



President Ruth O'Brien

Gardens Tennis Centre Management Committee

Dear Ruth

This submission is a request for Gardens TC Management Committee (GTMC) to apply for funding to develop a new masterplan for Gardens TC which makes provision for two artificial grass courts.

The request for this submission is in response to the many requests from members advocating for Darwin to have artificial grass courts. The Tennis Seniors NT (TSNT) also approached government to raise their awareness of the need for artificial grass courts and sought funding. During these discussions, TSNT received a recommendation from the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Honourable Lauren Moss, Matthew Grassmayr (Manager Rec. Events Customer Services, City of Darwin) and more recently Tom George (CEO TNT) and Sasha Dennis (General Manager Sport, Recreation and Strategic Infrastructure; Territory Families, Housing and Communities) that the most appropriate and feasible location of the artificial courts would be the Gardens TC. Tennis Australia also supports artificial grass courts for social tennis.

The existing Gardens masterplan was written at a time before the establishment of the Darwin International Tennis Centre (DITC) and it is now primarily the host of national and international tournaments, a role previously fulfilled by the Gardens TC. This now frees Gardens TC to be more inclusive to service the needs of Darwin players who desire to have a choice of surface to play on.

This proposal is consistent with the commendable priority you give to working closely with Tennis NT and both the NT and federal governments to secure funding to redevelop the Gardens TC courts. It will also enable Ruth's commitment of; "it is a priority for the Committee to work collaboratively with our peak body, Tennis NT, and both the NT and the federal governments to secure funding to meet the cost of redeveloping the courts" to occur (letter dated 23 Sept. 2021 from Ruth O'Brien to David Bridges).

It is proposed that funding be used to achieve a masterplan that includes the following:

- Plans and costing for two artificial grass courts with shade
- A review of the engineers' reports on the subsurface problems and perceived strategies needed to resolve these problems. A solution that provides an acceptable standard of surface for social tennis and is affordable to government needs to be sought.
- Drainage -to provide slope and drains to dispose of run-off water.
- Shade cloth – design and cost
- Maintenance costs. Many Tennis Centres around Australia operate efficiently. We need professional advice as to what is needed.
- Other aspects of redevelopment perceived by GTMC as desirable for the benefit of members



We are optimistic Government will fund the cost of a new masterplan and believe Tom George (CEO TNT) and a representative of NT Government's Sport, Recreation and Strategic Infrastructure should be invited to your committee meeting in which this is being discussed. It would also be appreciated if representatives of TSNT were also invited.

We believe the time is now right for a more inclusive approach to tennis and Gardens is well positioned to do this, not just for Gardens' members but also as part of a broader Darwin tennis strategy.

Regards

David Bridges

Chair Tennis Seniors NT

4 March 2022