

27 September 2022

**Re: Proposed new Athletics Facility - Tauranga**

To whom it may concern,

Athletics New Zealand supports the proposed development of a new Athletics facility in Tauranga, and within this we note the exciting prospect to develop a facility that will not only continue to support the current Athletics community but also facilitate the long-term growth and development of the sport.

The wider Bay of Plenty is home to over 2000 Athletics NZ Club Members, an additional 400 secondary school participants, and thousands of primary school age participants. However, we believe any new facility will become a major impetus for more growth, including growth amongst targeted groups like Para athletes, who will benefit from a more accessible facility.

Tauranga is an ideal home to a purpose-built Athletics facility, boasting a great climate, good transport links and proximity to the majority of New Zealand's population. As well as the role this new facility will play in growing the sport locally, we would be very interested in hosting more major events within Tauranga should the facility meet the required specifications. Major events like the Colgate Games, New Zealand Secondary School Championships, and Athletics NZ Track and Field Championships attract hundreds of families each year, and provide a significant economic impact to the host regions.

Athletics New Zealand would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with regional athletics bodies and the Tauranga City Council to ensure that the provision of facilities caters for the future proofing of the sport and its potential to impact on the region.

Sincerely,  
Hamish Meacheam

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HML".

Community Manager

