Media Release

Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

John Elferink
Minister for Health

**Darwin velodrome pedals ahead**

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Darwin’s velodrome will get a much needed upgrade thanks to a $1.5 million allocation in Budget 2015.

Sport Minister Gary Higgins and Health Minister John Elferink announced the funding which will be provided to the City of Darwin for upgrades to the fencing, lighting, refurbishing and surfacing of the track, bringing it up to competition standard.

“We’d like to see more use of the velodrome and we hope this allocation and the ensuing upgrades will encourage more cyclists – young and old, competitive or not – to have a cycle on it,” Minister Higgins said.

“Government is serious about providing or helping to provide good sporting facilities for Territorians and this allocation is just one of many in this year’s Budget which will do just that.”

“There is a clear link between sport and health and I’ve personally had a great interest in seeing an upgrade to the velodrome,” Minister Elferink said.

“I’m pleased this Budget has provided this funding for the upgrades which are very much needed and I know of a few keen cyclists who will be delighted with this news.”

Darwin Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim welcomed the funding.

“The velodrome was built sometime in the 60s and has had some upgrades over the years but this is a welcome injection which will be put to good use,” the Lord Mayor said.

“There are quite a few keen local cyclists who use the velodrome and the upgrades will hopefully see more on the track. Plus they will make it a more attractive venue for visiting cyclists.”

“The development of this facility will certainly drive greater participation in local cycling clubs and particularly in velodrome cycling, which is fantastic,” Pedals NT executive officer Jason Bremner said.
“We’re all about getting more people on bikes and this will be key to further developing cycling in Darwin.”

Darwin Cycling Club president Stuart Crompton said the upgrade would hopefully attract key national events.

“The Darwin velodrome has a bitumen surface with 15 degree bankings while the Alice Springs velodromes has a concrete surface with 37 degree bankings. The 1993 National track championships held in Alice were a great success,” Mr Crompton said.

“We hope the upgrade to the Darwin velodrome will see some national action or at least attract elite cyclists to train here during the Winter months south.”

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