



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1 million upgrade for Burnie Tennis Club

Burnie's sporting community received a significant boost today with the announcement of a \$1 million upgrade to the Burnie Tennis Club.

Deputy Mayor Anita Dow said the project, facilitated by Burnie City Council, would bring many benefits not only to the Club but the wider Burnie community.

Deputy Mayor Dow said Council recognised the urgent need for the facility's upgrade, which has hosted the successful men's McDonald's Burnie International Series since 2002 and last year secured a five-year deal to also host the women's series.

"These international standard events are extremely valuable to the community, bringing access to high-level sporting events and visitors to our City," Deputy Mayor Dow said.

"The standard of event management in place by the Burnie Tennis Club has been well recognised and used as a model for other tennis events around the country."

"The Club has been considered to host other prestigious events in the past but due to inadequacy of the facilities this has not been possible, now it will be."

The project secured \$400,000 in State Government funding and \$86,000 through the Commonwealth Community Infrastructure Program.

Member for Braddon Bryan Green officially launched the project on-site, which included life members such as Norm Bird who was president of the club before it relocated from its former Parklands site.

Burnie Tennis Club Chairman Danny Clark said the development was a big step into the future for the Club.

"It is an investment that our partners the State Government, Burnie City Council and Burnie Sports & Events will reap an instant return from with the economic stimulus the McDonald's Burnie international provides to the Burnie community and region in general," Mr Clark said.

"Tennis Australia has acknowledged the upgrading of the facility to international standard and is already discussing even bigger events than the current international for Burnie in the future."

Mr Clark paid tribute to the work behind-the-scenes of Braddon MP Bryan Green and Council General Manager Paul Arnold for assisting getting the project off the ground.

"Support and financial consideration at State and local government level is only achieved for worthwhile projects and it is a credit to the volunteers on the Board and the Club's international committee that the Burnie Tennis Club has gained recognition," Mr Clark said.

To celebrate the upgrade the Burnie Tennis Club has gone against trends by reducing membership fees across the board this year by 40 to 50%.

"Our members will benefit greatly from their new surrounds," Mr Clark said.

"At the same time the current Board does not believe the ability to play sport in this municipality should be governed by the ability to pay and we would like to provide the opportunity to be a member and play tennis for as many as possible.

"We have done that by cutting fees in half and it is not just a one off, we would like to maintain it into the future."

The upgrade will include refurbish of the club house; upgrading of centre court lighting to international standard and new centre court scoreboard, plus resurfacing of the 16 courts, which are already in use.

Vos Construction was awarded the construction tender and it is anticipated the upgrade will be complete in time for the tournament in January 2010.

For further information please contact:

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