

Meeting with Polytan Rep 21 Dec 2022

Present: Cathy Churchill, Lindsay Brown, Brett Davidson

Brett is the Business Development Manager for Polytan – a turf supplier who is currently doing the Taree project and various others around the state / country / world.

Brett.davison@polytan.com.au www.polytan.com.au 0405322079 if we have any questions

Brett gave us a bunch of drawings of various shared turfs they have worked on, and spoke about the products they are using at present, and current trends towards environmentally friendlier products. Drawings he showed had hockey as the prime user, with markings for cricket / netball / futsal / tennis / hockey 5's. He left us a couple of turf samples – they are moving away from water-based turf for many installations, and using this polypropylene turf with a sand fill. It works pretty good dry, but even better with a bit of moisture, can be watered if you want to put in irrigation. Does not strip away your skin like the early sand-based turfs which were the stuff of horror movies.

Brett liked the look of our fields – nice and flat, infrastructure all in place, and no trees in the way. As for our landfill base, he says anything is possible (money can overcome most issues). Brett quoted ballpark figures of \$2M (+GST), but much variation according to lighting requirements, site preparation and fill, etc. If we send him some levels and some Council Geotech info, he will be able to give us a more accurate estimate. (I have asked Council, but no reply yet). He says about \$20K would get us a proper geotech survey / drill and report to confirm what extra site prep is required – probably just some extra depth of road base before the asphalt goes down. He was most enthusiastic about our Earthmoving and Surveying sponsors.

Brett explained the various drainage configurations they can use according to the site chosen. He was of course all clued up on the Newcastle debacle with changed FIH field standards for high level games, and the number of other existing turfs that now have the same non-compliance issue. A fair bit of their current work seems to be stripping back old turfs and re-levelling them to meet the new standard. What a waste of money!!

We did not go and look at the other possible sites, but discussed them in some detail. (Tomaree Helipad, Tomaree tennis courts, Korora Oval Old Salamander) He was happy to look at them on satellite images if we want to send him the details.

We also discussed a new thought, as some of their projects have been on School grounds – Tomaree High School sporting field – has some clear advantages (\$\$), but also some problems which may or may not be solvable e.g. too narrow at one end?, wrong orientation.... I am not sure what the field is like at the back of St Phillips, but may be worth an enquiry.

Brett also had a lot of knowledge of various turf proposals related to Com Games, Olympics, World Cups etc – very interesting. Some indications that Hockey 5's may be the way of the future.