

6 July, 2018

Eden Park urges its neighbours to have their say

The Eden Park Trust acknowledges the current debate in the media about its resource consent application to host a charity concert, the LifePod Appeal, at Eden Park on Waitangi Day, 2019. Some of the debate has centred around the submission made by former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, who is one of our neighbours.

Eden Park acknowledges that Ms Clark is within her rights to make a submission on the application. As Eden Park continues to emphasise, it is keen to hear community views on the application, particularly those of its neighbours.

The Trust appreciates that some neighbours have concerns about a concert being held at Eden Park. In 2018, our community has a diverse range of views about increased activity at the stadium - in support as well as opposition. The Eden Park Trust would like to understand neighbours' concerns wherever possible, including through informal engagement and the resource consent process. Ms Clark's submission raises some genuine local questions that have a place in the resource consent process.

Yesterday the Eden Park Trust formally requested that Auckland Council directly refer the resource consent application to the Environment Court for a decision. The Trust did so on the grounds that the application is contentious and an appeal to the Environment Court is likely. The direct referral process will likely save time and money for Eden Park, Auckland Council and submitters.

The Eden Park Trust is committed to making more use of the stadium for the benefit of the local and wider community of Auckland and, more broadly, New Zealand. To date there has been much support expressed for these aspirations and some opposition. The Trust welcomes the opportunity to engage with the local community through the resource management processes, in a respectful fashion, and to seek to address any concerns.

As its guiding principle, the Eden Park Trust must continue to serve the objects of its trust deed as they apply to Auckland in 2018. The Trust's purposes are set by the Eden Park Trust Act 1955 and require the Trust "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 region".

The Eden Park Trust is hopeful that, with informed and respectful debate, the community will agree that a charity concert at Eden Park in 2018 will serve that purpose.

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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.