

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Tough turf is foundation for Fan Zone!**

Roger Morgan is a devoted rugby fan who knows his way around turf. So when the Christchurch City Council's events team was charged with creating a 'Fan Zone' in Cathedral Square for the Rugby World Cup, they approached Roger's company, Readylawn to help out.

At the time the brief was to install a mini 800 m<sup>2</sup> rugby ground as an assembly point ahead of World Cup games - complete with grandstand, large TV screens and stage. With the February earthquake came a change of plan and the zone was relocated to Hagley Park.

Following the loss of Christchurch's hosting rights, the scope of the project doubled in size to 1,700 m<sup>2</sup> - becoming the centrepiece of Christchurch's World Cup celebrations.

To fulfil the special requirements of the contract, Readylawn chose a dark turf product - Fiesta 4 perennial ryegrass supplied by PGG Wrightson Turf. The grass was planted 12 months ahead of the first kick off and was subject to regular inspection by Council staff.

Harvested as 25 metre long rolls to minimise the joints and to speed up the installation process, the turf was transported and installed over one and a half days. The rugby posts were then installed and the lines marked with Supaturf Duramark line marking liquid.

Andersons 19-11-4 Starter (19-26-5 Oxide) fertiliser was used at 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> under the turf prior to installation to ensure the best start. Andersons 28-1-8 Nutralene (28-3-10 Oxide) was then used at 20 g/m<sup>2</sup> to maintain growth and plant performance under heavy use.

Roger, whose team is in charge of keeping the turf in shape for the eight weeks of the tournament, is impressed by the durability of the grass. "It's held up remarkably well considering the level of use. It's pretty much being used non-stop for a whole range of activities. I'd say that makes it the busiest rugby field in the country at the moment."

For more information on Readylawn:

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### About PGG Wrightson Turf

PGG Wrightson Turf is the market leader in the supply of locally bred and adapted grasses for all year round sports facilities providing turf solutions for most of New Zealand's major stadia including Rugby Park in Southland, Westpac Stadium in Wellington, Rugby Park in Hamilton and Eden Park in Auckland. The company has a growing presence in Australia where it supplies seed to most major stadia including Etihad Stadium, the MCG and Suncorp Stadium.

PGG Wrightson Turf was the sole supplier of turf surface and agrichemical for the establishment phase of the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, a world's first with a totally enclosed natural grass playing surface. Notably, it is the exclusive producer of the 'Suttons Mix' seed - on all the greens at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, which will play host to the President's Cup this November.

For more information on PGG Wrightson Turf:

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