

MEDIA RELEASE

“Fit for purpose” as Stage One nears completion at the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct

6 December 2021

As Stage One nears completion for the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct redevelopment, Council is delighted to announce that the next stages of the Master Plan will be put into action in early 2022 thanks to \$5M funding that has now been secured from the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' Community Development Grants Programme.

Consultation on the next stages of the Master Plan will begin early in 2022 when contractual arrangements are finalised and funds are received, with the project expected to be completed by late 2023.

The fantastic new multipurpose building, replacing four separate clubrooms, is due to open in February 2022. The \$8.2M redevelopment is combined funding of \$5M from the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' Community Development Grants Programme; \$800K from the State Government of South Australia and a \$2.4M contribution from Alexandrina Council.

Council has also secured additional grant funding for the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct early this year, some \$140,700 from the State Government's Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing Game-On Partnerships grant. As the Precinct has been designed with community inclusion in mind; the building and its surrounds will also be activated for a range of new modified and inclusive sporting and leisure activities.

“Alexandrina Council is delighted to be working with the YMCA of South Australia and Mission Australia to address barriers to sports participation and to build stronger communities through collaboration,” Mayor Keith Parkes said.

These additional funds will engage a range of community groups, clubs and individuals in delivering innovative and inclusive physical activity opportunities. This includes modified sporting formats that are inclusive of and suitable for seniors and people living with a disability, for example, walking hockey. If you want to be involved and have an inclusive activities idea, please contact Council's Community Wellbeing team.

Brendon Newcombe, is behind the walking hockey initiative at the Goolwa Hockey Club and is keen to see participation numbers grow to create a stronger competition in the new-year.

Administration and Goolwa Oval user group representatives have been working together to commence the Precinct's new direct management model for sports clubs and user groups, with Council managing the precinct holistically for a two year period.

This management model is intended to set the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct and local sporting clubs up for long-term success by providing facility management resourcing and financial support. Other positives for introducing this model include time for sporting clubs and user groups to understand the true operating costs of the new facilities, and allow time to focus on their specific club management and sports development initiatives. This will also provide opportunities for formal activities, such as competitive sport, as well as unstructured leisure activities to activate the entire recreational space for all users to enjoy.

The new building and all the sports facilities, including the oval and courts are available to all sporting and user groups in the community. For further information, contact Alexandrina Council on 8555 7000 or goolwaoval@alexandrina.sa.gov.au



Pictured: (LtoR) Tammy Gowland (YMCA SA), Mayor Keith Parkes Alexandrina Council, Brendon Newcombe (Goolwa Hockey Club), son Jackson and Julie Payne (Facilities Activation Coordinator) and Jane French (Mission Australia).