In front of a record crowd at Marrara Football Stadium, the new playing surface has passed its first test with flying colours Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said today.

"The $1.3 million upgrade provided a new surface, players race and coaching boxes and looked fantastic," she said.

"The AFL were extremely happy with the results achieved and the marked difference in the playing surface from this time last year.

"Now that the All Stars/Carlton game has proved so successful we can concentrate on attracting future representative games to town."

Ms Martin said that ATSIC and AFL representatives were aware that the Government wanted to explore the possibility of holding All Stars games in Darwin more frequently.

"It was nine years between games and I believe that this is too long - it could be played as often as every two-years and I believe Darwin is the obvious place to host them," she said.

"The Territory provides the largest percentage of indigenous footballers in the AFL and the Top End is the heartland of aboriginal football excellence.

"The fact that the game attracted so many spectators, including a huge number of indigenous fans, and manner in which everyone behaved is a testament to all involved and ensured this was an event to remember."

Ms Martin said that the Government would continue with its upgrade of Marrara in the lead-up to next month’s AFL pre-season fixture starting with the completion of the coaching boxes.

"We have allocated $2.5 million in total to this project which will provide Territorians access to better sporting events than ever before.

"With a new scoreboard, seating and media facilities still to be built, this facility will be of world standard and ready to host international cricket in coming months.

"My Government is proud that it’s upgrade of Marrara will deliver a sporting feast unlike anything seen before."