$6.3 MILLION DARWIN SOCCER STADIUM HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Construction of the new soccer stadium at Marrara is now under way Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today after an on-site inspection of the commencement of the head works.

Ms Martin said that $5.8 million has been allocated for the project in next Tuesday’s budget. This is on top of the $500,000 already allocated to the head works, that are now up and running now, taking the value of the project to $6.3 million.

“This is a dream come true for the local soccer community,” she said.

“The ground represents a new future for the thousands of girls and boys as well as men and women who enjoy Football as part of our unique life style.

“It will also allow us to attract and host high profile teams and countries for training and soccer games in a state of the art facility.

“As well as providing a wonderful sporting facility, projects such as this provide a boost to our building and construction industry - it will create local jobs and help keep the Territory moving ahead.”

The facility will have two ovals (with lights on oval 1 that are to broadcast standard); seating for approximately 1,000 people; office and administration facilities for the NT Football Federation and full player, referee and medical and storage facilities.

NT Football Federation President, Zico Ilic, accompanied the Chief Minister during her site visit and said that the Football family was overjoyed at the progress made so far.

“We are very happy and grateful to the Government - it is significant that we have been able to work together as a team to develop this facility,” he said.

“As well as providing a home and a focus for Football in the Territory, it is the foundation for developing new links with players in Asia.

“We look like having 14 teams fielding for the Arafura Games in two weeks, many from the Asia Pacific region - imagine how much that can be expanded in two years time.”

The $6.3 million government-owned multi-purpose facility has been given the working name “Darwin Football Stadium” at the request of the Northern Territory Football Federation, with consultation over a final name to take place shortly.

Contact: Craig Rowston 0401 119 777