

Monday, 31 August 2020



HOCKEY VICTORIA

State Netball Hockey Centre

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Mr Evan Kittelty
President
Brunswick Hockey Club
PO Box 101
BRUNSWICK VIC 3056

Via Email



Dear Evan,

RE: Support for new hockey facility

On behalf of Hockey Victoria (HV), I am writing to confirm our strong support for Brunswick Hockey Club's (BHC) request to Moreland City Council for a new hockey facility (including club room facilities and unisex change rooms and showers), that would complement the Club's current facility at Brunswick Secondary College.

BHC is one of the most progressive clubs in Victoria, with enviable governance structure in place which allows the club to serve a large demographic in their area – from 5 year old children to seasoned masters players across all genders. In 2019, BHC had the highest Hookin2Hockey – the national junior hockey program - registrations in the metropolitan area, and 3rd highest in the State.

Even though Brunswick is a Premier League club, it is still very much focused on its community. BHC was a finalist in HV "Inclusive Club of the Year" in 2014 and 2015. In 2019, the Club was awarded HV's "Community Club of the Year" in recognition for its initiatives, including:

- Wickers Academy – a program aiming to develop young people as coaches, umpires and leaders providing them with mentoring and off-field development training.
- After School Hockey clinics – a program for children living on Ascot Vale and Flemington public housing estates delivered in conjunction with the North Melbourne Football Club's "Huddle".
- International Student Program - an innovative social hockey program for 70 international students (in partnership with IDP Education and tertiary institutions in the Melbourne CBD) to give students the opportunity to connect with others, the local community and experience a game they love.
- and the ongoing support of HV's programs and initiatives relating to:
 - Women and girls project
 - LGBTIQ+ Inclusion
 - Men's Health

Currently, BHC is the only Premier League club without adequate club room facilities at its ground. It is well documented that adequate, contemporary facilities encourage more participation, especially females, and provide a social environment which promotes mental health wellbeing.

BHC's aspiration to serve the many international students that study in tertiary institutions in the CBD without sporting facilities is to be commended. Hockey is an international sport with tremendous appeal

to many students (especially those from South Asian backgrounds) who know and love the game, and a second facility would allow the Club to continue growing its program for the International students, while also increasing its services to the Moreland community.

A second ground would allow HV fixturing of games to be at more friendly timeslots for the BHC's members, and not late into the evening which is currently the case for juniors and masters players. In addition, HV would be able to assist the club in maximising its use of the facility by scheduling other clubs' games if there were available timeslots at either ground.

A facility in close proximity to the State Netball & Hockey Centre could also be used for HV events or training by National and International teams competing in tournaments which are held frequently at the Centre.

There are a number of Primary schools in the municipality and a number of Primary and Secondary schools in neighbouring municipalities that could benefit from this facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or pass on my details to any relevant stakeholder.

Yours Sincerely,



Sash Herceg
Chief Operations Officer

cc: Andrew Skillern (HV CEO)