Gary Higgins
Minister for Sport and Recreation

That’s right Jack – the makeover has started!

15 October 2015

Work is underway on the first of two synthetic greens at Darwin Bowls and Social Club, marking the start of a major makeover of the playing facilities at the popular club in Fannie Bay.

The first stage has seen the excavation of the first green begin, with preparations underway for the laying of synthetic turf.

“It’s fantastic to see the aspirations and plans of the club to bolster its facilities come to fruition with the start of work on the first green,” Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said.

“I know there are a lot of very keen bowlers who are looking forward to sending the bowls down these reconstructed greens, and we look forward to current and new bowlers enjoying the new facilities.”

The later stages of the $1.5 million upgrade, announced in this year’s Budget, will see a cover installed over the top of the first green next year, which will enable the club to play bowls all year round regardless of rain.

Work will also get underway next year to transform the second green into a synthetic green. The final part of the project will deliver the design and construction of a sealed car park which will help make the club’s facilities more comfortable and accessible for members and visitors.

“The Bowls Club has done a fantastic job getting moving with their project and it’s heartening to see locals involved in the construction through suppliers and local contractors,” Minister Higgins said.

Darwin Bowls Club chairman Marty Garnett said the synthetic greens would greatly assist the club in effectively maintaining the facility.

“We are very excited about these upgrades, they will make a big difference to the way we run our club and the competitions we will be able to cater for,” Marty said.

“While some people are still a bit nostalgic for grass playing surfaces, the reality is that we had six months of the year where we only had one green available due to the maintenance involved, and it was very costly to perform greenkeeping and to purchase the chemicals required for the upkeep of the grass.

“The covered facility will allow us to play on whatever the weather, and will be a fantastic addition.”

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