

Feedback date for new cricket nets extended to February

By RYAN EVANS - Taranaki Daily News
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The deadline for feedback on proposed new cricket nets at Pukekura Park has been extended until after the Christmas break.

The Taranaki Cricket Association is looking at building a new practice facility next to the Pukekura Kindergarten on Fillis St to meet New Zealand Cricket's "warrant of fitness" ground requirements.

Unless nets are built somewhere at Pukekura Park, the ground could be in danger of losing out when competing for three to five-day matches.

The New Plymouth District Council approved in principal the location for the 50m long, 10m wide and 4m high facility in 2008.

But earlier this week nearby residents and park lovers came out in opposition to the proposed location of the nets saying they were unsightly and would ruin the area at the entrance to the park. The TCA still needs to complete public consultation before a final proposal can be put to the council for consideration.

The original feedback deadline was December 15 but yesterday that was extended to 5pm on February 5.

TCA chairman Neil Sulzberger said the decision was to give people and organisations more time to have their say and recognised the original deadline was too close to the busy Christmas period.

"If we don't approve this facility we put in jeopardy the ability to host the longer version of the game," Mr Sulzberger said.

"We've looked seriously at sites within the Pukekura Park area and we believe this is the only site that meets the requirements of New Zealand Cricket. There's obviously some interest in the wider community in what is being put out as a proposal.

"We know the importance of Pukekura Park, Taranaki cricket is part of Pukekura Park.

"We want everyone to have their input into what we're doing here and we will look at the comments when they arrive." Once the feedback has been gathered, the TCA will finalise its proposal and put it to the council. A decision is expected at the council's meeting on April 20 next year. Feedback forms along with the detailed proposal and background information are available on the council and TCA websites. Handwritten feedback can be posted to Taranaki Cricket Association, PO Box 5050, New Plymouth.