

2. QEII PARK ATHLETICS TRACK SURFACE REPLACEMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Queen Elizabeth II Park	

The purpose of this report is to present two options for managing the above project. The replacement of the athletics track surface is planned for the 2001/02 financial year.

The Council has approved the replacement of the track, and has allocated \$1.55M for this project. Track replacement is expected to cost less than this. The remaining funding is to be held over to the 2003/04 financial year, to be used on other projects within the stadium.

Examples of prudent expenditure might be the replacement of the western embankment, and a gradual move towards seating manufactured from a permanent material, substantially decreasing future maintenance expenditure.

TRACK REPLACEMENT

Consultation with athletes, coaches and Athletics Canterbury officials has been valuable in determining the qualities the Council should be looking for in the new track. Clearly, we need to provide a track which meets both training and competitive demands. We also need a track suitable for both middle distance and sprinting requirements.

From a Council perspective, the new track needs to be of international quality, must be repairable, easy to maintain and must exhibit long-lasting qualities. Ultra-violet light, temperature and climatic impact must also be considered in track selection. Whilst cost is an important factor, it should be weighed against these other requirements.

TRACK SELECTION

Several companies are currently active in athletic track installation in Australasia.

Mondo Pacific has provided tracks to each of the past eight Olympic Games. They have recently completed installations at Canberra's Australian Institute of Sport, New Plymouth and have commenced work on a new track in Palmerston North.

Astro Turf Pacific recently completed a new track at Logan Park, Dunedin. They are also preparing to install an indoor surface in a training facility at the Millennium Centre on the North Shore. Astro Turf has links to Southwest Industries, the world's largest supplier of athletic tracks and sporting surfaces.

Regupol Ltd is an Australian company with a solid history in that country. They recently installed new track in Brisbane, but have not worked in New Zealand before.

Balsam Pacific resurfaced the existing track at QEII Park in 1991.

QEII Park Management believes that serious consideration should be given to both Mondo Pacific and Astro Turf Pacific as preferred suppliers. Selection of these two companies for comparison would provide opportunity to learn from recent installations in New Zealand.

TIMING AND PROCESS

It is important that the QEII Park track replacement project is completed this calendar year. Christchurch and QEII Park have been selected to host the 2002 Oceania Games, a major international athletics event important to the city.

Track replacement will take approximately 9-12 weeks, depending on climatic conditions, with September-November being the preferred time of the year. Disruption to athletics would be minimal at that time of the year.

The two ends of the project management spectrum are:

- (i) The Council could employ consultants to prepare plans and specifications for tender. The successful tenderer would complete the contract monitored by engineering consultants and/or a project manager.

- (ii) The Council could invite selected track installation companies to present design and build proposals. Upon completion of the project, a consultant would be employed to measure and certify the new track to international standards. Payment would only be made to the contractor when these standards have been met.

Examples of both project management methods have been employed in New Zealand recently. The design-build model has potential to minimise involvement of engineers and other consultants who may have little experience in athletics track installations.

QEII Park management believes that the design-build option has real merit for this project.

Recommendation: That Mondo Pacific Pty Ltd and Astro Turf Pacific Ltd be invited to present design-build proposals to the Council for the replacement of the QEII Park stadium athletics track.