



Three million reasons to celebrate Gordon Street Recreation Reserve transformation

Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Sport visited Ararat today to celebrate funding of \$2.55 million from the Victorian Government toward the \$3.1 million redevelopment of the Gordon Street Recreation Reserve.

Council CEO Dr Tim Harrison welcomed the funding, highlighting that the project would support the growth and development of several sports that don't currently have access to premium competition and training facilities.

"Once Council identified that Ararat required a second major multipurpose outdoor sporting venue, we wanted to ensure we achieved that by providing facilities for a number of sports that are currently underrepresented," Dr Harrison said.

"With the growth of the AFLW competition, and in particular the success of the Ararat Storm Female Football Club on the field, it was important that AFLW was central to the plans.

"After meeting with the AFL, it was clear that Ararat was strategically positioned to become a centre of excellence for women's football in western Victoria.

"We also received the same feedback from Football Victoria, who see strong demand to establish a soccer competition in Ararat that will grow regional participation in the world game."

Ararat Rural City Council sought funding for the project in March 2021, applying to the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Program. This followed in depth engagement with local clubs and existing users of the reserve to re-shape the plans to ensure the maximum benefit is delivered.

"Earlier this year we ran an extensive co-design process with the state sporting associations, Ararat Storm, Chalambar and St Andrews Cricket Clubs, Ararat Little Athletics and the community," Dr Harrison continued.

"This gave use a much better plan for the precinct and creates multi-use venue with competition-grade playing surfaces and female friendly facilities that will enable grass roots sports to thrive.

"Thanks to this significant grant from the Victorian Government, and with additional support from the Federal Government and Council, the project is fully funded and ready to deliver."

The Gordon Street Recreation Reserve Redevelopment is due to commence later this year with the project due for completion in 2023.

New and upgraded facilities:

AFLW/Cricket Oval

- Adjusted boundaries to meet AFL preferred playing field dimensions and elevate the standard of the Cricket playing field dimension to Open Age Premier/Regional competition standard
- North-South Turf Wicket. 4 pitches to be installed
- Boundary run-off area, interchange benches and umpire/officials box.

Soccer Pitches

- New pitch designed to FIFA preferred field dimensions
- New multi-use MiniRoos soccer pitch designed to Football Victoria specifications
- Player run-off and technical area, plus player benches and shelters.

Lighting Upgrades

- Competition lighting for AFL, Cricket and Soccer.

Little Athletics - Track and Field

- 6 Lane Turf Competition Area for Straight Track Events. To host 100m sprints and 110m hurdles, plus assembly and finish on area
- Long Jump Facility with runway, take off board and landing area
- Triple Jump Facility with runway, take off board, and landing area
- Javelin runway and throw area; Shot Put throwing circle; Discus cage; and High Jump area.

New Multipurpose Main Pavilion

- AFLW player change rooms and amenities
- Shared Football (Soccer) and Cricket player change rooms and amenities
- Kitchen/bar, function room, and public spectator areas
- Public toilet and first aid room
- Little Athletics equipment storage.

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