

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

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David Jeffrey

Senior Manager, Sport and Recreation Facilities

Chief Ministers, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

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cc Mr Kevin Gill

kevingill47@gmail.com

Dear Mr Jeffrey

## **EASTS APPLICATION TO REMOVE EXISTING SPORTS STORAGE FACILITY AT GRIFFITH OVAL ETC**

We refer to Easts Rugby Union Football Club (Easts) submission “**Application to remove existing sports storage facility on Griffith Oval and to replace it with an improved similar facility on the oval boundary**” of 2 February 2017.

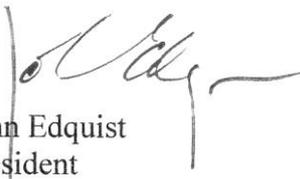
The Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) has previously advised Easts that we would have no objections to the proposed relocation of the storage sheds provided that we were satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that:

- 1) The trees and any other heritage items on the block are appropriately protected, and that the new facility, and access to it, does not impact on any heritage trees or tree roots;
- 2) Easts have a system in place (presumably involving a physical barrier) which will restrict access to the new facility to a relatively small number of specifically authorised people, and ensure that vehicles will only be permitted to approach the new facility from the Pavilion directly on the inside of the oval perimeter, at low speed;
- 3) Easts have a system in place to ensure that the access to the new facility will not be used to access parking in areas where parking is not permitted;
- 4) Easts encourages the Government to plant trees in the vicinity of the new facility, to reduce its visibility except from the oval; and
- 5) the Government commits to remediate the site of the existing storage facilities in a way which fits in with the landscaping of the oval, and the Elm Grove in particular.

Furthermore we asked that if later developments require that the proposal not comply with any of these conditions the GNCA would wish to be consulted prior to any final decisions being made.

We have subsequently received the attached letter from Mr Kevin Gill at Easts, which indicates that Easts finds these conditions acceptable and will put in place appropriate arrangements where necessary. In light of this advice the GNCA has no difficulties with the proposed relocation of East's storage sheds.

Yours sincerely



John Edquist  
President

11 February 2017

Attachment: Easts' Letter to GNCA 7 Feb 2017



**Mr John Edquist,**  
**President**  
**Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc**  
**PO Box 4127, Manuka ACT 2603**  
email: [info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)

Cc Mr David Jeffery, Active Canberra

Cc David Denham Secretary GNCA

Cc Greg Dennis President Easts Rugby

## **RELOCATION OF EASTS' STORAGE SHEDS, GRIFFITH OVAL**

Dear John

Thanks very much for your letter dated 24 January 2017. You will have recently seen several emails from me and the submission / application to Active Canberra, which has now been submitted. Active Canberra has referred the matter ACT Heritage and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate for consideration.

I have offered an explanation as to why reference to the temporary nature of the storage facility has been removed from our application but I want to emphasize that Easts itself see the new facility as being a temporary solution as we seek to fulfil our other long-term plans for the oval. I wish also to furnish Easts views on the other matters you have raised with us.

***That the trees and any other heritage items on the block are appropriately protected, and that the new facility, and access to it, does not impact on any heritage trees or tree roots***

Easts are fully understand the special nature of Griffith Oval and is fully committed to protect existing trees and their root systems and will work with all relevant Government agencies to ensure damage does not occur to these valuable assets.

Easts will also ensure that the new facility will be thoughtfully assembled, off-site where feasible, and that construction materials are brought to the site using the inside perimeter of the oval, which is a relatively short journey from the existing pavilion gate. Easts, in its agreement with the Builder, will limit the number of trips from the gate to the site and to ensure all workers park in nearby public parking areas and not on the oval or surrounds. Advice will be sought from the ACT Government as the preferred method and location of the concrete pour so as all existing trees are not affected.

***Easts have a system in place (presumably involving a physical barrier) which will restrict access to the new facility to a relatively small number of specifically authorised people, and ensure that vehicles will only be permitted to approach the new facility from the Pavilion directly on the inside of the oval perimeter, at low speed;***

Easts will ensure that all existing barriers and gates currently in place will remain in place and locked when access is not required. Firm instructions on the method of access will be issued to the very few Club members, who on limited occasions will need to drive to the new facility. In fact our equipment is, generally speaking, only required for use at our home matches and once installed in the new facility, there will be very little need for further vehicular access.

***Easts have a system in place to ensure that the access to the new facility will not be used to access parking in areas where parking is not permitted***

As indicated above, and while appreciating Easts are not able to enforce ACT Government parking restrictions, Easts will ensure all perimeter barriers and gates will not be used to allow improper and illegal parking on the oval or immediate surrounds. Also additional bollards and fencing directly connecting the new facility should ensure 'rogue vehicles' will not be able to enter the oval itself (see drawings provided last week).

Further should illegal parking or unauthorized entry to the oval occur, Club Officials will immediately contact the ACT City Rangers and also Access Canberra, requesting the attendance of ACT Parking Inspectors. Easts will also work with all local residents to recommend revision of available parking facilities where necessary.

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*East's encourages the Government to plant trees in the vicinity of the new facility, to reduce its visibility except from the oval*

East's are committed to provide and plant additional trees, along with any trees provided by Government, to meet this objective and will consult with relevant ACT agencies and local residents to this end.

*The Government commits to remediate the site of the existing storage facilities in a way which fits in with the landscaping of the oval, and the Elm Grove in particular.*

East's will work with Active Canberra to remediate the existing site, including re-sowing the area and removing all remaining unsightly material; but the Club is seeking to retain the existing cement slab (perhaps trimming it) to use it as flooring for a small hospitality tent at home matches, and to host a TV/Video film unit elevated stand, also at home matches.

Hopefully a DA process will not be necessary in this case, as after all, East's is seeking no more than is permitted on other sporting ovals in Canberra, while offering a better solution than simply placing shipping containers elsewhere on the site; and in the process East's will remove an eyesore from this attractive heritage listed oval, an action which many local residents will be very happy to see occur.

I hope this further communication assists on-going GNCA consideration of the matter.

Yours sincerely

*Kevin Gill*

On behalf of Eastern Suburbs Rugby Union Football Club (ACT)

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