Some of Alice Springs’ popular sporting clubs will have a modern new home following the Government’s approval of the sale of the Wests Sporting Club land to a local consortium.

Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne confirmed today the Government has approved the sale of the Wests Sporting Club to a consortium, headed by local businessman Viv Oldfield, that will see the facility continue to be a sporting and community club for Alice Springs.

The consortium intends to spend up to $2 million upgrading Wests with the new facility leased back to the sporting club. The Wests club committee supports the plan by the consortium to upgrade and lease back the club.

"This investment into the local Alice sporting community is broadly welcomed and will be a real shot in the arm for Westies," Dr Toyne said.

"The Wests club has been central in negotiating with the consortium and the deal includes a management structure similar to the successful Casuarina Club where sporting clubs lease back the premises."

"Current debts of the Wests Sporting Club will also be paid out by the consortium as part of the new arrangements which greatly enhances the survival of the club," Dr Toyne said.

Westies has been an important part of the social and sporting landscape of Alice Springs since 1972 when the club first opened its doors.

The Wests Sporting Club is currently prescribed property therefore requiring Government approval to convert the title to freehold. The land will be sold at market value, determined by the Valuer-General.

The consortium’s plans for Wests are also subject to the approval of the Licencing Commission for the transfer of liquor and gaming licences.