Arafura Stadium Upgrade On Track

Work is well underway to upgrade Darwin’s Arafura Stadium with the new 400m long athletics track currently being laid.

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy inspected the $4.2 million track and facilities upgrade earlier today with work on the high jump, javelin and pole vault areas already complete.

Mr McCarthy said the track is presently being laid with line marking to follow, as well as work on the infield grass and installation of new light towers.

“Arafura Stadium is home to Athletics NT and will be a focal point of next year’s Arafura Games,” Mr McCarthy said.

“First class facilities help produce first class athletes and the upgraded track and facilities will benefit thousands of Territory athletes of all ages who train and compete at the stadium, including sprint star Crystal Attenborough, who will be competing in her fourth Arafura Games.

“Athletics is a great pursuit for Territorians of all ages and our junior athletes in particular will benefit greatly from the track and facilities upgrade so that hopefully we can get more Territorians competing on the international stage like Crystal.

“This Government is committed to the development of Territory athletics and the Arafura Stadium track and facilities upgrade will ensure we have elite training facilities to develop our athletes and cement Darwin’s place as a northern hub for high-level competition.”

Crystal said she is looking forward to the new track being ready to run on early next year.

“It will be a big step forward for Athletics NT and hopefully attract national athletes and competitions to Darwin,” Crystal said.

Mr McCarthy congratulated track laying specialist W.M. Loud Pty Ltd for the work delivered so far with the project supporting 12 local businesses, directly and indirectly, and up to 24 jobs.

“In less than six months Darwin will come alive with more than 4000 athletes from more than 45 countries coming here for the 2011 Arafura Games,” Mr McCarthy said.

Athletes, officials and volunteers can now register online for the 2011 Arafura Games at www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au until 8 April 2011, one month before next year’s Games.

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