



BALMAIN & DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB

PO Box 1020
Rozelle NSW 2039
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www.balmainfootball.com.au

24 February 2023

<CANDIDATE NAME>

Candidate for Balmain
via email:

Dear <CANDIDATE>

I am writing to you on behalf of Balmain & District Football Club (BDFC) concerning the Government's plans for the Rozelle Railyards Parklands that will be created as a result of the WestConnex project in the Rozelle area.

As a candidate seeking election in March to represent our community as the NSW State member, I'm asking you to advocate for **BDFC to be given priority access** to the new rectangular (football) sports field that the State Government proposes to build at the Parklands, and for it to be constructed with an **all-weather surface**.

As the largest community football club in NSW, BDFC had almost 3,000 active players last season, of which 1,001 were girls and women. Our club prides itself on its commitment to diversity, inclusion and participation, with players ranging from 4-year-olds through to the over 70s, and we are recognised for our ever-growing All Abilities football program.

The vast majority of our members reside around and on top of the WestConnex Rozelle Interchange. We are, of course, aware that the WestConnex project has been very contentious for the local community and our members have been living with the impacts of its development for many years.

Despite being the largest community sporting club in the Balmain/Rozelle/Lilyfield/Annandale/Leichhardt area, our members lack access to sufficient local fields. Our teams – including adult men and women – are each squeezed onto a quarter field for training and are forced to play a growing number of Home games on Away fields. As our community grows, so will the depth of this problem.

The new playing fields at Rozelle Parklands are the only opportunity for a new sporting field in our local catchment area in the foreseeable future, which is why we are seeking priority year-round access to the football field, and why it is imperative that BDFC has an active role in running and managing the field. It is also why this new football field must be all-weather.

The current proposal by the NSW government does not provide for the rectangular football field to be all-weather. A tour of the current fields in Balmain/Birchgrove/Rozelle/Lilyfield/Annandale shows the folly of choosing anything but an all-weather surface for this new field. Our preferred all-weather surface is the **innovative new hybrid grass**; a state-of-the-art technology combining living grass in a woven fabric.



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This new hybrid grass technology allows the playing surface to be lifted, excavated, or repaired should access to sub-surface infrastructure be required – such access being the reason that has been given by the NSW government for denying our community an all-weather field solution at Rozelle Parklands.

We are also concerned that plans for Rozelle Parklands do not include consideration or provision of adequate parking for users of the sporting fields, or indeed, for visitors to the passive recreation areas within the Parklands.

These are issues which genuinely affect our members and to which they, and the local community, deserve definitive commitments prior to casting their votes in March.

In summary, on behalf of our members, I ask you to please confirm your commitment to:

1. **Priority year-round access for Balmain & District Football Club** to the new rectangular football field at Rozelle Parklands;
2. Advocating for the new football field at Rozelle Parklands to be an **all-weather field**; and
3. Provision of **adequate and suitable parking** for people using these new sporting fields.

Could you please respond to these issues by March 10 so we can share this letter and the responses from each candidate with our members.

Sincerely

Paul Avery

President | Balmain & District Football Club

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