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Eden Park seeks public support over six-concerts-a-year proposal

The Eden Park Trust today announces that it will submit a resource consent application to stage up to six concerts a year at New Zealand's national stadium, following consultation with the local community.

Under Auckland Council's Unitary Plan, the stadium is entitled to apply to stage up to six shows annually as a discretionary activity. Experience has shown that applying for individual resource consents for each show is a practicably unattainable proposition for the Trust and music promoters.

Chief Executive Officer Nick Sautner says the Trust is asking for the application to be publicly notified, so the public can have their say. If accepted, Auckland Council is expected to call for submissions on the application in late January.

"We're seeking consent to do what is conditionally provided for – stage music and cultural shows at New Zealand's national stadium," Sautner says. "The restrictions Eden Park is required to operate under are unique among stadiums across the country, making all but the most everyday sports events unaffordable to deliver."

The Trust is proposing to invest significant amounts in a previously consented acoustic barrier and other measures to minimise potential impacts on neighbours, and Sautner says the Park is proposing to limit the sound to 75 dB in residential areas. By comparison, Western Springs and North Harbour stadiums have an 82 dB limit. Eden Park is currently the only Auckland stadium facing concert restrictions with Western Springs, Mt Smart, North Harbour, Ellerslie Racecourse, ASB Showgrounds and Bruce Pullman Park all allowed to stage concerts with higher noise limits.

Last year music legend Phil Collins was secured to headline a charity concert. Due to time constraints and the prospect of substantial Environment Court costs to consent an individual event, however, the application was withdrawn. This was the stadium's first attempt at applying to hold a single concert under the Unitary Plan and illustrates the obstacles of practically giving effect, in a timely or affordable manner, to the provisions on a case-by-case basis.

Before the application is submitted, the Park will engage with the Community Liaison Group which includes local residents, Auckland Council and Police representatives. Wider consultation will also be undertaken with neighbours and local businesses in order to ensure the Trust takes into consideration the whole community's views on the proposal.

Over the past year there has been increasing support from the local community for concerts and cultural events. UMR Research highlighted that 87% of local residents support up to six concerts per year and 91% of Aucklanders supported the LifePod Appeal in 2018.

Insight Economics research shows that concerts will generate an additional \$24.8 million each year in regional GDP from direct and flow-on effects and create 395 full-time-equivalent (FTEs) jobs and an additional 140 FTEs in subsequent employment.

MEDIA RELEASE

Earlier this year, Eden Park was required to apply for consent to host next year's Auckland Anniversary weekend T20 between the BLACKCAPS and India on a Sunday with a scheduled finish time of 11pm. The costs to secure each individual resource consent increase significantly if the matter is appealed to the Environment Court.

"Eden Park is making every effort to meet all concerns about sound, traffic and general amenity, with management plans around vehicle and crowd movements," says Sautner. "In terms of managing large crowds and traffic, our stadium is an industry leader, as evidenced by our record through Rugby World Cup finals and other large international competitions.

"We look forward to upcoming discussions with our community and stakeholders, with the hope of reaching a positive outcome which will benefit the people of Tāmaki Makaurau," he adds.

The Trust believes Eden Park will deliver a superior event experience to music fans, with its transport connectivity, proximity to the city and facilities that cater to all demographics ensuring a special concert event for the music and cultural communities of New Zealand.

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About Eden Park

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally-iconic arena, located in central Auckland.

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.

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.

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.