

## **Newtown Park Sportsfield**

### **1. The Proposal**

Newtown Park has been confirmed as a training venue for the Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2011. The ground which consists of a grass sportsfield in the centre surrounded by an artificial athletics track, will host the French and USA rugby teams. The ground is currently utilised for football and athletics.

To comply with the requirements set by the International Rugby Board (IRB) and the RWC organising committee around size and use of the ground, additional work will need to be undertaken which falls outside of the existing budgets.

Currently Newtown Park meets all the requirements for the RWC in terms of the off field facilities and the condition of the playing surface meets the guidelines for drainage capabilities and surface quality.

The areas which do however require addressing prior to the tournament are as follows:

- Lengthening the playing surface - the current dimensions of the playing surface does not meet the required dimensions for IRB or RWC regulations.
- The installation of post sleeves to accommodate rugby posts. Currently the sportsfield is utilised and set up for football and new post sleeves will be required so that rugby posts can be erected for the duration of Rugby World Cup.

### **2. Proposal Costs**

Outline project costs per year										
Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Operational/staff costs		37								
Total		37								

### **3. Project Outline**

The current size of the field does not meet the IRB or RWC requirements set for the Rugby World Cup. This can be addressed through the installation of temporary artificial turf at either end of the field to lengthen the playing surface.

At present the size of the playing area does not allow for an in goal area at each end of the field without compromising the distance of the field between goal posts. With the addition of the artificial turf we can cater for a one hundred metre pitch with eight metre in goal areas each end. This would satisfy the RWC regulations.

It would be removed at the conclusion of the tournament and there is the potential for the turf to be reused. This could be through donating the turf to a club with an indoor training venue or resurfacing an existing outdoor hard surface e.g. for club training.

This work will cost an estimated \$30,000.

The installation of rugby post sleeves and posts is also required. Currently the ground is utilised for football where portable goals are used. New rugby post footings will need to be installed for the tournament and removed after the event so that rugby posts can be erected safely and stay secure while the field is in use.

This work will cost an estimated \$7,000.

#### **4. Recommendation**

In order for Newtown Park to be used as a successful training venue for Rugby World Cup some temporary work is required to ensure that the ground meets the necessary IRB and RWC requirements.

This includes the temporary installation of an artificial surface to extend the size of the training ground and the installation of rugby sleeves and posts for the duration of the tournament. It is recommended that the proposal be funded.