



11 June 2009

Government Media Statement

MICHELLE O'BYRNE
Minister for Sport and Recreation

\$6.5 Million for Sport and Recreation Infrastructure

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Michelle O'Byrne, today announced the State Government would provide more than \$6 million for sport and recreation infrastructure in the 2009-10 financial year.

Ms O'Byrne said the package saw the State Government deliver on major projects that underpinned key sport and recreation venues and events, including:

- \$2 million for the Aurora Stadium and Invermay Park redevelopment.
- \$2 million for the installation of lights at Bellerive Oval.
- \$1.05 million for the upgrade of the Domain Tennis Centre.
- \$1.5 million for tracks, trails and city bikeways.

“In addition to these major projects, the State Government will provide \$150,000 over the next two years for a trial program providing public liability insurance to community groups using Education Department sporting facilities.

“The State Government will also give \$75,000 to the Devonport City Council to help it complete the second stage of its upgrade to the Devonport Skate Park, addressing safety and risk issues as well as catering for a broad range of users.”

Ms O'Byrne said the Aurora Stadium redevelopment was another step in the ground's continuing transformation from a suburban football oval to

an elite AFL standard stadium with a national reputation as a quality venue.

“The redevelopment will comprise a new grandstand with 2125 seats including amenities, change facilities and corporate suites.

“This latest contribution underlines that AFL football at Aurora Stadium has no better supporter than the State Government, taking its total commitments to almost \$18 million over several redevelopment phases.”

Ms O’Byrne said the redevelopment would also encompass the consolidation of sporting facilities at nearby Invermay Park through the relocation of the Northern Stand and cricket clubroom from Aurora Stadium.

“This will provide new facilities for the North Launceston Junior Football Club, Mowbray Cricket Club, Old Launcestonians Football Club and the Northern Tasmania Football Umpires Association, as well as improvements to Invermay Park’s northern entrance.”

Ms O’Byrne said the installation of lights at Bellerive Oval ensured the future of international cricket in Tasmania, with the ground able to continue hosting international One-Day and Twenty20 fixtures.

“Improvements to Aurora Stadium and Bellerive Oval guarantee important injections of money into the State’s economy through major sporting events, keeping businesses’ order books moving in challenging economic times and underpinning jobs of Tasmanian families.

“A significant increase in seating capacity for the Domain Tennis Centre will also provide continual economic benefits by helping to secure Tasmania as a part of the Australian Open Series.

“The project to lift capacity by more than 1000 from about 1400 to 2500 builds on funding already provided by the State Government in 2008-09 for the centre’s development.”

Ms O’Byrne said the development of trails and bikeways would continue next financial year, with an emphasis on providing recreational opportunities, alternative transport options, health benefits and growing both local and tourism related economic activity.

“The State Government will provide \$1.5 million to support the development of trails and bikeways, with a Statewide mountain bike strategy to be completed this year, providing a framework for the co-ordinated development and marketing of mountain biking opportunities.”

Ms O’Byrne said grassroots sporting organisations would reap the benefits of being able to have their public liability insurance covered when using Education Department sporting facilities.

“This will help open the gates of these facilities to the broader community, providing obvious health and participation benefits, with public liability costs being identified as a major barrier to such facilities being used.”

“The State Government is committed to giving every Tasmanian the opportunity to lead a healthy, active lifestyle, and also support jobs and our economy by investing in sporting infrastructure that keeps money coming into our State,” Ms O’Byrne said.

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