## Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence мр Minister for Agriculture Minister for Community Sport Minister for Carers and Volunteers



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## **BIG WIN FOR LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS ACROSS MELBOURNE**

The Allan Labor Government is backing local sports clubs across Melbourne with new and upgraded facilities so more people can get involved in the sports they love, close to home.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence today announced 28 projects will benefit from the 2024-25 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The Fund helps sports clubs to build and upgrades facilities including female friendly change rooms, courts, sports fields, pavilions and more.

Successful projects include \$250,000 towards a new kids and families recreation space at Dandenong's Greaves Reserve featuring a multi-use court for basketball and soccer, and a tennis half-court with rebound wall.

Fawkner's popular Charles Mutton Reserve is also receiving a lighting upgrade on both sports ovals courtesy of a \$200,000 boost - supporting the Northern Saints Football Club to be able to train and play day and night.

At Frankston Park, \$250,000 will deliver bigger and better change rooms for teams from the Frankston Football Club and Frankston Dolphins Reclink Football Team to help them host the big games.

Since 2018, the *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund* has invested over \$99 million in more than 375 community sport and active infrastructure projects which is part of the more than \$2.3 billion invested by the Labor Government in community sport infrastructure.

Successful recipients from the latest round of the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund will be announced in the coming weeks.

The recent release of the Community Sports Infrastructure 2024 Outcomes Statement – a Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) report, highlights the positive impacts of projects through initiatives like the LSIF.

In the last two years alone more than 330 community sport projects have increased participation by almost 43 per cent or more than 70,200 new participants, including a 19 per cent increase in girls playing sport.

That's more people of all ages and abilities swimming, playing soccer, netball, volleyball, skateboarding, cycling and more at a range of facilities from skate parks to netball courts, close to home.

And it's not just participation that's booming, local economies have been boosted with over 1,170 direct full-time jobs supported in the delivery of more than \$538 million worth of community sport and active recreation infrastructure across Victoria.

The Victorian Budget 2025/26 is also kicking in \$20 million to continue providing new and improved community sports infrastructure, including through the *LSIF*. For more information about the fund and successful projects visit <u>sport.vic.gov.au</u>.

## Quotes attributable to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"From local netball competitions to playspaces and bowls clubs, local sports facilities play an important role in communities across Melbourne.

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"This fund makes sure communities can be proud of their facilities now and into the future."