

REQUESTS TO BE HEARD

17 May 2022

Council Meeting

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WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Item 10.1

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022–26

****Note - The below statement was submitted as a public question; however, given that no question was put, it has been included as a written statement in response to the relevant Agenda Item. – Governance.***

The current lead on / lead off restrictions on Bayside beaches are being ignored by a majority of dog owners. The actual effect of this is that I cannot lie on my local beach and know that I will not be disturbed by a dog. (I have tested it and I am disturbed over 90% of the time). Therefore, whether dogs are on or off the beach is less important than the disturbance to those lying down and vulnerable.

This is what I would like to be addressed please, as I note that less and less people are able to sunbathe peacefully and it is a downward spiral, such that dog owners see less sunbathers and this reinforces their thinking that it is fine to have dogs off leash.

Even if it meant fenced off areas for sunbathers to be protected from dog disturbance, this would meet my needs and allow dogs to roam.

Item 10.4

**Wilson Recreation Reserve - Brighton Grammar
School Rugby and Community Access**

1.	Mrs Therese Mickelborough	(A)
<p>Brighton Grammar school need access to train at Wilson reserve. The school community are being forced out of Local spaces, the majority of the BGS students Parents are rate payers and deserve access to Community resources.</p>		

For over 40 years, Brighton Grammar as a key member of the Brighton community has been using the Wilson Reserve in cooperation with Bayside Council, to support the boys playing Rugby during the Winter Sports Season (8 to 10 weeks).

At the last council meeting, it was decided to restrict the access of the Wilson Reserve to ONLY ONE game of Rugby each Saturday (when Brighton Grammar school has this year 5 teams across all age groups) and restricted the training sessions to 2 nights a week (only 2 to 3 teams can train at a time).

This decision made at the last council meeting on 15th February is very disappointing and I am writing to support the recommendation 10.4 submitted for the upcoming council meeting (2022 MOU).

After 2 years of Covid and extensive lockdowns, when children have not been able to play sport, the decision taken on the 15th February 2022, restricting access to grounds seems to disregard the needs of some of our youngest community members. The decision has taken their right to play sports and rebuild their community.

Playing sports has a demonstrated positive effect on the health (both mental and physical) especially after what they lived in the past 2 years.

I just wanted to highlight to the council the implications of the decision taken on 15th February and the impact on the boys to date:

* Evening training sessions:

Boys finishing school at 15.35pm, rushing up to catch a bus to Moorabbin to train for Rugby (20 to 25 mins drive each way due to traffic at that time) and catch again the bus home. They are losing nearly one hour in transport (not eco friendly for a council promoting green initiatives) when they could have crossed the road to train (as they have done for years).

* ONE Rugby game only each Saturday:

If you have watched Rugby at the Wilson Reserve in the past, you will have noticed the community engagement on Saturdays and how the boys that played earlier in the day stayed to see the older age group playing. The school encourages the boys to watch all games as a support. We also have many community members who are walking around the area and stopping to watch the games. It is a really community sport. With only one Rugby game each Saturday, we now have different age groups in different locations, parents rushing around and limited community involvement. The Rugby Saturday spirit is been compromised.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission and I look forward to a positive outcome,

Sincerely,

Corinne Rico Estrada

3.	Mr Ross Featherston (on behalf of Brighton Grammar)	(F)
<p>Brighton Grammar has enjoyed a long and successful history of playing rugby games on the Wilson Oval and has enjoyed positive relationships with fellow users of Wilson Reserve (Brighton Cricket Club, Bayley House, Firbank Grammar). Furthermore Brighton Grammar has invested in the development and maintenance of Wilson Reserve over a number of years.</p> <p>I am hopeful that Council will approve this item to allow that tradition of playing rugby within the community to continue for our current students.</p> <p>Wilson Reserve's defined primary function (from the Bayside Open Space Strategy of April 2012) is a sporting field and thus to have Brighton Grammar playing home games of Rugby on Wilson Reserve aligns with Bayside's Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>The rugby season is not a long season, running for approximately 10 Saturday mornings only, with the latest finish time of games being 1:30pm (noting that for most weekends games are finished by midday). Furthermore on most Saturday's Brighton Grammar would be playing only two or three home games of rugby. Thus Brighton Grammar's usage of Wilson Reserve for rugby is not overly onerous and it is understood that in playing rugby here on a Saturday morning, no other community groups are seeking access to Wilson Reserve.</p> <p>As the Bayside Council desires greater community use of, and access to, open space, Brighton Grammar is willing to allow some forms of community use of the Crowther Oval in return for playing home rugby games on the Wilson Reserve (as per agenda item 10.4).</p> <p>Brighton Grammar believes this arrangement is a fair and reasonable solution that allows for community use of open space whilst allowing bayside children to play sport in bayside within their local community.</p>		

4.	Mrs Aleta Jacob	(F)
<p>An inclusive and supportive environment for the children in our community is imperative- enabling our children's access to sport locally strengthens community bonds for not only the children participating, but their peers and friends who support and contribute, alongside the parents/friends community. Our childrens well-being should be of primary concern, and the benefits of green space and sporting activities are well proven. The requirement to access Wilson for this purpose is minimal, and continues to enable all members of our community to enjoy this space, as well as enjoying the option to participate in a thriving childrens sporting community - greatly enhancing community bonds. It is important that our school community is able to access, but also contribute to the care of our important green spaces in bayside in partnership with council</p>		

5.	Mrs Michele Williams	(F)
<p>I am a bayside resident who pays bayside council rates. I have 3 boys all of whom play rugby. I believe the Wilson Rec should be shared and allow children to use the rec particularly given the last 2 years they have had: they need to be able to use the community space and see support from its community. The rec is hardly used, the survey for the last proposal made that clear. The proposal is for such a short period of time. The previous proposal offered to support the community through upkeep by the school and it is unconscionable that this was rejected given the small minority of the community who objected. I believe the original proposal was fair and reasonable and should be reconsidered, but if this is all we can get I would urge the council to support young people in the community: they will leave school and continue to vote and live in the bayside community just as we parents do. They wish to play rugby near their school which would allow them to have family and friends to easily support them. Rugby matches used to be attended by the community when we were allowed to play at Wilson Rec, please let this resume.</p>		

6.	Ms Sonia Wagner	(F)
<p>I would like to support Brighton Grammar utilising Wilson Rec Oval for school sport - specifically rugby.</p> <p>Rugby players and their families are often the oddbods and we need spaces for these children to have an opportunity for connection and belonging, where their friends and families can also gather and support them. Rugby as a sport promotes inclusiveness, togetherness, safety and diversity as it collects children that are truly the liquorice allsorts. Saturday sport offers our community, the boys and their families, access to community. Families often have more than one child playing sport, so juggling access to sport half an hour away makes community support more challenging. The appeal of rugby is that boys and their families are encouraged to come and attend and support all the games, not just one. It builds resilience and connection, and helps with promoting good mental health, particularly after a challenging few years with Covid and social isolation. Please consider how important it is for us to get active to assist our boys and families with their mental health and wellbeing. These boys really need every chance and the support of Council to play sport locally where they can access their full community.</p>		

7.	Mr James Coleman	(F)
<p>After 2 years of COVID decimating winter sport and the sporting aspirations of our youth, I was shocked when a decision was made to limit the rugby boys' access to Wilson Recreation Reserve. This was an absolutely heartbreaking decision for those of us in the community that had been looking forward to supporting our local youth rugby teams. Please let common sense and decency prevail and allow the boys to train and play in front of their friends, family and the local community at their home ground. Thanks.</p>		

8.	Mr Fadi Ayache	(F)
<p>My name is Fadi Ayache (my wife is Veronica), and we have three sons, who attend Brighton Grammar School (BGS). All of which play rugby for the school, representing Brighton.</p> <p>I just wanted to write with regards to the agenda item to be covered during the next council meeting on 17 May, 2022 – which discusses the use of the Wilson Rec by BGS for their rugby matches during the season.</p> <p>I am aware of the situation and I am reaching out to you personally in support of BGS's efforts to reinstate the use of the Wilson rec as it was, to hold their rugby matches there. I believe details have been provided/will be by the schools with regards to the total time of use throughout the whole year/season, which works out to be very modest.</p> <p>From my personal point of view, I believe and as I have seen in many locations, these type of facilities are there for all to use and share, in the spirit of community. The use of this facility by my kids when they play their rugby games is important to them, as they are representing Brighton and want to be in Brighton when they have their home games – it gives them a larger sense of belonging and allows the local support to come along and watch them – in their local area.</p> <p>I sincerely hope that the rules will be changed back to allow the school to use the facility again, as it used to be.</p> <p>I am more than happy to meet/ or discuss further over the phone should that suit. Thanks for your time, take care.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Fadi Ayache</p>		

9	Ms Tessa Court	(F)
<p>Brighton Grammar Rugby team is asking to use the wilson Rec oval in a SHARED CAPACITY and instead of using the arbitrary days Council allotted which DONT WORK FOR OUR SPORT, we request we are able to not necessarily have more time but have consolidated scheduled time AND when no one is using the field have our boys train on the field in a shared capacity.</p> <p>I'm personally outraged by council's previous decision on this matter which has essentially kicked our kids off the oval - when NO OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE REQUESTED TO RESERVE THE SPACE. I'm seriously struggling to understand how Council can restrict kids from playing sport when a sporting oval is not in use by other members of the community. I have a copy of the booking schedule and only Brighton Grammar has requested usage thus far.</p> <p>I find Council's previous decision lacking consideration and consultation with our stakeholders and we strongly encourage you to reconsider.</p>		

10. Mr William Swanepoel	(F)
<p>Dear Members,</p> <p>I relocated to the Bayside area in 2021 for the benefit of my children. I currently have a son attending Brighton Grammer School.</p> <p>I have chosen to live in Bayside to give my son the opportunity to attend a school with High Values, to support him during his growing up phase and deliver a contributing citizen in the future.</p> <p>I do believe that children are the future and that investment in them will ensure a high quality living for all. I also believe that all the parks and recreation facilities , government owned, are for the use of all citizens.</p> <p>I also believe that society need to live in harmony, and that we need to accommodate and respect all.</p> <p>I find it really hard to believe that the use of the Reserve is reserved for a few and that the couple of days a year is unreasonable request.</p> <p>With all the developments, sub divisions of housing in the Bayside area I do believe council need to ensure that the Green areas are kept from future property development, to ensure sport and activities for future generations.</p> <p>Regards William</p>	

11. Mrs Melanie Harcourt	(F)
<p>BGS Rugby children should be able to play sport within their community. Wilson Rec is close to their school which helps to build the children's bond and keeps them connected to their community and be able to watch their mates play</p>	

12.	Mr Niall McConville	(F)
<p>As someone who immigrated to Australia from a country where rugby union is commonly played, I have always been amazed how poorly supported rugby is here in Bayside. To the best of my knowledge there is not one other rugby pitch other than Wilson recreation reserve in the whole of the Bayside area whereas there are many AFL and cricket facilities. In today's world of encouraging choice and providing opportunities for our young people, that is a very poor effort indeed. I believe Bayside should be looking to add more rugby facilities for the community and school's to use, not stopping BGS using the only one that exists. I would also like it noted that I pass Wilson recreation quite regularly and is not used very often by the community so I can't see the BGS usage impacting too many locals. As a bayside rate payer of many years I would like to voice my strong support for BGS to be able to use the facilities at Wilson Recreation Reserve for training and home games.</p> <p>As I already said it is so important that we make it easy for our kids to play sport in a way that is logistically simple and convenient. Wilson recreation reserve is very close to school which satisfies that requirement plus the location makes it easy for family and friends to come and support the teams.</p>		

13.	Mrs Andrea Jacob	(F)
<p>Supportive of Brighton Grammar accessing Wilson reserve. It's good for the community and for the kids and not just for those attending the school. Brings people together and encourages sport for young people and good for local business when there are games on.</p>		

14.	Mrs Chantal Albert	(F)
<p>To allow more access to Wilson Rec for the boys play their rugby close to school.</p>		

15.	Ms Trudi Davies	(F)
<p>The students, players, parents and whole school community would greatly benefit from being able to play rugby games on Wilson Rec grounds. After two years of limited sport for our children, council should be welcoming the school to use the facilities available. The area would still available for a large portion of the week to the whole community of Brighton for kids, dog walking and general outdoor enjoyment. How great for the local kids who don't attend BGS to be able to watch a local rugby game on a Friday afternoon or weekend. It could also encourage more local children to take up rugby as a sport.</p>		

16. Mrs Kirsty Wiseman	(F)
<p>Community facilities that are funded by Bayside ratepayers should be available for use by all sectors of the community. This includes allowing these facilities to be used for junior sporting activities, be they local club or school sports. These activities bring the community together to encourage unity within the community. When our kids have to go outside our community to play sport, fewer people are present to support them as extended family members will often come to be a part of it if it's located within the bayside area. When it isn't kids lose that support from extended family and the community loses the opportunity to gather together. Let our kids use the facilities we pay for to play sport.</p>	

17. Mr Paul Thomson	(F)
<p>The School should be allowed to access the oval and use the oval for school rugby. The students have been denied sport in a large part, due to Covid and its policy management. The essence of sport is integral to education. The school's usage is not permanent nor does it exclude anyone else from using the oval at other times. In the original submissions to Council, I believe the school is willing to maintain the oval to a much better standard than it has been for the last 40 years at least. As an ex-student, we used the oval almost weekly and I found it was quite dangerous with the uneven surface, especially after sustained rainfall. The drainage continues to be a problem.</p>	

18. Mrs Eve Smith	(F)
<p>The proposal that children can't use the Wilson rec for sport is absurd. it is so vital in our community that children have a place to play sport, connect with their friends and be somewhere close to home. it is of safety the children are playing close to their school and can play school sport especially when they have a passion for rugby. Surely seeing children happy and playing is of benefit to our community. to take this away from the children after two years of being isolated at home is only further set to hamper their mental health and our future adult community. Let the children play in a safe environment and share the space with the wider Brighton community.</p>	

19.	Mrs Lorinda Morley	(F)
<p>Our children should be playing sport in the local community not having to bus to grounds out of the area, it is close to school and helps build their bond and keeps them connected to their community, my sons love going down to watch and support their mates.</p>		

20.	Ms Katrina Spence	(F)
<p>I understand that BGS rugby has been denied the use of the Wilson Rec. After the two years of Covid interruptions I believe it's critical that our kids can play sport in a safe and well maintained environment. Rugby is not a well funded sport but is a wonderful sport for boys to play and with facilities so close to school why aren't we allowing boys to train and play on it?</p>		

21.	Mr Rodney Mackintosh	(F)
<p>Wilson Recreation Reserve has and should continue to provide a convenient place for children to play sport in the community. The Reserve is close to school and helps build their bond and keeps them connected to their community and watching their mates play.</p>		

22.	Dr Eva Aschman	(F)
<p>It is important that our park facilities are available to all of the community. Having this space available for sports will provide a stronger community bond and encourage children to get outside and exercise. All important for mental and physical health.</p>		

As a Bayside resident, I am completely in favour of Wilson Rec being used by Brighton Grammar boys for sports such as rugby. One of the great highlights for me of recently moving to this locality, is watching the Bayside community - especially our kids - come together to play sport or watch others doing so. The community spirit is unbeatable and it's a great way of keeping our kids engaged in a meaningful and healthy way in their local community.

I often pass Wilson Rec - almost daily - and it is frequently not being utilised. Surely allowing some kids to regularly play sport there is not such a big ask? I understand that others may use it for other purposes too Eg to walk dogs - which is great! But I'm a ratepayer too. I don't have a dog that needs walking there. I have a son who loves playing sport.

I understand that some community members might take issue with a private school asking to use a community facility. However, in my opinion this is short sighted. If a local facility can be used to engage young kids in a healthy activity, which encourages camaraderie and community spirit, surely it is irrelevant what school they attend. They are part of the local community too. Moreover, given Brighton Grammar has indicated it would be willing to invest in the upgrade of Wilson Rec, it would be curious if the Council were to reject such an offer, which would benefit ALL members of the public.

It would be great if the Council could compromise on this issue - let Brighton Grammar invest in the upgrade of Wilson Rec for the benefit of the whole community and in turn let their school boys then also have regular access to play sport on this currently under-utilised space.

Thank you for considering my submission.

24. Mrs Cathie Strahan

(F)

Wilson Rec is a fantastic space that should be enjoyed by ALL residents of Bayside - Brighton Grammar has a proposal to improve the ground and facilities for all the community as well as for the children from BGS and other schools to use those facilities alongside the residents in the area. Already non school sporting clubs are allowed to hold training and weekend sport matches such as cricket so why is that fine and yet BGS and I can only assume Firbank as well are now no longer able to use the ground during not only during school times for the boys/girls to exercise and have fresh air but also no longer able to play rugby or any other sport. it should be a shared space for all the community.

if the objection is around being able to walk your dog on the ground no one is saying that still can't happen - it works fine at Dendy Park where I currently walk my dog while kids play sport on the weekend. It is terrible that the council and a few residents are letting such a great space go to waste for the community and can't see the benefit to them of the investment to improve the grounds and facilities for all the community that BGS is willing to make. In this day and age it's very short sighted. Please vote for the recommendation at your meeting and for the kids in our community. thank you

25. Ms Suzanne Liu

(F)

Wilson Recreation Reserve should be used to support community activities. School sport is a great example that brings community together.

26. Mrs Anita Owen

(F)

As a Brighton resident of 10 years, I'm in full support of Wilson Reserve being used as required by Brighton Grammar School (BGS). These facilities are there to be used by all community members. These facilities add no value if they are not being used. BGS proposal is fair & should be supported by the council.

27. Mr Richard Owen

(F)

As a Brighton resident of 10 years, I'm in full support of Wilson Reserve being used as required by Brighton Grammar School (BGS). These facilities are there to be used by all community members. These facilities add no value if they are not being used. BGS proposal is fair & should be supported by the council.

28.	Mrs Catherine Beckingham	(F)
<p>I would request that Brighton Grammar School students playing Rugby be given adequate access to allow them to train and play on the facilities at Brighton Recreation Reserve. These facilities are very close to the school; playing on these facilities so close to the school will help the team build their bond with each other, keeps them connected to the school community, and allows other members of the school community to watch and support the players.</p>		

29.	Mr Mark Nicholls	(F)
<p>Access to the Wilson Recreation Reserve promotes healthy living. Removing or limiting access restricts healthy living. Council must preserve locally accessible ovals for the community to use for sports activity. Healthy living will support the community recover from Covid. We already have limited local options why would council want to restrict access to them even further. If we see active community members around us then we are more likely to be active. Bayside is a great place to live let's ensure we keep it a healthy place to live through preserving sports access to Wilson Street Reserve.</p>		

30.	Dr Deborah Clift	(F)
<p>I am a parent of 3 active boys, all of whom are lucky enough to attend BGS. I am strongly in favour of the rugby club being allowed to use the Wilson Rec. Sport is an integral part of the school community and after 2 years of lockdowns and off site learning, the boys are desperate to get back into regular training and games. The proximity of the Wilson Rec to BGS fosters the bond between the rugby teams and the school community as a whole and allows those boys who are not participating in rugby, as well as members of the local community, to come and watch and support their mates. The school has committed to maintaining the oval which is of benefit to everyone who uses the park.</p>		

31.	Ms Annette King	(F)
<p>Wilson Reserve is a community park and sports field for use by the community.</p> <p>A key part of the community are the schools, and many children in Bayside attend local schools including Brighton Grammar School.</p> <p>I believe that the Wilson Reserve should be made available to BGS for use for their rugby training and matches.</p> <p>After Covid-19 many children have poor exercise regimes and school sport is a key way to improve their health outcomes. Making Wilson Reserve available to these school children will help them individually as well as the community as a whole.</p>		

32.	Ms Susan Power	(F)
<p>Brighton Grammar is part of the bayside community and should be supported by the Bayside City Council by providing access to the grounds for training and games similar to the arrangement that other councils such as Melbourne City Council has with Melbourne Grammar School. As a community we should be supporting any initiative that sees young people being active and playing sport which contributes to improved mental and physical health. Community sport is integral to local communities and allows spectators to come along to watch the game and enjoy a sausage in a friendly and welcoming environment.</p>		

33.	Mrs Jane Hogan	(F)
<p>More than ever we need our kids back playing sport. It is vital to them, their families and the overall well-being of our community. The more opportunities the better. Please grant the children access to the reserve. Thank you</p>		

34.	Mrs Sophie Edmunds	(F)
<p>It would be a huge benefit to our community if Brighton Grammar could have use of Wilson Rec. A large percentage of boys at the school live locally and to be able to play sport in their local community is a big positive. It is so close to the school which would allow other students to watch their school mates play. Currently the maintenance of Wilson Rec Reserve is not acceptable. There are holes and divots in many places and as a result my son was badly injured when playing there in December last year. Brighton Grammar would ensure the grounds are safe for our children to play on. It is also unacceptable that there are no toilet facilities at the Wilson Rec. Brighton. This should change for everyone who uses the ground.</p>		

35.	Mrs Liz Van der Slot	(F)
<p>I wish to support the use of Wilson Reserve for BGS rugby. There is no price on children being able to play their chosen sport in the community. Wilson Reserve is close to school and so helps the boys build and strengthen bonds. It connects them to their community and provides the opportunity to support their mates.</p>		

36.	Mr Wayne Moulton	(F)
<p>Sport is an essential part of community life, the opportunity for Rugby to be played at Wilson Recreation Reserve for the students at Brighton Grammar has been a great contributor to diverse sports at the school. Everyone appreciates the value of a team sport like Rugby which creates a strong linkage of players depending on each other to succeed. Bayside will only benefit from supporting Rugby at Wilson Recreation Reserve as it builds a greater sense of community for all.</p> <p>Sincerely Wayne Moulton</p>		

37. Ms Julia Aschman	(F)
<p>I believe it's very important we focus on children playing sport and doing activities within the community.</p> <p>We need to build a sense of camaraderie in our community, by participating in activities close to home and school the children build their bond and maintain their connection to the community and their friends.</p> <p>Although this may seem small in relation to other measures but these grass root activities within our community strengthen and bond us all. It fosters mateship and provides memories which our children can carry into adulthood which assists in making them a valued member of society.</p>	

38. Mr Luke Horton	(F)
<p>I am a bayside resident with 1 son who plays rugby for BGS and a daughter who also uses the Wilson Rec for recreation. I am also a dog owner and walker who uses the Wilson Rec for leisure purposes. I believe that community spaces must be balanced across different needs in the community and the use of the Wilson Rec for such a very limited period of time for BGS pupils to play sport close to the school and in their Brighton community is so important with no reasonable argument for this to be denied. With Australia's recent win the host the 2027 Rugby World cup that is the 3rd largest global sporting event only behind the FIFA world cup and Summer Olympics it is so important that there are local facilities for kids to play sport overall and Rugby in particular. The proposed use of the Rec is such a small allocation of time and I urge the council to support this important and limited access to the Rec for young members of the Bayside community.</p> <p>Rgds, Luke Chief Operating Officer Brenteca Investments</p>	

39. Mr David Moreton	(F)
<p>I support BGS School continuing its recent past occasional use of Brighton Rec oval for sport, including Rugby, and hope Council can arrive at a fair sharing arrangement, which did include and can still include general citizen majority use, for both benefits.</p>	

40. Mrs Libby Bailey

(F)

Dear council members. We are writing as a family of a BGS rugby player and local Brighton residents. We strongly recommend this proposal. The use of Wilson Reserve brings so much to our rugby games. Being able to play amongst our community and have students, families and locals come and support our games brings such a sense of community and belonging to our boys. With students and families often crossing the road to then watch the footy on the Crowther and back again. Playing in Moorrabbin takes that sense of belonging and community away from our boys. Given the limited requirements and the positive influence it has on our boys I really hope you support this recommendation. Thank you for listening.

41. Mr Andrew Bath

(F)

I am a Bayside resident who pays Bayside Council rates, and have two boys who play rugby, and both attend Brighton Grammar.

The current situation with Wilson Rec, where Brighton Grammar are not able to play all their home rugby games, is very disappointing, particularly after the last two Covid impacted years these young people have endured. We should be encouraging young people to play sport and using it to make them feel part of their wider community, rather than pushing them away.

Outside of the fact that the recognised primary function of Wilson Rec is as a sporting field (Bayside Open Space Strategy of April 2012), is the fact that the usage of the ground when proposed games would take place is minimal. Over the course of a season, the ground would be used for approximately seven Saturdays, with games finishing by 1.30pm, and probably a total of 25 games in total all season. In addition, there are no games during school holidays or on public holidays. The minimal use that is required should mean that the shared use that has occurred historically can continue.

Having been involved in sport around the world, and heavily involved locally as an administrator, volunteer and coach, I have seen firsthand the importance to these young people being able to play their games in front of their community. And their community is not just the school they attend, it is the area in which they live, and that they contribute to, and that we want them to continue contributing to.

I can only hope that the rules are changed back to allow the school to use the facility again for their home matches, and that the boys can feel that buzz of being in their community and supported by their community.

42.	Mrs Kelly Bramley	(F)
<p>I really would like BGS Rugby to be able to have more access to Wilson Rec as I feel it is so important for children to play sport in their community especially after the last two years where they played little or no sport at all. Wilson Rec is close to school so for many of the boys they can get themselves there instead of maybe having to depend on a family member which isn't always possible, work commitments and or other family commitments may make it impossible for the child to get to training, game day if it was to be held at another venue. School community and the bonds that are built are so very important and are long lasting so to be able to have the school community come and watch and support their mates is invaluable. The Rugby season isn't very long and after being able to use Wilson Rec for so long, it just seems so unfair to take that away from boys and young men who are just so passionate and committed to a sport they love.</p> <p>Please consider that everyone in the community should be able to work together so that everyone that wants to play community sport can, whether that be school, club or representative.</p> <p>Thanks for taking the time to read my submission.</p> <p>Kelly</p>		

43.	Mrs Kena Roach	(F)
<p>Post Covid it is critical for children to be given every opportunity and encouragement to play sport. Access to the ground next to the school makes participation easy and allows the boys to be part of the community.</p>		

44. Mrs Karina Louw

(F)

To Whom it May Concern;

Please acknowledge our request to use the Wilson's Rec Reserve for BGS rugby training and home games on Saturdays. Being able to use one ground for all our home games will benefit the rugby bond and community within the school. The Wilson's Rec is close to the school and automatically draws a crowd and supporters to home games across different sport disciplines. It makes a massive difference in the experience for the children on the field seeing their footy, soccer or basketball mates at their games. Having their friends from different sporting groups supporting them also creates a greater bond for the school as a whole. Currently our children need to travel to Moorabbin for training twice a week and that alone takes at least 50 minutes extra out of their days. Our u13s, u15s, u16, 2nd XV and 1st XV have all had successful starts to the year, and it would be great to be able to generate that rugby sense of community at Wilson Rec moving forward whereby the younger players can actually stay and watch the games of the older players. That is how they get to know the inspiring older players, look up to them and learn from them.

Thanks for your time.

45. Mrs Pam Moulton

(F)

Hello, my son plays rugby at Brighton Grammar. He has found a sport that motivates and inspires him. I watch them train and play and I can see the camaraderie between his team mates. Since he was twelve years old I have watched him play and train on Wilson Recreation Reserve. I have developed amazing friendships with other parents who all live in and belong to our local community. I also walk my dog on this reserve. I hope that our council members can see that these boys and families are respectful and always thankful to play there. I also hope that it can be continued and our local families can meet and enjoy sport on this beautiful reserve. Thank you. Pam Moulton

46. Mr Robert Tyler

(F)

I have been a Brighton resident for over 20 years and have sent my kids first to the local primary school and now on to Brighton Grammer and Firbank. I have felt a great sense of community pride attending school events in my local park (Landcox park) for cross country, soccer at Dendy park, footie and cricket at Hurlingham. This continued on into Rugby on the Wilson Rec, where my eldest son played for 6 years before going to Uni. My second son has also played rugby at BGS and turning up on a Saturday to support the tonners has been a great part of my family's life. I was dumbfounded when I heard that the school were having problems accessing Wilson Rec and that a vocal minority seemed to have swayed the council. I believe the school, a long term asset and contributor to the Bayside environment should have access to this reserve. They should be able to use it, as I'm sure the visionaries who originally set it aside for public use wanted it to be used for. Having kids play sport local to the school is great for the community and makes sense for a whole load of reasons. I will be voting carefully at the next council election and checking to see how this vote goes.

47. Mrs Navdeep Lalh

(F)

We would like to submit our support to the BGS community to ensure that the boys have access to play rugby at the Wilson reserve. Not only is this part of our growing community, but a community park should provide a safe place for the younger generation to flourish. We hope that you consider the above and permit BGS to use the Wilson rec as per previous arrangements.

48. Mr Tyrone Landsman

(F)

As a Resident of Brighton at 7/9 Adamson Street Brighton and also a Resident of Bayside for over 20 years I can't believe this community doesn't support Rugby Union for our children that should be out playing a Sport that will have a World Cup in Australia again. Kids should be able to play sport and it shouldn't be taking away from them after being on that ground for so long.

49. Mr Owen Smith

(F)

I write to express my strong support for BGS Rugby to have a continuing use to train and play rugby on the Wilson Recreation Reserve. I am particularly keen to allow all ages and teams to come together with minimal limitation as it is those events that create the strongest sense of team and community. When a club comes together the children's age and ability become second to the sense of belonging that a club can create, the past few years has seen this gift impacted heavily across many sport and social clubs and I believe this sense of belonging is crucial to a cohesive society. As I understand it BGS has offered financial and practical support to ensure the Wilson Rec is maintained so this also benefits the entire community and should be supported as a practical use of public open space.

50. Mrs Marlea Naughton

(F)

After two years of interruption to our children's schooling and sporting agendas caused by COVID it is more important than ever kids have easy and unlimited access to play sport locally. Staying local enables kids to feel more connected to their community as more of their friends and local community are likely to come along and support them if they are playing at local grounds. It would be great to prove the current councillors do support our kids being active in our local area by not reducing the use of Wilson Rec oval. The current vibe is that they do not support kids being fit and healthy after over turning the planned sporting facilities as part of the Elsternwick Reserve redevelopment that had been signed off on by the previous council committee and now reducing the use of Wilson Rec oval. Reducing the use of local outdoor spaces for sport is to the detriment of the community and a disappointing attitude from our current council committee.

51. Prof. Jacqui True

(F)

As a Bayside resident and ratepayer for over 10 years, I strongly support the BGS request to use the Wilson Rec for 10 rugby games on Saturdays. In previous years I have assisted with the BBQ at rugby games on the Wilson Rec ground. This is a great way of hosting visitors to Brighton. I have noticed how many community members - young and old - line up for hot dogs and watch the games. It is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and fellow citizens in Bayside. As a resident in the area I have noticed very little use of the Wilson Rec on any day of the week, other than these sports games on Saturdays during winter. Having listened to a previous Council meeting I was extremely surprised and disappointed to hear the ideological tenor of the debate. Should the BGS request to use the grounds for school boy rugby on 10 occasions be declined you can be sure how my vote - and that of all my neighbors - will be placed come Election Day.

52. Mrs Helen Mastos

(F)

I am in support of the motion to allow more access to Wilson Rec Reserve for playing rugby matches. It is important for all children to play sport within their own communities. In this case, the boys at BGS need to play games close to the school so that they maintain their link to their school. It makes it easier for their schoolmates to come and watch matches and cheer the boys on against other schools when the games are played close to the school. Other sports are played by BGS students in the same area so it enhances the connection between all of the school children and the school itself with the community.

53. Mrs Simone Landsman

(F)

As a resident of Brighton and also a resident living Bayside for the last 20years, I find it hard to believe that BGS,who have held the grounds and maintained them for many years are now being pushed out by dog walkers and obviously locals living in the vicinity who, over Covid, have become used this piece of land and are only thinking of themselves.

The joy of hearing sports finally being played once again after all this time would , you think, be a great sound to hear as a community once again moving forward with life and putting Covid behind us.

It would seem that the minority once again are louder than the majority and will just bully their way into getting what they want !!!

With limited grounds for Rugby as it is, we need the help to maintain as many as we can!!

54. Ms Yolande Retief

(F)

BGS boys would like to play close to school and will help build their bond and keep them connected to their community, and close enough to watch their mates play. There is a dog park around the corner that can be used by dog owners during games.

Brighton Grammar School (BGS) has requested that all BGS home games are allowed to be played on Wilson Reserve, as has occurred for many years until now. The Rugby season lasts for only 10 Saturdays and thus the BGS request to play all home games covers less than 20% of the Saturday mornings there are in a year, and numbers around only 15 extra matches.

The BGS request does not seem to be unreasonable. Indeed, this matter became an issue only when council members were initially presented an offer from BGS to upgrade the Wilson Reserve playing field at the School's expense. That offer would have created a much better and usable ground for all members of the Brighton public at no cost to the community. That was a very good offer that any cost-benefit analysis produced by Council staff would have shown to be of high value to this community. It is not clear that any evidence to inform this decision was called for by Council members.

The response of particular councillors was to suggest that the school could not use the reserve on Saturdays in Rugby season for more than one game per day. It was a response that - from hearing the discussion - struck me as sadly ill-informed. Some Councillors obviously had never actually visited the Reserve.

A Council representing the people who elect it should have some modicum of respect for use of evidence when making decisions. In light of the information now presented to the Council, it would seem reasonable that the request from BGS now be accepted, reversing the previous ill-informed decision. Should that not happen, I am sure many people who hear of this whole situation will conclude that we are being poorly served by current elected members. Questions will be raised about the broadly quality of decision making by these currently elected members. That would likely have implications at the next election.

56. Ms Joanna Dougan

(F)

Councillors,

I would like register my support for the motion to allow Brighton Grammar to resume using Wilson Rec for their home rugby games.

In essence the current stipulation of only one game per week is stopping our young people playing the sport they choose to, within the community in which they live. As a mother of two boys, and rates payer, and after the Covid years that we have had, the boys being able to play is something the council should be looking to support. Especially given this is the only facility in Bayside City Council's boundaries where people can play one of the world's most popular sports in rugby.

I am hopeful that the previous arrangement, which was minimal in terms of hours and days, will be resumed.

Regards,
Jo

57. Mr Joshua Dougan-Bath

(F)

Dear Council Members,

My name is Josh, and I am a 17 year old who lives in Brighton and plays rugby at Brighton Grammar, and it is where I first played the game I love.

A highlight of my week, after practicing with my team mates is being able to play in front of my school mates, and my local friends, whom I don't go to school with, in my community. It is such a good feeling playing in front of your own community, young and old, with not only our families, but also older rugby supporters there to support us. When I play for Brighton Grammar, I feel like I am not only representing my school, but the community that I come from.

When we play at home, and all the games are there, I am able to go down, as a 1st XV player to support the 11 and 12 year old's starting out their career, as I did 5 years ago. This is something that I can't do when the community is broken up by having us play at different places and away from our school. This is even more important now Australia has won the rights to the 2027 and 2029 Rugby World Cups, much of which will be played in Melbourne.

I hope that you will pass the motion to let Brighton Grammar to play all our home games at the Wilson Rec, in front of both my school community and the wider Bayside community. It would be great, if as I feel like I am representing where I come from, where I come from supported my team and me.

Thank you,

Josh

58. Mrs Jessamy Shiell

(F)

Wilson's Rec must allow more sport. Our sons are at BGS and have limited access to the rec. this isn't acceptable. we feel that the council isn't supporting kids sport and is renegeing often on supporting kids sport. Sport is essential especially to boys and keeping them out Of trouble. Please don't stop access!!!!

59. Mr Alex Rico

(F)

Hi I am current student at Brighton Grammar, I wanted to highlight the recent issues about the use of the Wilson Reserve. Coming out of a hard two years of lockdown, rugby has flourished with multiple teams having an exceeding large number of players joining and committing to the sport. With the recent inability for the younger kids and teams to train on the field a few problems have arose with the motivation, culture and love which Brighton Grammar has experienced with rugby. I am a fellow rugby player, having enjoyed representing Brighton Grammar for around five years. The Wilson has always been the best place to train and develop our skills. As well as the accessibility to the pitch makes it our symbolic icon we remember from our times playing rugby, the memories from where we won and where we lost. Therefore it is disappointing to see that all of a sudden our base for rugby has been clenched out from our hands. With the school hours limiting us to just over an hour of training time, taking the bus to Moorabbin just to be able to train seems so daunting. Thus the times of the trainings have been reduced alongside the staff and equipment provided for us boys to use. These boys who have known and loved rugby for many years have sadly succumbed to a change that has been diminishing their levels of fun and performance. Hence It will be guttering if the boys can not be heard/with no further action taken.

Thankyou for taking your time to read my submission, I hope you are encouraged to think about the implications on not only the younger boys but the older boys so that we can bring back the beautiful culture of rugby alongside the wonderful community engagement.

60. Dr Jeff Ward

(F)

I support the use of Wilson Recreation Reserve for the use of Rugby Union by Brighton Grammar School.

The availability of green space for sporting use, especially for children is extremely important.

There are no Rugby Union grounds available for use in Bayside.

Rugby Union is a very popular sport worldwide and Australia will host the Rugby World Cup for men in 2027 and women in 2029. It is very important there availability for children in Bayside to be able to play Rugby Union

Wilson Recreation Reserve is the only available option for Rugby Union in Bayside.

The usage proposed by Brighton Grammar is not onerous. At the times and days proposed, Wilson Recreation Reserve is often empty and not used by anyone else.

Having Wilson Recreation Reserve available for use by Brighton Grammar School for Rugby benefits children in Bayside.

61. Mr Charlie Bramley

(F)

I really think BGS Rugby should be able to continue training and playing on the Wilson Rec as we've been able to before as it's been where I've trained and played since I was young.

It is a great bonding opportunity for all us boys as it's easier for our school mates and other boys from the school as well as the community to come down and support us. As a community we have all missed out on so much, including being able to play the sports we love. I have such fond memories of playing rugby with my mates on the Wilson Rec and I would really like that to continue.

62.	Mr Johann Louw	(F)
<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I was disheartened by the fact that the Wilson Recreation Reserve availability was limited for one of our community schools, being Brighton Grammar. The past years we were able to enjoy the school kids playing rugby at the Reserve that was watched and enjoyed by parents and the greater community. These events also brings members from other communities to the Bayside area, which enables them to enjoy our local restaurants, coffee shops and our retail in Church Street. The main impact of the decision is not necessarily impacting the parents and the community but our school children. To explain, a decision whereby they cannot participate at their perceived home ground is challenging. I am aware that the school has invested in the upgrade of the field that can be enjoyed by the whole community. It would be a very positive gesture if the Council could revisit the decision and positively consider the request to make the Reserve available for the Brighton Grammar School Rugby season.</p>		

63.	Mr Fraser McMillan	(F)
<p>Sport is an integral part of life in Australia. There is so much to be gained through kids playing sport and as far as I've seen in over 40 years of playing and coaching, nothing to be lost.</p> <p>Hopefully bureaucracy and red tape will not prevent BGS from fulfilling their dreams of playing rugby, locally. Only time shall tell.</p>		

64.	Mrs Kirsty Ristevski	(F)
<p>As a local parent of two boys who play rugby at Brighton Grammar I strongly support the use of the Wilson Rec reserve by Brighton Grammar to promote connectivity within the school community with the local community. Children & dogs can live in harm any, and with respect for each other. The oval should be able to be used by the entire community, not just dog owners.the children are our future, let's promote positive involvement and local engagement.</p>		

65. Mr James Dalrymple	(F)
<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I wanted to express my support for the use of Wilson Rec for rugby at Brighton Grammar. There is a severe lack of sporting fields available in the area, which makes it all the more challenging for minority sports. Rugby is a sport in Victoria that has small but passionate community support. I think the opportunity to utilise Wilson Rec for this purpose is a fantastic opportunity to allow this community to flourish and expand. Brighton Grammar is a huge part of the local community, my opinion is that there is little to lose and much to gain by allowing access to Wilson Rec for the Brighton Grammar community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the submission.</p>	

66. Dr Edwina Rice	(F)
<p>I strongly support the use of Wilson Recreation Reserve by Brighton Grammar School for sporting activities- in particular Rugby.</p> <p>Allowing the boys to use this Reserve will keep them playing sport in the Bayside Community and keep them connected with their school and Community.</p>	

I watched the Council meeting that decided to limit access to Brighton Grammar usage of the Wilson Recreation Reserve. I was amazed that the Council would make a decision that is anti-sport against a group of young boys who cannot vote in any Council election and have no voice.

The decision was not based on any apparent data collected by the Council on the usage of the Reserve or consideration of the percentage of time available taken by rugby training and playing.

The decision runs counter to the communities concern about the effect of Covid on the physical and mental wellbeing of our youth. It is well known that sport is beneficial to both physical and mental well being. Long before Covid, the community was and still is, concerned about obesity in our youth. The Council has a responsibility to address these issues and support our young men.

Also, Brighton Grammar has been and continues to be one of Brighton's premier institutions and has a long history of contributing to the local community. It is my understanding that the school is willing to contribute to the maintenance and upgrading of the Reserve for the benefit of the community. I would urge the Council to explore this opportunity.

There is commercial impact of the decision. The inter-school matches bring spectators from outside the local area who support businesses in Church Street. Restricting these matches adversely effects local businesses.

I have one son playing rugby and another who was a past captain of the First Eleven at Brighton Grammar. I have seen the impact of a vigorous team sport on the development of these young men. Apart from the physical development, this sport instills in them many life skills of teamwork, cooperation, fairness, respect, sportsmanship, leadership and mateship.

I urge the Council to reconsider its position.

Sincerely

Dr Ian Dickson AM

68. Ms Margaret Pasoce	(F)
<p>As a parent of a Brighton Grammar rugby player, having access to the Wilson Recreation reserve for training and playing purposes is important to the children to create a greater sense of connection to the school, to their team and their community. I hope that this can continue.</p>	

69. Ms Kellie Tapping	(F)
<p>The inclusion and participation of school sport is extremely important due to 2 years of lockdown with COVID. There is also a shortage of facilities our children need to be back playing sport. The council need to overturn this absurd request as the school have used this green space for years. Thank you Kellie Tapping</p>	

70. Mrs Natalie Graf	(F)
<p>Our children need to be able to play sport in our local community, particularly beautiful Wilson Rec. It is close to Brighton Grammar and helps build bonds watching more sports as the ground is so local for so many people. Thank you</p>	

71. Ms Lisa Unsworth	(F)
<p>Children should be able to use Wilson Rec for training purposes, particularly after the past two years. It is so important for kids to be able play sport in the community.</p>	

72. Ms Marita Evans	(F)
<p>The use of Wilson Rec has had a long standing history by Brighton Grammar as part of the wider community of Bayside. We live on Lindsay street just near the the Wilson Rec and feel that the community and BGS have used the Rec seamlessly over the years. It promotes a wonderful sense of community. People often stop and watch the boys play. Since the restrictions have been in place I have noticed little or no activity on the rec. The restrictions do not make sense to me as a parent and a neighbour of the rec. The arrangement has been a source of great community and I really am at a loss as to why the arrangement cannot continue.</p>	

73.	Mrs Basia Quill	(F)
<p>I am in support of the motion to allow more access to Wilson Rec for Brighton Grammar students to play sport closer to their school, be able to create bonds within the community, and plain and simple be active and have a safe space to exercise. Lockdown took a lot away from our children, please do not continue to take things from them.</p>		

74.	Mrs Suzanne Farley	(F)
<p>Would like to support the motion for BGS to use the park for their home games. It is close to the school, will encourage their fellow students and community to come and watch the games. The season is a short one so would not be using the park for that many Saturdays.</p>		

Dear Mayor and Councillors of Bayside City Council,

My son has played Rugby at Brighton Grammar School since 2017, when he began playing Saturday sport in year 7 one of the many enjoyable aspects of playing Rugby was that after his game many of the younger kids and families watched and supported the older teams who played later in the morning.

The Saturday morning Rugby players and supporters are made up of many Bayside locals: those of us who have lived here for generations, who work here, who send our children to school here and have moved to the area to enjoy all that Bayside has to offer. Many locals who use the adjoining playground along with dog walkers etc also often stop to watch the kids playing throughout the morning.

There is a strong community spirit in Bayside that comes with supporting kids playing sport.

After the last two years of Covid lockdowns many local children suffered immeasurably, they missed time at school, their friends and they especially missed playing team sports. We will never get that time back, but please do not penalise these kids even further by not letting them play together in their local community. For many, such as my son, it will be their last year of playing together as they move out of the school system.

To only play one game on Saturday will now require finding other grounds suited to Rugby, as you would know there are very limited spaces suited to Rugby in the Bayside area compared to other sporting codes.

In my opinion, to be able to play a few games on Wilson Recreational Reserve on Saturday morning only would be a fair use of the ground and allow for other users to enjoy the space also over the weekend.

I ask you to please examine the impact your decision is making on the local kids and families of Bayside and to reconsider allowing Brighton Grammar School the use of Wilson Recreational Reserve for Saturday morning sport once again.

Kind Regards,
Maureen Secatore

76.	Ms Breanna McGrath	(F)
<p>I fully support the schools request to have more access to Wilson Rec particularly in relation to Rugby home games being played.</p> <p>One thing as a parent we are told regularly is 'keep your kids in sport' it helps keep them mentally, physically and emotionally healthy. It's not always about wining it's about being part of a team, supporting each other, turning up for training and games. Which is made easier when the ground is local to your team. Additionally when parents have multiple children and the struggle to support all of them and attend all games is real, a local facility is vital. The broader community would benefit from more sport being played locally. There are many who stop to watch a game for the pure pleasure of the game and enjoyment of seeing the next generation grow.</p> <p>Thankyou for hearing us today.</p>		

77.	Mrs Joanna Upstill	(F)
<p>I am in support of allowing more access to Wilson Rec for Brighton Grammer boys to play rugby close to the school. I am passionate about encouraging kids playing sport for their mental and physical well being and it is important they are able to do this close to the school to enable them to stay connected with their friends, both those who play rugby and those who like to watch, and the community and strengthen that bond.</p>		

78.	Mrs Charlotte Forster	(F)
<p>To whom it may concern, as part of the local community the Rugby Teams of BGS require fair access to the playing field at Wilson Recreation Reserve.</p>		

79.	Mr Andrew Forster	(F)
<p>The boys of Brighton Grammar School as memebers of the local community require access to play sport on these local grounds.</p>		

80.	Ms Thanh Huynh	(F)
<p>My sons do not play rugby but i would like to their school, Brighton grammar and groups to have the right to play home games on the Wilson rec- at the moment rugby teams cannot play on the oval or the rec and have to train and play games at moorabbin rugby club. Its a beautiful area and it would be amazing to see local schools and community using it to its fullest.</p>		

81.	Mr Justin Farley	(F)
<p>I am for the recommendation as it is very important for children to play sport.</p>		