NT Hockey Rolls Out the Green Carpet

Hundreds of NT Hockey players will soon be training and playing on brand new turf thanks to a Territory Government investment being rolled out this week.

Deputy Chief Minister Delia Lawrie, who is also the patron of NT Hockey, today inspected new turf being laid at the Darwin hockey fields at Marrara.

“The Territory is a hockey stronghold, producing current international stars like Des Abbott, Joel Carroll, Heather Langham and our newest international selection Elizabeth Duguid while boasting over 1300 registered players,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Territory Government is investing in the future of the sport with a brand new, world-class surface being constructed here at Marrara’s Hockey Centre, as part of a $500,000 commitment to upgrade the ground.”

Ms Lawrie said that the commitment was made as part of a dollar for dollar deal with the federal government to resurface two grounds and while the federal funds will be allocated soon, the Territory Government’s has fast-tracked its contribution.

“It was vital to get a hockey ground up and running as quickly as possible, so that our season could get underway, and the NT could again host home Australian Hockey League games,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We have responded quickly to the needs of the hockey community, and now in just a few weeks, Territorian hockey players and fans will be able to train, play and watch the Pearls and Stingers take on the country’s best.”

Players will get to show their skills on the latest specially designed artificial hockey turf on the market, ‘Evolution’, which is approved by the Federation of International Hockey and installed in 5 other State Hockey centres around Australia.

The hi-tech surface should be laid completely within 2 weeks, and may give the NT the opportunity to host international games in the future.

“As we see from the amazing achievements of NT athletes at the Olympics, World Cup and World Championships, investment in world-class facilities breeds world-class performers,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Whether it’s a weekend competition or World Cup gold, the Territory Government continues to support Territory hockey, so that our talented youngsters have the best chance of fulfilling their sporting dreams.”

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