



**Brighton
Council**

MEDIA RELEASE

7 Oct 2026

STATEMENT RE CRICKET AT CLOAK OVAL

The Brighton Council has been working for a number of years to resolve issues around the use of Cloak Oval by the Old Beach Cricket Club.

Unfortunately, the ground's proximity to a playground and houses means there is a risk of injury or damage to property in the event balls are struck out of the ground, and this has implications for insurance, as well as public safety.

In order to try resolving this issue, Brighton Council worked with the club to install protective netting, as well as limit the type of games being played to minimise the likelihood of balls being hit into neighbouring areas. The most recently installed netting in the vicinity of the playground came at a cost of about \$30,000.

The club has elected to step up a competition grade this coming season, and while Council acknowledges that decision, it does increase the risk of damage or injury, which our insurers have advised is not acceptable.

Council is able to accommodate the club at an alternative ground which would ensure the club's season can proceed, although some rostering changes may be required to accommodate the change in venue.

Ultimately, Brighton Council wants Old Beach Cricket Club to continue playing, but we also have an obligation to ensure public safety is being maintained to the best of our ability, as well as be mindful of insurance issues. Council is a strong supporter of community sport, but we don't want to see anyone hurt. An alternative ground would ensure the club can continue to play without undue risk.

We understand this issue is frustrating for the club, and will continue to work with it to find a resolution.

- **Brighton Mayor, Leigh Gray.**





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Brighton
going places

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