

29th November 2023



Darren Eckhardt
General Manager
Keysborough Golf Club
55 Hutton Road
KEYSBOROUGH VIC 3173

Dear Mr Eckhardt

Re: South-East Sports Hub Letter of Support

Chelsea FC is writing to express our full support for the development of the South-East Sports Hub (SESH) and wishes to advocate for the benefits of this project for the local soccer community.

The range of soccer sporting facilities in the City of Greater Dandenong is considerably restricted, limiting the number of new participants we can welcome into our club, and hindering our desire to attract diverse talent in the future - in particular, girls and amateur female athletes. The current interest in registrations to play for our Club far outweighs the number of available slots we have. This restriction is purely down to lack of available grounds for training and fixtures. In a male-dominated sport, we are dedicated to increasing our female participation but find we are so heavily restricted in doing so by the lack of grounds space available to us in the local areas.

The SESH is a once in a lifetime project for the community in the area and we specifically note:

- The benefits of creating 70 hectares of new, integrated community recreation facilities in Bangholme (City of Greater Dandenong)
- The addition of more than 25 sports specific grounds to increase quality and capacity of local sporting clubs
- SESH has been master planned and designed to specifically address immediate and forecast needs for the region over the next 25+ years, particularly for the nearby municipalities of Dandenong, Kingston, and Frankston,
- The project has significant support from a range of peak sporting bodies including Football Victoria, AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria, AusCycling, Rugby Victoria and a number of local clubs.
- The provision of much-needed soccer facilities will enable the sport to grow participation and enjoyment in the south-east region,
- Once approved the first phase of development is not reliant on any public funding and will support the Government's economic stimulus and job-creation priorities.

We strongly believe that the SESH supports the aspiration to maximise health and wellbeing for residents of Greater Dandenong and surrounding municipalities, by providing more space to exercise and take part in activities that promote social engagement.

We implore you and your colleagues to support the SESH, to enable this project to be delivered for the community.

More information about the SESH and the broad community, social and environmental benefits of the project can be found at (<https://sesportshub.com.au/>) and we would welcome an opportunity to discuss this project further with you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Bellino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carlo Bellino
Club President - Chelsea FC

Chelsea FC Inc

PO Box 74 Chelsea Victoria 3196 | HD Thomas Reserve, Edithvale Road, Edithvale