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MEDIA RELEASE

Goolwa Oval Sporting Precinct kicking goals after generous State Government funding **20 April 2020**

Alexandrina Council has been successful in securing \$800,000 to commence Stage One of the multi-stage Goolwa Oval Sporting Precinct project.

The funding comes via round two of the State Government's Grassroots Football, Cricket and Netball Facility Program and was recently announced by Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, the Hon Corey Wingard. It will allow for the construction of a new comprehensive multi-purpose community sporting facility, including four unisex change rooms, community spaces, player and spectator amenities, umpire and official areas, administrative spaces and storage.

The upgrade has been a long sought-after dream for users of the facility including the Goolwa-Port Elliot Football Club, Goolwa Netball Club, and Goolwa Cricket Club as well as benefitting many other users of the precinct.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes is extremely grateful for the funding, and noted the positive benefits it will provide to the Goolwa community.

"On behalf of the Alexandrina Community, I would like to thank Minister Wingard for this generous funding commitment and confidence in our local grassroots sporting programs. This is stage one of a multi-stage project requiring contributions and support from Council, local clubs and government to make it happen, and I am assured that the upgrades will serve our clubs well into the future, supporting generations of local adults and kids to keep physically and socially active. The benefits are enormous across the board.

"I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our local Member for Finnis, David Basham MP, who advocated on behalf of Council to the State Government to help bring it to fruition."

Alexandrina Chief Executive Officer, Glenn Rappensberg highlighted the positive benefits the project will bring to the whole Alexandrina region.

"This investment by the State Government has both social and economic outcomes for our region and will stimulate our local clubs, businesses and community groups by association. Council has a net budget allocation of \$2.475 million towards the Goolwa Sports Precinct. At an estimated total project cost of \$10.1 million, Council is seeking total external funding of \$7.625 million. Securing funding now will make a great start to the broader vision for the Precinct."

“Providing quality and fit-for-purpose sports infrastructure plays a very important role in increasing sports participation. The Master Plan will provide Council with a coordinated and strategic approach to the future redevelopment of the precinct taking into consideration the community's needs now and into the future. The redevelopment of this important community hub is about maximising the opportunities for site users and the broader community to enjoy well-planned, high quality and compliant sports and recreation infrastructure.”

The facility is currently leased to the Goolwa Recreation Grounds Committee, who sub-lease it out to the various user groups including the Goolwa-Port Elliot Football Club, Goolwa Netball Club, and Goolwa Cricket Club. Representatives from these groups were also delighted with the announcement and Council look forward to an ongoing relationship with the clubs throughout the development process and beyond.

The draft master plan of the precinct went out to community consultation last year in September and October before being endorsed at the Alexandrina Council Meeting on 21 October 2019. Construction will commence later this year.