Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Budget 2015 - a home run for sport and recreation

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Sport and Recreation in the Northern Territory has scored huge in this year’s Northern Territory Budget with the best sports infrastructure program ever - $57.3 million for projects.

“This is a huge spending Budget in Sport and Recreation and all Territorians will benefit from these investments,” Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said.

“The Government is making it simpler for Territorians to access great facilities and programs as well as first class sporting events.”

The $57.3 million commitment includes:

- $20 million to expand facilities and seating capacity at Richardson Park;
- $8 million towards a regional tennis centre at Marrara;
- $2 million to upgrade Alice Springs netball facilities;
- $2 million to upgrade lawn bowls facilities in the suburbs of Fannie Bay and Marrara;
- $1.5 million for new lawn bowls facilities in Alice Springs;
- $2 million for an athletics track in Alice Springs;
- $1.98 million to upgrade the Satellite City BMX Track in Palmerston;
- $1.5 million to upgrade the Darwin cycling velodrome;
- $820,000 to redevelop the Katherine Country Club golf course;
- $500,000 for Riding for the Disabled in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The funding also includes significant investment of $16.2 million in motorsports infrastructure with:

- $8.05 million for infrastructure upgrades at the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex;
- $1.85 million for the Alice Springs Speedway and Go-karts;
- $1 million to replace and extend the existing track at the Central Australia Drag Racing Association;
• $500,000 towards a new tower and club house and upgrade facilities at the Tennant Creek Speedway;

• $1 million to upgrade track and fencing at the Katherine Motor Sports Club;

• $250,000 to upgrade lighting at the Top End Motor Cross Club; and

• $100,000 for the expansion of the Alice Springs Inland Dragway burnout pad.

In addition, the Government is continuing to deliver successful events for Territorians, including:

• $1 million to continue the agreement with Parramatta Eels to hold a National Rugby League premiership game in Darwin and pre-season game in Alice Springs as part of a four year agreement. The funding also supports community and game development activities;

• $1 million to continue to bring Australian Football League matches to the Territory as part of a two year, $2 million agreement with the AFL;

• $600,000 to host the Davis Cup quarterfinal tie at Marrara; and

• $120,000 to bring a Four Nations Women’s Hockey Pre Olympic Games Tournament to Darwin.

“The Budget also invests $7.4 million to continue the government’s Sports Voucher scheme which helps families with costs of their children participating in sport, recreation and cultural activities,” Mr Higgins said.

“And Government has increased grant funding to $5.8 million for Peak Sports Bodies, Active Recreation Organisations and clubs.

“Our envied Territory lifestyle is underpinned by all the various sporting and recreation activities Territorians undertake with alacrity.

“The Government recognises the importance of investing in facilities, programs and events which greatly enrich our lives and encourage participation in healthy and fun activities.

“This Budget is a commitment to Territorians – we want to give you the best facilities, programs and opportunities to make it easier for you to access and participate in your chosen sport or recreation.”

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