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Subsequent to the issue of planning permit P247/2025, Alceon Group Pty. Ltd. has received a request from the business that will operate the indoor recreation facility and amusement parlour to further extend the operating hours and patron capacity.

While the current operating hours of 9am until 8pm and cap of 30 patrons will be ample for casual use of the pickle ball courts and indoor cricket nets by the general public, approaches have been made by some local sporting clubs about:

- using the facilities for training, particularly for cricket, during inclement weather;
- organizing formal competitions that would use the cricket nets and/or the pickle ball courts; and,
- increasing the number of patrons who can use the facility so it can also accommodate formal sporting competitions.

Hours of Operation:

The inquirers have made it clear to the facility operator that demand associated with organized, weekly competitions will lead to the need for the facility to be available until later in the evening.

The advice that they have received is that, given it is mostly working adults that play indoor cricket, standard indoor cricket or pickle ball sporting competitions will likely run until 9:30pm-10pm at night. However, at the conclusion of a grand final, it is not unusual for a medal presentation and speeches to last up to 11pm.

The operator has also received a request from local cricketing clubs for use of the cricket nets from 7am – 9am, i.e. before the general public can enter the facility at 9:00am, so they can run pre-match training sessions during inclement weather.

Condition 2 of the permit presently reads:

"Hours of operation

2. The use authorised by this permit must only operate between the hours of:

Monday to Friday (other than public holidays): 9:00 am - 8:00 pm;

Saturday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm; and

Sunday and public holidays: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm;"

These hours are obviously not sufficient to cater for the needs of organized sporting events or pre-game training sessions.

With this in mind and in the interests of promoting both healthy and active lifestyles and the vitality of local community sport, Alceon Group Pty. Ltd. wishes to seek an amendment to condition 2 of the permit so that it reads:

"2. The use of the facility by:

- a) the general public for activities authorised by this permit, must only operate between the hours of:

Monday to Friday (other than public holidays): 9:00 am - 8:00 pm;

Saturday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm; and

Sunday and public holidays: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm;"

- b) members of sporting or community clubs for activities that are only open to club members, must only operate between the hours of:

Monday to Friday (other than public holidays): 7:00am to 11:00 pm;

Saturday: 7:00am to 11:00 pm; and

Sunday and public holidays: 7:00am to 11:00 pm.

Number of patrons

The inquirers that are seeking to use the facility for formal indoor cricket competitions have pointed out to the operator that an indoor cricket team comprises 8 players. There is also an umpire and scorer required for every competition game. So, a standard game of indoor cricket will involve a minimum of 18 people, i.e. 16 players, an umpire and a scorer.

There are three indoor cricket pitches proposed, which means that, in the event that all are being used for competition, there would be at least 54 people (18 people x 3 pitches) attending the building.

Condition 3 of the permit presently reads:

"Number of patrons

3. No more than 30 patrons may be present on the land at any time except with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority."

While a cap of 30 patrons may be sufficient for everyday use by the general public, as explained above, it would prove completely inadequate to support a formal indoor cricket competition if one were to start. Moreover, the facility is designed to be able to accommodate more than 60 patrons.

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With this in mind and in the interests of promoting both healthy and active lifestyles and the vitality of local community sport, Alceon Group Pty. Ltd. wishes to seek an amendment to condition 3 of the permit so that it reads:

"3. No more than 60 patrons may be present on the land at any time except with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority."

While it would be feasible under the present condition 3 of the permit for Council to authorise an extension of patron numbers to allow a nightly competition to start separately in writing, it would be both more transparent for the general community and viable for the operator to be able to advise clubs that there is a sufficient cap for all 3 pitches to be used without having to seek written consent for each competition.

Hence, the proposed amendment is seen as a better pathway, with the written authorisation only required for a special event, i.e. where spectators were anticipated.

These amendments to permit conditions 2 & 3 are not likely to impact patrons of the shopping centre or surrounding businesses because the proposed extension to the operating hours and patron numbers will:

- only have the potential to increase carparking demand prior to the centre opening in the morning or in the nighttime after the centre is closed. The vast majority of publicly-available spaces adjacent to the subject site will be unoccupied during those times; and,
- not increase competition for carparking spaces between 9am & 8pm, as most facility patrons during those times will be local children who are either too young to drive cars, or are accompanying their parents during their normal shopping trips.

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