Media Release

The Hon John Eren MP

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Minister for Sport Minister for Veterans



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CASEY FIELDS NETS \$5 MILLION FOR NEW FACILITIES

Soccer players in Casey are getting a major boost thanks to \$5 million in funding from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Sport John Eren and Member for Cranbourne Jude Perera today announced four football pitches and a new female friendly pavilion will be developed at Casey Fields thanks to the Labor Government's *Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution* program.

Record numbers of males and females are signing up to play football in Casey, but local clubs can't keep up with the demand for pitches. This initiative will see the construction of one turf and three synthetic football pitches as part of the Casey Fields Regional Community Football Facilities project.

Each field will include a coach's box, electronic scoreboard, fencing and competition standard lighting. The pitches will be available for more hours a day, and the low maintenance synthetic pitches and can be used rain, hail or shine.

A large pavilion will be developed with eight female friendly change rooms and umpire facilities, accessible change facilities and public amenities, storage, first aid and community areas, and an undercover spectator area. A 450 space car park will also be developed to help manage the growing number of users.

Work on the project is scheduled to begin shortly, with the four pitches and pavilion expected to be ready for play in early 2020.

The funding package is part of the Labor Government's strong commitment to sports and active recreation and encouraging all Victorians to get out there and get active.

Across Victoria we've invested more than \$420 million in community sport and recreation facilities, and earlier this year provided almost half a billion dollars in the *Victorian Budget 2018/19* to support sport and active recreation at all levels.

Mr Eren and Mr Perera acknowledged Casey City Council for its commitment and significant financial contribution to this dedicated football facility.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Sport John Eren

"We're investing \$5 million to enable Casey's passionate footballers to get out there and get active."

"Sports clubs are the heart and soul of local communities and we're giving them the facilities they need to grow and welcome new members."

Quotes attributable to Member for Cranbourne Jude Perera

"This major development at Casey Fields will help address the shortfall of pitches in the surrounding area and give more locals the chance to play this great game."

"The four floodlit pitches will significantly expand opportunities for local clubs to schedule training and matches."

Media contact: Patrick Molan 0418 173 201 | Patrick.molan@minstaff.vic.gov.au