khdlknx

12th April, 2019

Gosford City Council

–Attention: Clr Jane Smith (Mayor Central Coast Council)

and Gary Murphy CEO Central Coast Council

Email – Mayor@centralcoast.nsw.com.au

Dear Clr Smith,

**Re: Squash future/premises on the Central Coast (CC) – Meeting:**

I am writing to you to seek a meeting with you and the CEO, Gary Murphy, A meeting with you is requested to discuss **Crown** land sharing at Gosford Tennis Club (GTC - 60yrs established) at West Gosford & also adjacent to Wyong Tennis Club (WTC - 100yrs established) on **Council** land. Ie two premises.

The meeting would include a representative from each of the two tennis organisations, myself and Tony Turner from Central Coast Squash. We ask that we meet with you as a matter of some urgency, for reasons I have detailed in this letter.

**Impetus**

Competition squash on the CC may cease to exist in 2020 due to RMS demolition of the sole remaining (Wyong) Squash Centre for Wyong rail, road & parking extensions. In recognition the ***Central Coast Squash Association* (CCSA)** was formed to ensure our sport will be kept alive.

**CCSA**

Is an ASIC registered not for profit association with an eight member committee of diverse & experienced business people, all fixated on the premise of “***squash for life”*** on the (CC). We intend to re-energize this sport which has suffered from numerous facility closures due land development alternatives.

***Objective*** – to identify shared land development opportunities at both GOSFORD & WYONG areas together with like-minded existing sports clubs, where each will benefit from the other.

***Status*** – two viable locations have been identified, in conjunction with the GTC & WTC, where we understand Council is aware & supportive of the former, but not yet of the latter.

***Vision*** – the development of world class squash facilities, able to host national & international tournaments, whilst being day to day viable entities, fully satiating existing local player needs.

***Tourism –*** all clubs (squash & tennis) also have clear upgrade plans, designed to enhance State & National competitions, all putting CC sport even more firmly on the tourism map. Thousands already compete here in competitions, with the potential far greater. Mutual aims are to improve club facilities so the CC becomes a key location for racket sports, for all genres - juniors thru to internationals.

***Design*** – squash has moved a LONG way with state-of-the-art (projected graphics) & flexible court design (moveable walls), enabling a range of other activities for the disabled, aerobics, fitness classes, etc…

***Synergies*** – our facility design will encompass the needs of the partnered tennis clubs by providing improved & shared facilities. ie Change rooms, medical, massage, meeting, offices, lounge, café, etc…

***$Viability*** – we have extensive existing practical experience operating commercial squash centers & alignment with the GTC & WTC (decades of experience) will only enhance viability.

***Development*** – we will seek NSW government funding for construction of the proposed sporting complex. GTC & WTC will seek their own future improvement funding, but our facilities would be shared with them, appreciably reducing their future infrastructure costs & needs.

***Community*** – current immigration intakes needs community facilities to keep pace. The **‘**NSW Planning & Development’ 2019/20 (draft) CC plan specifies; (i) *open space development & recreation networks;* (ii) *encouragement of physical activity & creation of mixed-use recreational centers*.

CC Council 2018/20 plans don’t seem to specifically address either of these imperatives, but we assume council has a similar focus community on health & recreation?

***NSW Gov’t*** – we have submitted & had Ministerial acceptance of our preliminary business plan & $5million has been officially budget earmarked, subject to land confirmation & D/A’s.

***Support*** – all local State/Federal MPs & their counterparts have encouraged us to work on this project with existing sports Clubs. We’ve clearly done this as evidenced by the co-signatories to this letter. We’ll also copy them all on this correspondence & the subsequent outcome(s).

We would value the opportunity to meet with you and gain your advice in how we can move forward with this exciting venture.

I can be contacted on ######### regarding a suitable date and time to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

I have signed the letter on behalf of our partners who represent their respective organisations;

Anthony (Rex) Thomas – CCSA

Leoni Baldwin – Wyong Tennis

Tony Hayworth – Gosford Tennis

Yours sincerely,

GORDON etc