



Media Release

Thursday 21 November 2024

Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve – \$10M Federal Government Investment

Litchfield Council enthusiastically welcome the recent confirmation from the Australian Government of their \$10M investment in the Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve.

The funding delivers on a pledge made by the Hon Marion Scrymgour during her candidacy for the seat of Lingiari in the 2021 federal election campaign. Council appreciate Ms Scrymgour's commitment to improving the sport and recreation outcomes of Litchfield residents.

The funding is provided under the federal Priority Community Infrastructure Program. "The funding will be split into two main projects, with around \$6m to be spent on electrical upgrades and installation of field lighting. The remaining \$4m will fund the design and construction of a netball facility. Onsite project construction works are expected to commence early in 2025, and the completed projects will be delivered by June 2026" Mayor Barden said.

"The lighting infrastructure will greatly increase the usability of Norbuilt Oval, existing rear soccer ovals and the Swap Dogs Rugby Union ovals, with clubs able to accommodate night match fixtures and training sessions under lights. The option to play and train at cooler times of the day is also a huge win for player and spectator comfort" Mayor Barden added.

Ms Scrymgour's election commitment will also see the design and construction of a new multi-court netball facility with associated carpark and access to change rooms. "It will be great to see a purpose-built netball facility in the Litchfield local government area, and to welcome new user groups to the Reserve".

Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve is a multifunction community Reserve that is accessed more than 528,000 times per year by users from within the Litchfield region and beyond. The Reserve has over 20 regular user groups providing a wide range of sports and recreation options. "Council's desire to improve and build on the strong foundations of Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve is a constant key focus of Council's strategic advocacy, we are grateful to Ms Scrymgour and the federal government for sharing our vision for this key piece of infrastructure".

Council acknowledges the time and dedication that the Freds Pass Management Board and other stakeholders have shown during the grant application and planning phase of these projects. Without the commitment of clubs and volunteers such facilities lack the heart and soul that sees them become such vital connectors for the community.

"Litchfield Council are proud to be delivering these upgrades on behalf of the Australian Government and look forward to a continued partnership to deliver further positive improvements to the liveability of our local government area".

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