

## **ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
	<b>Business Outstanding</b>	
6	Response to Notice of Motion - A New Synthetic Athletics Track for Ipswich	3

\*\* Item includes confidential papers

**ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 6**

**22 JULY 2025**

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

6. **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - A NEW SYNTHETIC ATHLETICS TRACK FOR IPSWICH**

This is a report in response to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Marnie Doyle at the 30 April 2025 Council Ordinary Meeting:

- A. That Ipswich City Council:
  - 1. Prepare a report that identifies appropriate Ipswich City Council council-owned properties where a synthetic athletics track could be located.
  - 2. That the report be presented to a future meeting of the Economic and Cultural Development Committee, no later than the June 2025 meeting of that committee.
- B. That Ipswich City Council prepare an advocacy campaign designed to attract State and/or Commonwealth Government grant funding to assist with the planning, design, and construction of a new synthetic athletics track for Ipswich.
- C. That the Ipswich 2032 Legacy Roadmap be updated to reflect the above.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. That the response to the *Notice of Motion – A New Synthetic Athletics Track for Ipswich* be received and its contents noted.
- B. That council continue the process of site identification and advocacy for a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich until a report and recommendation on the matter is brought to a future Committee and Council meeting for resolution.

Doc ID No: A11645942

*This matter has been determined to be of a significant nature and approval has been given to refer this report to the Economic and Cultural Development Committee as a supplementary item.*

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - A NEW SYNTHETIC ATHLETICS TRACK FOR IPSWICH

AUTHOR: PRINCIPAL SPORT, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLANNER

DATE: 30 MAY 2025

This is a report in response to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Marnie Doyle at the 30 April 2025 Council Ordinary Meeting:

- A. That Ipswich City Council:
  - 1. Prepare a report that identifies appropriate Ipswich City Council council-owned properties where a synthetic athletics track could be located.
  - 2. That the report be presented to a future meeting of the Economic and Cultural Development Committee, no later than the June 2025 meeting of that committee.
- B. That Ipswich City Council prepare an advocacy campaign designed to attract State and/or Commonwealth Government grant funding to assist with the planning, design, and construction of a new synthetic athletics track for Ipswich.
- C. That the Ipswich 2032 Legacy Roadmap be updated to reflect the above.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

- A. **That the response to the *Notice of Motion – A New Synthetic Athletics Track for Ipswich* be received and its contents noted.**
- B. **That council continue the process of site identification and advocacy for a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich until a report and recommendation on the matter is brought to a future Committee and Council meeting for resolution.**

## RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible related party or conflict of interest implications associated with this report or its recommendations.

## IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND**

Following the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Marnie Doyle at the 30 April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, officers have progressed technical assessments and stakeholder engagement.

To date, four council owned sites and four privately owned sites have been identified and progressed through a desktop assessment as being viable.

Further high-level technical, geophysical and displacement assessments are being undertaken on the most viable sites in the first instance.

A meeting was held 04 June 2025 with the Mayor, Councillor Doyle (mover of the Notice of Motion), Councillor Augustine (Chair Economic and Cultural Development Committee), Councillor Madsen (Chair Community and Sport Committee), Councillor Martin, council officers and representatives from Queensland Athletics, Little Athletics Queensland, Ipswich and District Athletics Club, Ipswich Little Athletics and a local athletics coach.

At that meeting a variety of necessary and preferred technical specifications for an Ipswich synthetic athletics track and facility were discussed along with feedback on some of the possible sites.

Mayor Harding has sent a letter outlining Council's intent and desire for state government support to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Games, The Honourable Tim Mander MP.

And a meeting was held 02 July 2025 between council officers and the owners of one of the preferred private sites to discuss their level of interest and co-contribution.

If Council supports Recommendation B of this report, *'That council continues the process of site identification and advocacy for a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich'* – the following actions and timeframes will guide next steps and continued progress:

### July / August

- Procurement of technical consultant to undertake geotechnical assessments of the most viable sites
- Meetings with representatives from the most viable privately owned sites
- Meeting with the Hon Shayne Neumann MP Member for Blair to discuss progress and options

### September / October

- Technical consultant to undertake geotechnical assessments of the most viable sites
- Refine options analysis based on high-level assessments and any early geotechnical assessments

- Keep stakeholders advised

November / December

- Recommendation for preferred site(s) prepared
- Draft Ipswich Athletics Track business case prepared
- Draft Ipswich Athletics Track operating model prepared

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:  
*Not Applicable*

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no discernible policy implications associated with this report and its recommendations.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no discernible risk management implications associated with this report and its recommendations.

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no discernible financial or resource implications associated with this report and its recommendations.

All related activity is being absorbed within current officer workload.

### **COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION**

The Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee was consulted on this report and its recommendations at the 8 July 2025 meeting.

### **CONCLUSION**

Technical assessments and stakeholder engagement have progressed in response to the Notice of Motion – A New Synthetic Athletics Track for Ipswich.

Council will continue the process of site identification and advocacy for a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich until a report and recommendation on the matter can be brought to a future Committee and Council meeting for resolution.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	<p><b>A. That the response to the Notice of Motion – A New Synthetic Athletics Track for Ipswich be received and its contents noted.</b></p> <p><b>B. That council continue the process of site identification and advocacy for a synthetic athletics track for Ipswich until a report and recommendation on the matter is brought to a future Committee and Council meeting for resolution.</b></p>
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

John Bolton

**PRINCIPAL SPORT, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLANNER**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Don Stewart

**MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

**GENERAL MANAGER (COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

***“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”***