SYNTHETIC SPORTING FIELDS ST LUCIA

Consideration:

UQSPORT has a growing demand for synthetic sporting fields at the University’s St Lucia Campus. A feasibility study was commissioned and this report recommended that the best solution was to site two synthetic sporting fields on Oval 4 and the Softball Diamond. This submission seeks only site approval at this stage. Detailed design drawings and funding will be submitted to a future Committee meeting for approval. The benefits of synthetic sporting fields for the University are:

- Increased capability to meet increasing demand for sporting and recreational activities on campus;
- Increase access to low/no cost sporting activities which have no impact upon the playing surfaces;
- Enable a broader range of recreational activities to be undertaken leading to an enhancement of the student experience at UQ;
- Maximise play on the fields by the broadest section of the University community;
- The financial costs of operation can be self-funded from the income streams generated by the new fields;
- The fields will not be as vulnerable to wet weather impacts;
- Synthetic fields can sustain much more usage and wear and they do not need to be regenerated on an annual basis;
- Hours of use per week on synthetic fields can be three (3) times the recommended level of natural turf in all weather;
- University hockey teams who currently train at the State Hockey Centre will be able to train on campus.

Potential impacts of the development are:

- Brisbane River flood risks;
  - Overland flow issues will be addressed in the design;
  - Loss of the softball diamond which is currently not being used and has drainage issues – the project will allow the area to be more widely used for sport and recreation;
  - Co-ordination issues with UQ Centre activities such as graduation ceremonies.

These impacts will be considered and dealt with through the detailed design phase of the development.

Description:

The development will include the following elements:

- Installation of two synthetic sporting fields of two different technologies to accommodate a wide variety of sports (e.g. hockey, rugby, touch football, ultimate disk, soccer, rugby league etc.)
- Installation of perimeter fencing to protect the fields, high protection nets at the ends of the hockey field, change-room and toilet amenities, possible canteen facility, associated civil and drainage works, installation of storm water capture tanks, possible car-parking extension, upgrade of field lighting infrastructure, miscellaneous landscaping works surrounding the fields.
• UQSSPORT have identified the need for synthetic sporting fields due to increased demand and unsustainable wear on existing fields;
• Feasibility study identified Oval 4 & Softball Diamond as the best location;
• Proposal is to build two multi-purpose synthetic fields in this area.
Key Benefits

• Increased capability to meet demand;
• Wet weather usage (e.g. soccer, rugby, & rugby league);
• Less regeneration works;
• Increased capability;
• More diverse range of recreational activities leading to broader cross-section of student usage;
• Hockey teams can train at home.
Minimum soccer pitch size is 90m x 45m.

Note:
Rugby pitch not required will use available soccer surface as practice area. Dimensions used have been provided by University and Sports management.