Sport and Recreation Minister John Ah Kit announced today that Hockey NT had been successful in being granted $300,000 to replace the synthetic turf on their No 2 Ground at Marrara’s Vodaphone Hockey Centre.

“Hockey is one of the Territory’s great success stories —something that can be seen for example through Mark Hickman’s inclusion in the current national team playing at the Olympics in Athens. As well, both the Kookaburras and Hockeyroos national teams used the Vodaphone facilities for pre-Olympics training.

“An important element of that success is that in both Alice Springs and Darwin, players of all ages have access to international standard synthetic playing surfaces, said Mr Ah Kit.

“This is particularly critical at the junior level as it exposes younger players to the best playing conditions during their formative playing years.

“The No 2 Ground had reached its use by date, so this grant to Hockey will restore the sport’s playing capacity.

“Since coming to government, we have funded the replacement of all of Hockey NT’s three pitches at Marrara and Traeger Park.”

The synthetic turf, made of either polypropylene or polyethylene yarn, will be rolled out on the existing compressed rubber shock pad.

Hockey NT President, Peter Stoner, is available for comment on 8927 5457.

NOTE ON VISION: Games will be in progress this afternoon at the No 1 Ground at Marrara’s Vodaphone Hockey Centre.