

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Youth



Thursday, 3 March 2022

WORLD GAME FUND KICKING GOALS FOR LOCAL FOOTBALL

The Andrews Labor Government is kicking in for community football venues across the state for the next Socceroos or Matildas star.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced applications are open for the fourth and final round of the \$20 million *World Game Facilities Fund* while also unveiling the ten projects to benefit from the previous round.

More than \$3.4 million went towards the development or upgrades to existing soccer fields across Victoria in the third round.

This includes \$500,000 towards better irrigation and drainage at the home of Kyneton and District Soccer Club at Barkly Square Reserve and \$500,000 for a pitch reconstruction and lighting upgrade at Keilor Lodge Reserve, home of Sydenham Park Soccer Club.

While more than \$140,000 will be provided for new pitch lighting for night training and games at Ashburton United Soccer Club, Warner Reserve in Ashburton.

Since 2018, the Fund has invested \$16.7 million into 58 game-changing infrastructure projects with the initiative providing grants of up to \$500,000 to Local Government Authorities and Alpine Resort Boards to deliver lighting, better turf and synthetic pitches, and female-friendly change rooms.

Since 2014 the Labor Government has invested more than \$1.1 billion in community sport and recreation infrastructure.

For a full list of the 2021/22 projects funded and more information about the *World Game Facilities Fund* visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"Football is only growing in its popularity in Victoria and that's why we're investing in community clubs so they can have the best possible pitches and nets."

"I hope these new venues will encourage more people to play the world game and inspire the next Aaron Mooy or Sam Kerr."

Quote attributable to CEO of Football Victoria Kimon Taliadoros

"Football is more than just a game, it breaks down barriers and brings communities together – that's why we're delighted to see even more clubs able to meet community demand for football through the latest round of the World Game Facilities Fund."

Quote attributable to Kyneton & District Soccer Club President Ron Cole

"This funding will make a huge difference to our club, and our junior/female football program, in particular through the provision of safer and more inclusive infrastructure upgrades."

Media contact: Stephanie Hobbs 0429 275 437 | stephanie.hobbs@minstaff.vic.gov.au