

# Waikaraka Park Information Sheet

30 April 2025

## How is the Waikaraka Park construction project tracking towards delivery programme and budget?

**Resource consent was awarded** in March 2025 to allow the major construction works to start. Phase 1 –the New Pit area – is underway, **earthworks began** in early March to extend the pit area outside the racetrack. Phase 2 – the upgraded track area - began on time on 10 April. Control of the project is being tightly monitored by a Project Steering Group attended by senior council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) executives. Regular updates will be provided to Elected Members, Council Staff and key stakeholders on the projects progress.

## Will the Waikaraka Park track upgrade meet Speedway New Zealand (Speedway NZ) requirements for a track licence?

The upgraded track at Waikaraka Park has been **designed to meet the Speedway NZ licence requirements**. In addition, the track will also **exceed the 3 Star standard under the Australian Star Rating System** – this is the minimum required to accommodate all classes of speedway vehicles, including sprint cars, which are the fastest category.

The new racetrack has been **designed by an architect that specialises in speedway facilities** and the design has been **reviewed by experienced and well-respected current and former speedway drivers**, with their feedback incorporated into the final design. The architect has been engaged with **Speedway NZ** as part of the track design process. It is planned that Speedway NZ will undertake its track licence inspections in October once the upgrade work is complete.

## Can Waikaraka Park accommodate all race classes of speedway?

**All classes of cars that have raced at Western Springs Stadium** can race at Waikaraka Park and have done so in recent years. The new upgraded track has been specifically designed to better meet the driver and safety considerations for all classes, including more pit spaces and a wider track than has been previously available in Auckland.

## Do the planning rules at Waikaraka Park allow for enough race meetings for all the classes of speedway?

A total of **35 events within any 12-month period** is provided for as a permitted activity under the Auckland Unitary Plan within the Waikaraka Park motorsport precinct. The approved resource consent for the upgrade did not need to change or increase the number of events to allow for all classes of speedway, as the independent location analysis commissioned by TAU determined that a 30-race programme, in conjunction with the pit expansion that allows more classes to race at each meet, would allow all Auckland speedway classes to have more race nights than they previously were able to. This still leaves spare capacity **to grow the sport at Waikaraka Park**.

The resource consent included a project overview section which outlined **the purpose of the critical upgrade works to enable a wider range of motorsport classes to be accommodated at Waikaraka Park Speedway for the 2025/26 racing season**.

## Is Waikaraka Park safe for all classes of speedway racing?

Speedway NZ is responsible for track licensing of speedway tracks. This licence ensures that a track has the right safety features for racing **all speedway classes**. Speedway NZ officials also sign off each track ahead of each race meet to ensure safety standards are being met.

### Are necessary commercial agreements in place to support race operations?

Auckland Council (through the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board) has an existing lease to the Auckland Stock and Saloon Car Club (ASSCC) which expires in 2051. ASSCC and the most recent promoter at Western Springs Stadium, Palmerston North Speedway Ltd (PNSL), signed an MOU on 4 October 2024 which confirmed their intention to consolidate all classes of speedway at Waikaraka Park. An agreement between ASSCC, PNSL, Auckland Council (on behalf of the Tāmaki-Maungakiekie Local Board) and TAU has been prepared to give effect to the agreed consolidation. As at 30 April, the agreement is in final negotiations.

### Will the upgraded facilities meet the needs of the speedway community in terms of capacity related to demand, and spectator and driver experience?

The current maximum patron **capacity for Waikaraka Park is 4600**. Over the past 3 years, the **average attendance for speedway events at Western Springs was 3518**. During the past 3 years, there have only been three occasions where the Western Springs Stadium Speedway crowd size has exceeded the 4600-capacity available at Waikaraka Park.

#### Speedway attendance since 2019

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	2022/23*	2023/24**	2024/25***
<b>Speedway Attendance</b>	32,700	33,433	7,174	14,624	12,884	44,082
<b>Race Days</b>	11	10	9	5	4	10
<b>Average</b>	2973	3343	797	2925	3221	4408

\* Impacted by Covid restrictions

\*\* Impacted by Auckland Anniversary Weekend flooding event damage

\*\*\* Includes historic final race meet crowd of 12,104. Excluding that one event, the 2024/25 average attendance was 3553.

The upgraded track at Waikaraka Park has been designed to deliver an improved driver experience, including being able to **have their transporters in the pit space, merchandising space and more room for fans to engage with the drivers** and race teams during pre-race meeting pit walks. **More width on the track** should allow for more passing and close racing, making a better spectator experience. As the site at Waikaraka Park is available all week, it will enable unrestricted access to **begin 'setting' the racetrack 4 days before an event**.

**ASSCC also have a masterplan to increase capacity to 8000 over time.**