
Submission on Napier City Proposed District Plan

Form 5 Submission on publically notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Napier City Council - Planning Unit

Date received: 14/12/2023

Submission Reference Number #:278

This is a submission on the following proposed plan (the **proposal**): Napier City Proposed District Plan

Submitter:

Dionne Best

Address for service:

Dionne Best
Meeanee Speedway
PO Box 3058 Napier 4142
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Attachments:

submission-2525 (Meeanee Speedway).pdf

I wish to be heard: Yes

I am willing to present a joint case: Yes

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

- **No**

Are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

- **N/A**

Submission points

Point 278.1

Section: NOISE - Noise

Sub-section: NOISE - Noise

Provision: General

Sentiment: Amend

Submission:

Meeanee Speedway has been situated at Papakura Domain, Sandy Road, Meeanee, since 1961, and is the home of the Hawkes Bay Speedway club. Meeanee Speedway is a well-established motorsport Club, providing racing opportunities for local drivers and a popular family entertainment choice for our local community throughout the speedway season. Being a well-established speedway track, we also attract competitors and spectators to the region, from all around New Zealand.

Meeanee Speedway has operated in a consistent fashion for many years now (setting aside disruptions brought about by Covid19 and Cyclone Gabrielle), with a well-established pattern to our season. The classes we contract have remained the same for many years. Our season traditionally runs from October until May, with racing starting later during the earlier part of the season and moving to an earlier start time after daylight savings ends. We have an excellent relationship with our neighbours (evidenced by there being no complaints about our activities), and in fact are well supported by local residents who have expressed a desire to see Meeanee Speedway continue to operate as it already does.

Meeanee Speedway has no intention of expanding what we do, but we are concerned that the Proposed District Plan introduces restrictions would substantially limit our normal operation. Such limitations would have serious implications for long-term the viability of our Club and of Meeanee Speedway, and may render some aspects of our standard operation untenable. Some of the restrictions would have implications rendering it impossible for Meeanee Speedway to continue to operate and would likely see the closure of the track – which is in direct conflict with the Proposed District Plan’s stated objective)“The ongoing use and operation of Meeanee Speedway is enabled while ensuring that amenity values and peoples’ health and wellbeing are protected from unreasonable noise levels”) and policy (“Enable the safe and efficient operation of Meeanee Speedway while managing the effects of the operation, having regard to the amenity of surrounding properties”).

We are aware that some of the limitations in the Proposed District Plan may have come about as a result of incorrect information that was provided to the Napier City Council about Meeanee Speedway’s standard operations – we have provided feedback on this previously, and have supplied the correct information. It was our understanding that the Proposed District Plan was intended to limit further growth or activity that would generate noise issues by reflecting the current, well established standard manner of operating, but was not intended to substantially cut back Meeanee Speedway’s activities. We have not received any feedback on, and are there for unclear as to, why our current manner of operating would be unacceptable in terms of the objective and policy of the District Plan.

Relief sought

See additional submissions

Point 278.2

Section: NOISE - Noise

Sub-section: NOISE - Noise - Rules Table

Provision:

NOISE-R17: Noise generated by Meeanee Speedway

NOISE-R17A

NOISE-R17B

Activity Status: Permitted

Activity Status where activity conditions are not met: Discretionary

Where:

1. Noise generated from any noise event at the Meeanee Speedway when measured at the Speedway Noise Control Boundary must not exceed a noise limit of 65 dB $L_{Aeq(4hr)}$.
2. Professional fireworks displays are excluded from standard NOISE-R17.1.
3. Noise generated from any noise practice event at the Meeanee Speedway when measured at the Speedway Noise Effects Area boundary must not exceed a noise limit of 65 dB $L_{Aeq(4hr)}$.
4. To achieve compliance with NOISE-R17.1 and NOISE-R17.3, noise levels shall be measured and assessed in accordance with NZS 6801:2008 *Acoustics Measurement of environmental sound* and NZS 6802:2008 *Acoustics Environmental noise* except that there shall be no adjustment for special audible character or duration.
5. Noise events and noise practice events are limited to the racing season (1 October to 30 April inclusive).
6. There shall be no more than:
 - a. 19 noise events per season;
 - b. four noise events in any four-week period within the season, and
 - c. two two-hour practice events held on separate Saturdays in mid-late October between the hours of 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.
7. Noise events shall be held on Saturdays with racing scheduled between the hours of 6.30 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. with a final racing end time of 10.30 p.m..
8. Professional fireworks displays limited to one display a year in November with advance notice provided by way of mail drop to every dwelling within 1 km of the speedway.

Sentiment: Amend

Submission:

Noise events and noise practice events are limited to the racing season (1 October to 30 April inclusive).

The Speedway season runs from October to May inclusive. While meetings in May are typically weather dependent and may not always go ahead, at least one meeting would be expected to be scheduled in May – this is necessary to accommodate bad weather earlier in the season, so that the Club is able to meet its obligations around the number of events offered to each class across the season, and to allow for National and Regional Title events to be completed.

This requirement, as it is currently drafted, has the potential to force Meeanee Speedway to abandon incomplete National and Regional Title events or fail to provide contracted classes with the requisite number of meetings per season – this may prevent the Club from fulfilling its obligations under the Track License issued by our governing body, Speedway New Zealand, or to our competitors. The likely outcome would be that Meeanee Speedway may not be eligible to be allocated Title and other major events. It would also result in competitors preferring to contract to alternative out-of-town tracks – this would see our local competitors, their supporters, and many spectators travelling out of our region to race (rather than attracting visitors to our region), which would have a downward spiral effect on the long-term viability of Meeanee Speedway.

Requirement 6(a).

There shall be no more than...19 noise events per season.

A typical speedway season, if all goes to plan, would consist of around 20 pre-scheduled events. However, if the Club is hosting a National Title or other major event, the number of events throughout the season would be increased as many of these speedway events consist of two or three nights.

Further, if a meeting is rained out part way through, an extra date would be scheduled to make up for the missed meeting – this would also increase the number of noise events that take place throughout the season, and can happen several times within a season.

This requirement, as it is currently written, restricts Meeanee Speedway to operating at a level less than it currently does.

Requirement 6(b).

There shall be no more than...four noise events in any four-week period within the season.

Race meetings at Meeanee Speedway are well-spaced throughout the season, with the aim of creating a consistent, balanced calendar for both competitors and spectators. However, Title events are run over two or three nights (it's not possible to run them in fewer nights), and are also typically held in January and February, which is also the busiest time on the racing calendar. This clause has the effect of limiting the events Meeanee Speedway can host at the time such events are traditionally hosted, and reducing the operation of the track, to a level below that at which the track currently operates - this would compromise long-term viability.

Requirement 6(b).

There shall be no more than...two two-hour practice events held on separate Saturdays in mid-late October between the hours of 2.00pm and 6.00pm.

We are required by our governing body, Speedway New Zealand, to run a minimum of three practice events per season. Common practice has been for practices to run for around three hours, and to be held on any morning or afternoon of a weekend day (sometimes one in the morning and one in the afternoon of the same day), or on weekday evenings (usually between 5.30pm – 9.30pm). Availability of staff, availability of St Johns personnel, the needs of the other organisations we share Papakura Domain with, and the weather, influence when practices are scheduled for.

Practices may also be scheduled mid-season if there is a valid reason to do so.

In addition to practice events, we also run driver training sessions and mentor sessions for new or inexperienced drivers (these are also a requirement of Speedway New Zealand) – these can also take place several times a season. In terms of running time and noise levels, these events are very similar to practice events.

This requirement has the effect of limiting Meeanee Speedway's operations to a level that is significantly below currently well-established practice, and which does not meet Speedway New Zealand's requirements - if Meeanee Speedway cannot meet these requirements, we cannot receive a Track License and cannot operate.

Requirement 7.

Noise events shall be held on Saturdays with racing scheduled between the hours of 6.30pm and 10.00pm with a final racing end time of 10.30pm.

Race nights are traditionally scheduled on Fridays several times through the season, and are also typically scheduled mid-week immediately after Christmas (as all tracks host a meeting between Christmas and New Year).

Meeanee Speedway also has a long-standing history of running on both Friday and Saturday night of Easter weekend, and hosts a large number of Regional Title or series events across all classes over these two nights.

Any major Title must also be run over two nights or three nights (this being a requirement of our national body, Speedway New Zealand), as it isn't safe or viable to run such an event in one night.

Rain-out events (which replace events cancelled due to bad weather) are also frequently run on a Sunday – especially where the event has attracted a large number of out-of-town competitors, who will have planned to stay another day if a rain-out event is required but who are unlikely to be able to make the trip a second time for the same event.

This restriction would effectively remove every feature event from Meeanee Speedway's calendar, and would eliminate us from hosting any Title event. These events are, for most competitors, the key highlights of their racing season, and the availability of such events at their home track is a big part of why they decide to race where they do. To remove the ability for Meeanee Speedway to host these events has absolutely massive implications – we would be forced to remove from our calendar almost

all events that generate notable income, and our local competitors would be forced to contract elsewhere so that they could freely compete in such events. The financial and membership implications of this restriction would be seen fairly quickly, and would likely render Meeanee Speedway unviable – it would force the fairly swift closure of our track.

With regard to race times - the times that racing starts traditional varies throughout the season. It is well established that racing starts later during daylight savings, but is brought forward when daylight savings ends. This practice keeps Meeanee Speedway family friendly and accessible for our spectators – a restriction preventing the adjustment of start times to suit the weather would significantly affect spectator numbers in the latter part of the season, which would in turn have an impact on the financial viability of Meeanee Speedway.

Racing is scheduled to finish within a four-hour window, but time overruns are generally to do with delays during earlier races, pushing out the

whole schedule (meaning that the final race may start after four hours, but racing is still finished within four and a half hours. This doesn't happen often, but the times it is most likely to happen is during title events, which are also the events that we could not abandon racing before the races associated with that event had been completed.

We cannot emphasise enough the massive impact these requirements would have on Meeanee Speedway - we completely understand and support the objectives and policies of the Proposed District Plan, but all of these rules, as they are currently drafted, would significantly cut back the operation of Meeanee Speedway. Some would create immediate unviability and closure of Meeanee Speedway, while others would cause a comparatively slower but nonetheless inevitable diminishment of our operations resulting in eventual closure due to unviability.

Relief sought

Requirement 5.

Noise events and noise practice events are limited to the racing season (1 October to 30 April inclusive).

Meeanee Speedway would like this requirement amended so that noise events and noise practice events are limited to the racing season (1 October to **31 May** inclusive), so that Meeanee Speedway may continue operating as it currently does.

Requirement 6(a).

There shall be no more than...19 noise events per season.

Meeanee Speedway would like the limit increased to 25 events per season (not including practice noise events) to enable Meeanee Speedway to continue to operate as it always has.

Requirement 6(b).

There shall be no more than...four noise events in any four-week period within the season.

It would more accurately reflect current practice, and more reasonably allow Meeanee Speedway to operate as it currently does, to make this requirement no more than five noise events in any 4-week period.

Requirement 6(b).

There shall be no more than...two two-hour practice events held on separate Saturdays in mid-late October between the hours of 2.00pm and 6.00pm.

To accommodate what happens currently, this requirement would need to allow for six three-hour practice events, to be run on any day of the week between the hours of 9am and 9pm, at any time throughout the season. To allow less than this would be to impose restrictions that would prevent Meeanee Speedway from fulfilling its obligations to Speedway New Zealand (obligations that apply to all speedway tracks throughout New Zealand). A known inability to meet these obligations at the start of the season would likely result in Meeanee Speedway being declined a Track License by Speedway New Zealand,

which would result in Meeanee Speedway being unable to operate at all.

Requirement 7.

Noise events shall be held on Saturdays with racing scheduled between the hours of 6.30pm and 10.00pm with a final racing end time of 10.30pm.

To preserve the well-established operation of Meeanee Speedway, and to allow Meeanee Speedway to continue to offer the events that are essential to the survival of the organisation, this restriction would need to allow for eight events to take place on days other than Saturday.

With regard to race times, to allow Meeanee Speedway to operate in a way that accommodates all of our spectators, and that allows for the proper running of speedway events, this restriction should be amended to allow for a four hour window of scheduled racing starting any time between 4pm and 6pm, with a 45 minute allowance for overruns, and provision for races to be started during the 45 minute allowance if it were necessary to do so to complete an event.

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To: Napier City Council - District Planning

Date started: 13/12/2023

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I wish to be heard: Yes

I am willing to present a joint case: Yes

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

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Are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that

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Submission points

Point .

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Sub-section: NOISE - Noise

Sentiment: Amend

Submission:

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DRAFT