills, etc.
- Would still attend if moved, but feels the fan experience would suffer
- New venue wouldn't attract the same crowd size
- Unclear preference (likely Option 3, but resigned to relocation if forced)

Future use of Western Springs Stadium

#15126

Note: Attached at the start of each volume is the full feedback form. This version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Auckland Sprint car drivers club

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback

What is your connection to Western Springs Stadium? (tick one or all that apply)

There are three options to consider

Which option do you prefer? Select one option only.

Tell us why you made your choice.

Please help us by explaining why you chose the option you did.

If you want other ideas to be explored, let us know if you have any suggestions for the future use of Western Springs Stadium and the outer fields.

Notes from ROIG Event:o Feels that a very large percentage of fans won't want to go to Waikaraka Park

o Also thinks drivers won't race at Waikaraka Park

o Raised concerns about the crowd capacity at Waikaraka Park, and noted that there were approx. 14K fans at the last WSS meet.

o Also raised concerns about the safety of Waikaraka Park. Thinks that if stock cars crashed into the barriers they will tear them down.

o Doesn't feel that open wheel and stock cars can race well on the same tracks

o Said that more than 12 shows a year not required

o Noted that open-wheel classes run on methanol and so has less environmental impact that other engines.