

Our Ref: ID2894
Your Ref:

20 February 2025

Piran Subramaniam
Ku-ring-gai Council
818 Pacific Highway
Gordon
NSW, 2072

email: psubramaniam@krg.nsw.gov.au
CC: helen.slater@ses.nsw.gov.au

Dear Piran,

Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for Norman Griffiths Synthetic Sport field upgrade project

Thank you for the notification under section 2.13 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* in relation to the proposed variation to the upgrade of Norman Griffiths Synthetic Sport field, West Pymble. It is understood that the proposed variation to the previous REF include:

- Construction of the three-metre wide concrete pathway at levels specified in accordance with revised markups;
- Construction of the diversion wall to the top of the wall levels specified in the revised flood impact assessment;
- Installation and maintenance of drainage at the base of the bleachers;
- Inclusion of a Bidim layer between the detention storage rockfill and the bedding layer for the shock pad and playing surface.

It is also understood that some works for the site have already been completed, including preliminary bulk excavation, removal of existing turf, cut and fill of subgrade, installation of pits and pipes, etc.¹

The NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) is the agency responsible for dealing with floods, storms and tsunami in NSW. This role includes, planning for, responding to and coordinating the initial recovery from floods. As such, the NSW SES has an interest in the public safety

¹ Ku-ring-gai Council. 2024. *(Draft) Variation for Review of Environmental Factors*, Section 3, page 3.

aspects of the development of flood prone land, particularly the potential for changes to land use to either exacerbate existing flood risk or create new flood risk for communities in NSW.

We have reviewed the proposed upgrade and the flood risk information available to the NSW SES (e.g. Local Flood Plan, Flood Studies etc.), and note the site is prone to flooding in events greater than the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event, with depths from 1m to greater than 5m on the site in a Probable Maximum Flood (PMF).² Additionally, we note there is very limited time to onset of flooding in this location,³ meaning there would likely be little to no warning time for flooding available for people on site.

We would like to emphasise that the NSW SES has responded to multiple flood related requests in the nearby area, including flood rescues and multiple sandbagging requests for property protection in the area.

We refer to our advice dated 3 February 2023, and currently also provide the following advice:

- **Consider** the impact of flooding on the infrastructure and people using the facility up to and including the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), along with the impact of climate change on the flood risks.
- **Consider** the risks associated with this site being a low flood island, particularly given the short time to onset of flooding. As stated in our previous advice, low flood islands represent a significant risk factor that would be best avoided for development due to the large risk of mass rescue, as people cannot safely evacuate once the site becomes isolated.
- **Consider** closing the site prior to site use (such as sporting events), or prior to the start of the workday during site works, if there is a risk of flooding, on receipt of advice from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), or when other evidence leads to an expectation of flooding. Check the BoM website prior to start of events/the workday for any Severe Weather Warnings.
- **Pursue** site design and stormwater management that minimises any risk to the community.
- **Ensure** workers and people using the site during and after the upgrades are aware of the flood risk, for example through site inductions and by using signage.

To provide additional support in doing the above, we direct you to the online resources which are available to the community on the www.ses.nsw.gov.au website which include helpful pages such as:

- [Know Your Risk | NSW State Emergency Service](#)
- [Local Plans and Guides](#) (enter your town or postcode) - which includes locally endorsed NSW SES Flood Emergency Sub Plans and Local Flood Insights
- [Business Continuity Plan](#) - online tool which steps you through the process of developing your own Business Emergency Plan.

² Orion. 2024. *Detailed Flood Impact Assessment and independent sign off – Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade Works*, page 30.

³ Orion. 2024. *Norman Griffiths Oval – Flood Effect on EEC zone for 1% AEP Flood event*, page 4.

In addition, if the construction phase of the upgrades causes disruption to the operation of local roads, this may impact the ability for emergency vehicles to use these routes. The NSW SES requests that notification be provided where there are likely to be significant delays in the operation of the roads affected by the upgrades.

Please feel free to contact Claire Flashman via email at rra@ses.nsw.gov.au should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this correspondence. The NSW SES would also be interested in receiving future correspondence regarding the outcome of this referral via this email address.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Dawes
A/Coordinator Emergency Risk Management
NSW State Emergency Service