

Understanding **the true usage levels** of Sydney's sporting fields

Many Sydney councils measure the use of their fields by booked usage, the time that fields are blanket booked for use.

A recent study has found that **ACTUAL** usage across Sydney sporting fields **is significantly lower than BOOKED usage**. In fact:



- in some Western Sydney LGAs, booked usage was up to 2.3 times higher than actual usage.



- a typical Sydney sporting field only sees between 12 and 22 hours of use per week.

But can our fields handle more use?

A well constructed and maintained natural turf field can sustain 600 players across at least 46 hours of use for at least 25 years.

A synthetic turf field can sustain the same level of traffic, but most surfaces will need to be completely replaced at least every 10 years

The study found that councils in Sydney significantly overestimated the use of fields. By looking at booked use and not actual use councils are not getting an accurate picture of usage. This leads to misdirection of funds to surfaces that are expensive, perishable and environmentally damaging.

The study recommends that local councils conduct proper planning when making key planning decisions on whether to use synthetic or natural grass.

If natural grass is proven to be able to sustain the usage required for 99% of fields – shouldn't it be the first choice?

CHOOSE NATURAL. CHOOSE LIVING. CHOOSE TURF.