



October 13th, 2022

Yarra City Council

C/- Trent Carpenter

RE: Management of Mayors Park Tennis Centre, Clifton Hill

We thank the council for the opportunity to put forward our opinions on the future management of the venue, as one of the major tenants.

Overall, we are pleased with the management model being controlled by Yarra City Council since 2018.

There has certainly been areas for improvement, such as the lights and court surface, however some things have been put in place to rectify these, such as acquiring spare lights for a quicker turnaround and an agreed solution to issues arising from Court 1.

There had also been some concerns with cleaning, which we were led to believe was the tennis club's responsibility. This matter went on for months as the venue continued to be filthy and uncleaned for weeks, with dirty toilets and kitchen, unvacuumed carpets and overflowing bins. Since the cleaning was returned to control of the council, things have improved dramatically.

It is our belief that a management model controlled either by someone independent or by the Council, is the best fit for Mayors Park. A similar structure has been in place at Ryan's Reserve, with us and Yarra Netball Association working cohesively together, ensuring both organisations get the best out of the venue, and respect each other's needs with clear communication, calling on Council when required.

We do feel there could be some benefit to have someone contact of a night should issues arise but do not see it as a necessity. We also would see some benefit to be able to improve the system so that lights are not left on all night (for example when we must cancel due to wet weather).

Overall, our experience with most Clifton Tennis Club members and committee is positive which has improved over recent years, and we have always endured to ensure we are respectful of other users and that when issues do arise, they can be handled appropriately and professionally.

It is of great concern to us that the Clifton Tennis Club have made a formal proposal to manage the venue for the supposed benefit of all stakeholders and used our organisation as part of their claim, gone to the media, and created an online petition – and yet, have never expressed to us their intent to do so or approached us for our feedback and/or support.

This has rung alarm bells for us as to how the venue would be managed by a stakeholder with an invested interest.

Should the council decide to award the Clifton Tennis Club the management of Mayors Park, we will of course work with the Club to ensure that the operation is as smooth as possible for all users.

While we do not wish to make assumptions on Clifton Tennis Club's ability to manage the venue for all, we believe the current model works best and have a 'if it isn't broke, don't fix it' mentality. We have a good working relationship with the tennis club and RaquetLab that can continue to thrive for all to benefit from this great venue, as it is.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Geoff Taylor

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