

## Harbour Hockey Charitable Trust

P O Box 302139, North Harbour  
North Harbour Hockey Stadium, 60 Paul Matthews Rd,  
Albany  
Phone (09) 415-7396, Fax (09) 415-7403



28 April 2017

Ian Maxwell  
Community Services Director  
Auckland Council  
Private Bag 92300  
Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142

Dear Ian

We are writing jointly to express our concern with the ongoing delays to the Hockey facility relocation to Rosedale West. That delay is having very real negative and long-term impacts on our sport. Our organisations will not stand by idly and watch our sport damaged in such a manner.

For more than two years, our organisations have co-operated with all concerned to resolve this matter. We have been careful not to make any public comment about the destructive effects of the NCI project on our sport, because we acknowledge that the NCI project is something of national significance. We have worked very hard to retain the confidence of funders in the Hockey facility project, however due to other parties' actions that funding may well now be at risk.

It seems that our co-operation has created an impression in Council that hockey is either not impacted or not unhappy. We need to reinforce to Council that this issue has had an incredibly detrimental impact on our sport; we have been effectively paralysed and we cannot remain in that state.

Since we were advised about the NCI project in early 2015, we have been unable to invest in growth at our existing facility or even apply for capital maintenance funding. Consequently, we have been increasingly unable to provide the level of amenity expected by our 11 clubs, 99 schools, thousands of members and community users. For example, we are currently hosting the World Masters Games on two worn turfs that should already have been replaced, yet even in the best-case scenario they will each need to last for at least 3000 more hours until we can vacate them. Likewise, we will be hosting a top FIH tournament, originally awarded on the expectation of a world-class venue, in temporary accommodation later this year.

As a city that prides itself on being one of the world's best sporting cities it beggars belief that we are having to make these compromises. It is also ironic that the very local board that now aims to derail this work talks in its documentation about how proud it is to be the host location to such top-class sporting facilities like the Hockey venue.

In the past two years, we have been through two extensive investigations, planning and design processes, soaking up thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time which should have been spent helping our sport. Hockey has consistently stated its need for a replacement facility of equivalent amenity value, with the baseline being a footprint for four turfs (together) around central clubrooms, which is simply what we currently have. We need to sustainably operate our

sport, and we reiterate that, as already agreed with Council and NZTA, a split site is not an option, as far as we are concerned this issue is not open to re-litigation.

Throughout the process your officers have been made aware that the nature of our centralised club structure, the social experience we provide, our membership profile, the types of programmes and events we run, and our very lean operations and break-even financial structure mean that a centralised facility is critical.

As your officers will be aware, our existing facility is bursting at the seams because of community growth, and we need to implement our overdue facility upgrade as part of the relocation build. Hockey has been under extreme pressure to raise multi-million dollars in funding in a very compressed timeframe to ensure the proposed building project at Rosedale West can be completed by the deadlines imposed by the NCI project. While existing and potential funders strongly support our project, there have been increasing levels of concern about ongoing slippage of timeframes, and uncertainty of outcomes and our ability to deliver after two false starts. Unless we can quickly demonstrate that we can achieve our deadlines, we believe there is a high risk that we will lose millions in irreplaceable funding. This would derail our upgrade project and would have a devastating impact on the growth and development of our sport.

We are assuming the NCI project will get the go-ahead given its national significance. We are advised therefore that NZTA requires our site by late 2018, and we have in turn advised NZTA we will not vacate the site until we are able to fully relocate our operations. This gives us less than two years to build a new facility, and we have just about run out of time. Having been through this extensive process with Council, Watercare and NZTA, we do believe there are no other feasible options to build a replacement facility of equivalent amenity value for our clubs, schools, members and wider community users by early 2019. It also needs to be acknowledged that the proposed facility will be used for high profile national and international events.

Thousands of people are being affected by this ongoing delay, and the ongoing damage it is doing to our sport is potentially irreparable. As landowner, it is critical that Auckland Council provides our organisations with certainty and a way forward. Any further delay is quite simply unacceptable.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Williamson  
**Chair - Harbour Hockey  
Charitable Trust**



Riki Burgess  
**Chief Executive  
North Harbour Hockey**



Ian Francis  
**CEO  
Hockey New Zealand**

c.c. Mace Ward, General Manager Parks, Sport & Recreation, Auckland Council