

FACTS (NOT FICTION) ABOUT EDEN PARK

FICTION	FACT
 Eden Park is not fit for purpose and takes revenue away from Council-owned stadia.	 Eden Park is the only stadium in New Zealand with a capacity of 50,000 and capable of hosting a diverse range of sports including rugby, football and cricket, cultural events, international concerts, and community events. Eden Park has hosted five world cups, most recently the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, where we hosted nine fixtures including the opening match and a semi-final, more than any other venue in the tournament, and welcomed over 350,000 patrons to our venue.
 Eden Park doesn't make any money and requires funding from Auckland Council.	 Eden Park covers the operational costs of running the stadium by hosting holding a wide range of events 12 months of the year, from sell-out concerts to private functions. In 2019, Eden Park received a three-year funding grant of \$9.8m from Auckland Council to assist with the cost of stadium infrastructure including new LED stadium lights, digital screens and replacing all the entry turnstiles.
 Auckland Council bailed out Eden Park in 2019 to the tune of \$40m because it couldn't service or pay back the ASB loan.	 Auckland Council did not 'bail out' Eden Park. The money loaned in 2019 recognised the \$40m debt left by the (now defunct) various Auckland councils when they refused to deliver on their promise to contribute \$50m to the Rugby World Cup redevelopment budget, leaving a shortfall to fulfil a construction contract. To ensure the Rugby World Cup 2011 could be delivered, Auckland City Council agreed to guarantee a bank loan of \$40m on commercial terms.
 Auckland Council could sell Eden Park to fund a new stadium.	 Eden Park is owned and operated by The Eden Park Trust, an independent charitable trust. Auckland Council has no ownership rights or control over the Trust.
 Eden Park is reliant on public funding and is a financial drain on the ratepayers of Auckland.	 Prior to receiving the 2019 grant funding, approved by the Finance and Performance Committee, Eden Park never previously received ratepayer/funding support from Auckland Council. Eden Park pays full rates and commercial interest on any loans (Auckland Council-controlled stadiums do not).
 Eden Park is in the wrong place and hard to get to.	 Eden Park is the city's most accessible stadium with its own bus hub on-site and is located right beside Kingsland train station. Eden Park is just a 3.5km walk, cycle or e-scooter ride from Auckland's CBD. It only takes 14 minutes to clear an at-capacity Eden Park. Both the City Rail Link and light rail will make Eden Park even more accessible to all parts of the city leveraging already significant infrastructure investment.
 Eden Park opposes the development of a new stadium in Auckland.	 The Eden Park Trust has never opposed the development of a new stadium but given any new infrastructure would take around 10 - 15 years to build, the Trust's focus remains on ensuring Eden Park is a multi-purpose stadium capable of hosting a diverse range of international and national events. As a city of 1.6m and a country of 5m people, a national and regional stadium strategy is required to ensure the needs of our community continue to be met.
 The public doesn't benefit from Eden Park because Auckland Rugby and Auckland Cricket are the beneficiaries of the Trust.	 Eden Park is a community asset for Auckland and a strategic asset for New Zealand. While Auckland Rugby and Auckland Cricket were recognised as the beneficiaries of the old Eden Park Trust Act 1955, as a consequence of the 2009 amendments to the Act, they have both foregone those beneficial rights with events now for the benefit of the public of the Region. The Trust Deed states: <i>The Objects for which the Trust is continued are:</i> (a) To promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high-quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket (including under the organisations of ARU and ACA respectively pursuant to their rights under this deed) as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Region; and (b) To administer Eden Park and the Trust Assets on a prudent commercial basis so that Eden Park is a successful financially autonomous community asset. Region relates to The Auckland Region constituted by clause 4 of the Local Government (Auckland Region) Reorganisation Order 1989.
 Eden Park is too expensive for hirers.	 Eden Park's costings are on par with other stadia on a per-head basis. Hiring Eden Park with its superior seating capacity, transport connectivity, proximity to the city and facilities that cater to all demographics, is not comparable with smaller, less well-appointed venues. Eden Park's capacity provides opportunities for higher revenues and greater returns. Eden Park competes against the country's Council-funded venues which provide minimal (or zero) rent and other financial incentives to attract events.