



25th August 2025

Re: Avondale Racecourse Fields and Green Space

Kia ora,

Auckland Cricket Association (ACA) is committed to ensuring that cricket has the facilities and spaces it needs to grow and thrive across Tāmaki Makaurau. On any given weekend from October through to March, more than 42,000 active cricket participants take the field, with many more whānau, coaches, volunteers, and umpires who support the game.

The 2022 *Auckland Regional Cricket and Kilikiti Facilities Plan* highlights key challenges facing cricket, including but not limited to:

- Increasing constraints on access to playing fields
- Population growth and diversity creating uneven distribution and demand for cricket and kilikiti activity

Cricket clubs in the Whau Local Board area, such as Suburbs New Lynn, have experienced significant growth over the past three years, placing increasing pressure on already limited facilities. Research conducted for the Facilities Plan further highlights a critical shortfall of cricket pitches in the region, disproportionately limiting participation across all age groups.

Avondale Racecourse currently provides nine cricket pitches. During the 2024/25 summer season alone, the venue was scheduled to host 132 cricket matches. These include senior grade club fixtures (84 games), College Sport secondary school competitions (38 games), and junior and youth matches (10 games). The removal of these pitches would therefore eliminate a significant portion of the region's cricket capacity, limiting opportunities for community engagement, youth development, and the ongoing growth of the sport.

Avondale Racecourse has the potential to be a high-quality community sports hub. By investing in facility improvements and ground upgrades, ACA would be able to schedule a greater number of matches at the venue, particularly for junior and youth cricket, ensuring that the next generation has the opportunity to play, develop, and enjoy the game.

With population growth continuing in the Whau Local Board region, and with the shortage of pitches already identified in the *Auckland Regional Cricket and Kilikiti Facilities Plan*, ACA strongly supports the retention, developments, and ongoing maintenance of Avondale Racecourse as a key community sports venue.

We welcome the opportunity to work with stakeholders to maintain Avondale Racecourse as a community asset, providing valuable green space to the community and support the growth of cricket participation.

Ngā mihi nui,

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Astrid van Uden
Key Projects Lead
Auckland Cricket Association



**Auckland
CRICKET**

Auckland Cricket Association
Eden Park, South Stand Gate G, Reimers Ave, Mount Eden
Private Bag 56906, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446
www.aucklandcricket.co.nz