Work will start on the new home for Territory soccer in 2004-05, with Sport and Recreation Minister John Ah Kit announcing today Government the will spend $1 million on new infrastructure for Territory soccer players.

The funding will be divided between facilities for junior and senior soccer players.

“The 2004-05 Budget commits $500,000 of the Government's $1M soccer package 2004-05 to the head works for the new home of Territory Soccer to be built at the Marrara Sporting Precinct,” Mr Ah Kit said.

“Starting the head works in the upcoming financial year will ensure Territory Soccer has its $5M Stadium to play on by 2006 – as long as NT Soccer keeps to the implementation plan and timeline identified in the independent into soccer in the Territory.”

Mr Ah Kit said the other $500,000, part of the Junior Soccer grants scheme announced last year, had now been allocated and will be spent in centres across the Territory.

“This spending on junior soccer is a fundamental building for the future, helping to foster elite soccer in the Territory,” he said.

“The money will assist in the upgrade of facilities to make soccer safer for our kids, and help in building real pathways from junior league into the seniors.
“In the bush areas, the soccer fields are often used by other sporting teams too – so this funding is a real winner for the whole community.”

Mr Ah Kit also congratulated Darwin City Council on their commitment to co-funding upgrades at Bagot Oval.

“Last year's independent review of Soccer has given a new vision to the sport – a vision that's being embraced with enthusiasm,” said Mr Ah Kit.

“This $1M package will help in making that vision a reality.”

- **FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR JUNIOR SOCCER GRANTS IS ATTACHED**