

## 1. QEII PARK ICE STADIUM TRUST

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with details of the consultation process regarding the QEII Ice Stadium Trust proposal and to seek Council support for the leasing of an area of land for this purpose.

### BACKGROUND

At the 24 July 2003 Council meeting the following resolutions were adopted in respect to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust Proposal:

1. *That the Council confirm that it is willing to consider providing land adjacent to QEII for an Ice Sports Stadium as proposed by the QEII Ice Stadium Trust.*
2. *That the Leisure Manager assist the QEII Ice Stadium Trust with developing the details of this proposal.*
3. *That the proposal be further investigated and reported to the Community and Leisure Committee and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board in October 2003 for a decision whether to proceed to consultation or to abandoned the project.*
4. *That priority be given to the preparation of a long term concept plan and policies for the future development of QEII Park (beyond the ice rink and hydroslide)."*

Following the above resolutions a report was prepared for the October meeting and the following resolutions were adopted by the Council on 23 October 2003:

1. *That the QEII Ice Stadium Trust Proposal be publicised via a consultation process to obtain community comment.*
2. *That the outcomes from the consultation be reported back to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board and the Community and Leisure Committee."*

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

The proposal to lease to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust approximately 2,835m<sup>2</sup> of land adjacent to the existing pool buildings on QEII Park for a term of 35 years was advertised in the public notices in The Press on 22 and 29 November 2003 and in the Christchurch Star on 19 and 26 November 2003. In addition to this the information on the proposal was included in the Council's "Have Your Say" website and copies of the proposal were also sent to the following organisations:

- The Ascot Freeville Residents' Group
- The Parklands Residents' Association
- The North New Brighton Residents' Association
- The North Shore Residents' Association
- The Queenspark Residents' Association
- The Alpine Ice Arena
- The Canterbury Alpine Ice Skating Club
- The Centaurus Ice Skating Club
- Canterbury Ice Hockey Association

The information that was circulated included a brief statement about the proposal and asked for comments or submissions in respect to this proposal.

Submissions closed with the Council on Friday 12 December 2003.

## CONSULTATION RESULTS

As a result of this consultation process a total of 75 submissions were received, of which 72 were in support of the proposal and three submissions questioned the viability of the proposed ice rink. These three submissions were from people associated with the operation of the existing ice arena. Most of the submissions in support of the proposal were from ice sports members who find difficulty in getting enough ice time at an appropriate time for meeting their training requirements.

## DISCUSSION

From the information available it is apparent that there is sufficient demand for additional ice facilities to meet current needs. However the size and nature of any new ice facility should complement the existing ice arena and not result in a scenario in the future where the present ice arena is forced to close because the proposed new facility has captured the market.

The viability of a second ice rink in Christchurch is not seen as an issue that needs addressing at this time with the focus of the request from the QEII Ice Stadium Trust being on gaining approval for the leasing of land for the proposed facility next to QEII. The confirmation of the availability of land adjacent to the buildings at QEII Park will allow the Trust to seek financial support for the construction of the rink with some certainty as to tenure of a suitable site.

If in the future the Trust was to approach the Council for financial support then it would seem appropriate to address the issue of the viability and nature of a second rink at that time.

Councillors will recall that the provision of an ice arena was considered in the Recreation and Sport Facility Strategy and was included in the medium priority grouping.

## BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board considered the report at its meeting on 16 February 2004.

The Board decided to recommend to the Community and Leisure Committee:

- “1. *That, before the Council endorse the findings of the consultative process for the provision of publicly available ice skating facilities at QEII, there be a further request for submissions made to the Ascot/Freeville Residents’ Group, Parklands Residents’ Association, North New Brighton Residents’ Association, Northshore Residents’ Association and Queenspark Residents’ Association.*
2. *That the Council seek Requests For Proposals for an organisation to lease land at QEII for the purpose of building and operating an ice skating facility, including a requirement for interested organisations to submit a feasibility study.”*

The Committee considered the recommendations but decided not to make a further request for submissions from the residents’ associations.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council confirm the availability of land adjacent to the existing buildings on QEII Park for the development of an ice facility.
  2. That the Council endorse the findings of the consultative procedure, acknowledging that there is general public support for the provision of publicly available ice skating facilities at QEII.
  3. That the Council seek Requests For Proposals for an organisation to lease land at QEII, including a requirement for interested organisations to submit a feasibility study, for the purpose of building and operating an ice skating facility.