Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Minister for Sports and Recreation Karl Hampton today unveiled the concept plans to deliver first class sporting facilities in Palmerston for Tennis, Netball, AFL, Rugby league and Football.

Mr Henderson said that the $33m project delivers on a key election commitment and the Government’s long term plans to make Palmerston an even better place to raise a family through by rolling out critical social infrastructure.

“Palmerston is a vibrant young community – it is the fastest growing part of the Territory and this social infrastructure will bind the community of Palmerston together into the future.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Karl Hampton said the Territory Government had taken the time to ensure local sporting groups and the Palmerston City Council’s vision for these facilities were matched by the plans.

“The Territory Government has worked tirelessly to develop plans that balance the needs of the sporting bodies with those of the wider Palmerston community.

“We are delighted to announce today final concept plans detailed design work now underway and tenders to be called for in August.

“Construction on these projects will begin before the end of the year.

“Soon the AFL, Rugby League, Football, Netball and Tennis communities will have top-class playing and viewing facilities to nurture the thousands of young superstars who pack Palmerston’s fields and courts every week.

The comprehensive plans include new and upgraded facilities for 5 sports:
The Palmerston Magpies AFL facilities at Charles Darwin University get a complete overhaul including match quality lights, resurfacing and drainage upgrades for the oval, bleachers, seating, clubrooms, coaches box, storage shed and scoreboard.

**Rugby League**

Palmerston’s formidable league community receive a huge boost with a brand new facility for the Palmerston Raiders to be built at Rosebery including two pitches, clubrooms, lighting and amenities.

**Tennis and Netball**

The new tennis and netball complex will feature 6 devoted tennis courts with competition standard lighting, two multi-use courts shared with netball and clubrooms, canteen, administration and amenities.

Palmerston’s huge Netball community will share the facility with tennis and get 5 new dedicated courts as well as clubrooms, canteen, administration and amenities.

**Football**

Players and fans of the World Game will see a major upgrade of the Gray Sporting Field with new senior and junior pitches, grandstands and lighting.

Mr Henderson said that the project recognises the growth still to come in the Territory’s second biggest city.

“This milestone investment is the next stage in the area’s development and reflects how far Palmerston has developed as a strong, independent city.”

“The new suburbs of Bellamack, Zuccoli will bring thousands more homes and families to Palmerston.

“Today’s announcement will create a new sporting hub to service the area and allow more families to enjoy the great Territory lifestyle.

Mr Hampton said the project was great for Territory Sport.

“First class facilities in Palmerston will allow us to harness more of our young talent into the superstars of the future.

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