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## **Eden Park to decide next steps on LifePod Appeal concert**

Trustees of The Eden Park Trust will meet this week to decide if Eden Park can proceed with the proposed LifePod Appeal concert on Waitangi Day, its Chief Executive Nick Sautner says.

The decision to call this meeting follows advice from the Trust's lawyers, Meredith Connell, that the process under the Resource Management Act to obtain a consent for the concert is likely to stretch beyond October and cost in excess of \$750,000, not including legal costs.

Three-quarters of submissions to the resource consent process support the LifePod Appeal concert, as do 91% of Aucklanders and 87% of people living nearby.

Sautner says there is real backing in the community, "We had a fantastic fish n' chips night on Friday with more than 150 of our neighbours and their children where similar strong support for the LifePod Appeal concert was expressed.

"Nevertheless, the legal advice we have received has to be considered by the Trustees, who need to weigh up whether we can justify the costs associated with the resource consent process and whether we are confident consent can realistically now be obtained in time to finalise international acts."

Eden Park's iconic status, superior seating capacity, public transport connectivity, proximity to the city and amenities that cater to all demographics has made the Park the promoter's venue of choice for the event.

"We are in a difficult position because the process we have to go through for just one concert is the same as a property investor might have to go through for a major development, such as the recent Matiatia Bay marina case," says Sautner.

The Eden Park Trust expects to announce its decision on Thursday.

**ENDS**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **About Eden Park**

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally-iconic arena, located in central Auckland.

Its rich history and profile is unmatched by any other stadium in the country. From its beginnings as a cricket ground in 1903, Eden Park became the primary venue for major summer and winter sport in Auckland when in 1913, the owner, Auckland Cricket, leased winter use of the ground to Auckland Rugby.

A Deed of Trust establishing Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as the beneficial owners of Eden Park was signed in 1926 and has since been enshrined in legislation. Most notably remembered for hosting the 1987 and 2011 Rugby World Cup Finals, Eden Park remains the home of both Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as it has been for more than a century.

Eden Park Trust operates as a statutory not-for-profit body corporate, registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. Its objectives are to promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Auckland region.

Each year, more than half a million sports and entertainment fans from around the world visit Eden Park. The stadium successfully hosts sell-out crowds of up to 50,000 on match days and hosts more than 1,000 non-match day functions per year.