The road to Rio starts in Darwin!

18 January 2016

A world class line-up has been announced for the Hockeyroos Four Nations’ Tournament campaign in Darwin this year.

The world beating Australian womens’ hockey team will take on India, New Zealand and Japan in the tournament from May 30 to June 5 at the Marrara Hockey Centre.

Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said the tournament would put the Northern Territory on the international stage.

“It will be the Hockeyroos final hit-out in Australia, and a great chance to perfect their game plan ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games,” he said.

The world number three Hockeyroos last played in Darwin in 2004 in a tri-nations tournament with New Zealand and Japan.

“It is great to welcome back New Zealand and Japan – and introduce the Indian national side to the Territory for the first time,” Minister Higgins said.

“I know Territorians will be keen to give the Hockeyroos a rousing reception in Darwin and the tournament is a great opportunity to attract Australian and overseas fans to the Territory.

“It will be exciting to see the Number Three take on the Number Four (New Zealand). But equally I wouldn’t underestimate Japan or India’s talent on the field – they’re bound to deliver some stunning play as well.”

The Four Nations test series is part of a three year agreement the Northern Territory Government has signed with Hockey Australia, which includes further test matches in 2017 and 2018.

The agreement includes game development for players, coaches and officials as well as coaching and skills clinics to develop junior hockey.

Hockey Australia Chief Executive Cam Vale said the partnership with the NT will continue to flourish.
“Bringing the Hockeyroos, and in the future the Kookaburras, to Darwin is part of our ongoing events strategy to play more games outside of our traditional home in Perth and take what is a truly national sport to a national audience,” Mr Vale said.

“I’m sure sports fans from across the region will be treated to a fantastic week of hockey from four exceptionally talented teams.”

Hockey NT Executive Officer Ian Harkness said hosting International teams is a perfect chance to grow the sport in the Northern Territory.

“The squad includes Darwin’s own Brooke Peris, who is a product of the Northern Territory Institute of Sport’s excellent hockey program which has produced several Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes,” he said.

“The school visits and clinics that are part of the agreement will enhance the profile of the sport and increase participation rates.”

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